**BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION - AGM 2023**

 **SECRETARY’S REPORT - 2022/3**

 **1. EVENTS**

 **Christmas Carols Party – 11 December 2022**

Not having had the opportunity to hold this event in 2020 or in 2021, we were pleased to be able to resume this Christmas tradition. A good number of residents gathered in the URC Hall for this festive occasion. A big thank you to Kennedy Luton for leading us in the carol-singing.

**Street Clean – 23/24 April 2023**

This year’s event was brought forward a few weeks to reflect the earlier date of the Summer party. Weed removal in Albany Terrace was hampered by the on-going Severn Trent works but the Square benefited from the redeployment of volunteers unable to access parts of the Terrace.

We managed to clear the streets of almost all parked cars and complete a thorough weeding and cleaning. This was followed up by the Council’s cleaning machines on Monday morning. Thank you to everyone for this great effort and a special thank you to Nicky Neville-Lee for organising tea to be served in the URC Hall afterwards.

As ever, we are grateful to Lisa Smith, Community Engagement Officer at the City Council who arranged the Council’s resources and will help us plan another Street Clean for 2024. However, the Committee would like to encourage all residents to maintain their frontages in good condition all year round and not just at the time of the annual street clean.

**Summer Party (Coronation Celebration) – 7 May 2023**

This was held on a warm, sunny Sunday in the gardens of RGS Springfield. Although there were a number of competing events being held on the day, there was a good turn-out of residents, dressed in their best “Coronation” attire. Thank you to the sub-committee who helped organise this event.

Thank you also to Angela Lanyon, whose poetry was delightful and is always a lovely, humorous focus to our party. Her verses can be found on our website - just go to 7 May on the calendar and click on the link. There are also a few pictures of the event and of houses decorated for the Coronation.

We are most grateful to Laura Brown and all at RGS Springfield for their generosity in allowing us to access their gardens. ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**2. HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING 2022/3**

The Severn Trent works in Albany Terrace caused major inconvenience to a number of residents for the first half of the year. The provision of parking permits for use in nearby council car parks was appreciated by those unable to access their garages or usual on-street parking places.

On lighting, the upgrade to all light bulbs and switchgear in the heritage lights in our area in December 2022 has been a great success with all lamps now in good working order.

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**3. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 2022/3**

We have an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme registered with the national organisation known as the Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN). Anyone living in Britannia Square, Albany Terrace or Stephenson Terrace can participate. Membership is not limited to those who belong to the Britannia Square Residents' Association.

Neighbourhood Watch alerts are generally posted on the B-SquOSH WhatsApp group but email is also used, particularly for longer messages.

During the past year, we have increasingly used WhatsApp as a quick way to alert residents of incidents and give warnings about suspicious individuals in the area. Camera doorbells are also proving useful to detect unwanted callers. In our recent newsletter we highlighted the importance of cyber security as it has been reported that over half of all crime is now online fraud.

Our Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) is a group of local police officers dedicated to serving our community. The team is made up of officers and police community support officers (PCSOs). For details of the Cathedral Ward SNT and crime reports see

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/west-mercia-police/cathedral/?yourlocalpolicingteam=yourteam>

If you would like to receive alerts by email and/or WhatsApp, please provide your email address and/or mobile number to our co-ordinator csinman4@gmail.com

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**4. PLANNING**

The BSRA Committee is usually contacted by the Local Planning Authority, Worcester City Council, when an application has been received within our local area. We are asked if we would like to comment on the application by a certain date, as a local consultee to the planning process. This usually happens for Listed Building Consent and Planning Applications, but not for all Tree Preservation Works, or for all Discharge of Planning Conditions Applications. As a Committee, we discuss any relevant applications, and our agreed list of comments is then sent to the Planning Officer for consideration. The Planning Officer will take account of the Committee’s comments when considering the merits of each application. However, the planning department may not always agree with our comments and recommendations, and they may well take other consultees’/residents’ comments into account ahead of, or in addition to ours.

The Committee endeavours to comment on as many applications as possible within our small Conservation Area, but we occasionally also comment on applications that are outside or adjacent to our area, as they may still have an impact on the character of our area, or be of interest to our residents. It is worth remembering that anyone is entitled to comment and give their thoughts on an application, and we would always urge residents to contact the planning department directly about any specific application that they are concerned about. Comments can be sent via the City Council’s website, where you can also see plans and documents associated with the application. See: <https://www.worcester.gov.uk/commenting-on-applications>

**Recent Planning Applications**

Applications for Listed Building Consent and Planning Approval which have been approved or are awaiting a decision since the last AGM are set out below:

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| **Date of application** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Status** |
| **2022** |  |  |  |
| September | 12 Britannia Square | Rear extension and alterations | Approved |
| **2023** |  |  |  |
| February | 7 Stephenson Terrace | Single storey rear extension | Approved  |
| February | 23 Britannia Square | New buttresses to southern boundary wall and repointing works; adaption to shared downpipe (with 24 Britannia Square) | Approved |
| February | 22 Britannia Square | Application for a non-material amendment to planning approval 22/00112/HP. Amendment relates to a glass canopy to be installed on the left side of the garden instead of the right side | Approved  |
| March | 33 Albany Terrace | Listed Building consent sought for roof-mounted solar PV system on south-facing slate roof pitch | Approved |
| May | 8 Albany Terrace | Listed building consent for the removal of an internal wall in the entrance hallway. | Consultation ended. Pending decision. |
| May | 34 Britannia Square | Installation of metal gates across driveway and erection of glazed canopy over rear lower courtyard. | Approved |
| May | 10 Britannia Square | Alterations to the rear of the house including doors and windows, timber pergola to courtyard, raised brick wall to rear, boiler flue, wall-lights, security camera and double-switch socket. | Approved |
| June | 36 Britannia Square | Application for a non-material amendment to planning approval 21/00088/HP. Amendment is to reduce the width of study room, modify roof-light design and extend existing garden room window to form external door. | Approved |
| July | 15 Britannia Square | Listed building consent for alterations involving internal dry-lining and general refurbishment. | Consultation ended. Pending decision. |

Carol Inman

Secretary

20 October 2023