

Ealing Dean Allotment Society

Minutes of Special General Meeting Sunday 25th September 2016

1. Apologies and attendance

18 plotholders had sent apologies.
57 plotholders attended the meeting.

2. Chairs Report on Pathways Development Proposals

Christina Fox set out the proposals to develop on the Mattock Lane frontage of the allotment site. It is understood that a mixed social/private development is intended with a 5/6 storey building planned opposite Lido House. This would take up approximately 10% of the site. Pathways had invited tenants to meetings to explain the proposals where many individual members had expressed their opposition. EDAS had also held a meeting of tenants on the allotments, which was again opposed to the development plans. The purpose of the SGM was to establish EDAS's formal position so that we could take a united view and speak in the name of our allotment society.

3. Questions and discussion

Numerous people asked questions and made suggestions on how to proceed.

Local groups to be approached to support us, e.g. Selborne Soc., Friends of the Earth, Civic Soc.

Victor Mishiku of the Covenant Movement - Christina Fox and Paul McConnell to meet him.

Approach MPs and local councillors for support.

Apply to be an Asset of Community Value.

Write to the current Bishop of London.

Set up press and publicity team - Ian and Alix Burge volunteered.

Professor Burchardt, an allotment expert from University of Reading, has expressed support in Get West London.

The planning application is expected in the spring and we need to prepare for that. There are numerous planning policy documents at London and borough level, which are supportive of allotments and open space. The Mayor's London Plan states that existing allotments should be protected. Ealing has defined the allotments as Community Open Space and the hedge as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

Fighting fund - funds are needed to pay for professional legal and planning advice. A separate bank account will be set up to keep a clear distinction from the normal account for running the allotments.

A petition has already been started and there is a link on the website.

Legal challenge may be possible. We should look into Pathways' title to the land, whether there are restrictions on the use or sale imposed by the status of Permanent Endowment and should ensure the Charity Commission are aware of the plans.

The meeting was thanked for the many suggestions and offers of help.

4. Resolution proposed by the EDAS committee

The resolution on the agenda was put and the meeting unanimously resolved as follows:

- (i) to oppose the current proposal by Pathways to develop on part of Northfield Allotments;
- (ii) to oppose any revised or future proposals to develop on or sell any part of the allotment site;
- (iii) instructs the committee to take all necessary steps to prevent development on or any loss of land from the current site; and
- (iv) instructs the committee to call a further Special General Meeting once a planning application has been submitted.

In addition to the unanimous vote at the meeting, all 18 people who sent apologies also expressed their support for the above resolution.

5. Open Floor

The main discussion point was the Halloween Open Day to raise funds, which received enthusiastic support. Dominique Coiffait outlined plans for the event and help was requested and a number of volunteers came forward.

The meeting closed at 4.45.