**BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION - AGM 2024**

 **SECRETARY’S REPORT - 2023/24**

 **1. EVENTS**

 **Christmas Carols Party - 10 December 2023**

A small number of residents gathered at the URC to share in this festive occasion.

A big thank you to Kennedy Luton for leading us in the carol-singing in the church and to our piano accompanist, Lucas Ball. We were also entertained by Angela Lanyon whose verses made a great contribution to the event.

**Street Clean - 12 May 2024**

This year’s event returned to its traditional slot in May.

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 cleansing machines on Monday morning.

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 2025.

Many will have noticed that, given the wet weather this summer, a number of the weeds cleared in May have regrown. As a result, 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 - 9 June 2024**

This was held in the gardens of RGS Springfield on a cool but dry Sunday. There was an excellent turn-out of residents, including some new to the area.

As ever, thank you to Angela Lanyon, whose poetry was delightful and to those who helped with the gazebos and games.

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

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**2. HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING**

Compared with 2023, there have been no major roadworks affecting our area. Parts of the pavement in Albany Terrace have been renewed and resurfacing of the roadway was scheduled for early October.

The “Keep Clear” box at the exit of the Square, between Marlow Court and Number 1, has been re-painted, although the instruction is not always observed. Similarly, the box at the exit to the Upper Tything has been re-painted.

The dips in the middle of Hebb Street, at the side of the Golden Gourmet, were reported to the County Council in September. Highways have carried out an inspection and identified the road for future repair. They will continue to monitor its condition in the meantime.

On lighting, the upgrade to all light bulbs and switchgear in the heritage lights in our area in December 2022 has resulted in unlit lamps being a rarity. Defects are reported to the County Council when necessary.

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**3. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

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 continued to use WhatsApp as a quick way to alert residents of incidents and give warnings about suspicious individuals in the area. Theft from vehicles is an on-going problem therefore in our recent newsletter we reminded residents about the need to always ensure vehicles are left empty and to lock all doors and windows.

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, refused or withdrawn since the last AGM are set out below:

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| **Date of application** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Status** |
| **2023** |  |  |  |
| May | 8 Albany Terrace | Listed building consent for the removal of an internal wall in the entrance hallway. | Approved  |
| July | 15 Britannia Square | Listed building consent for alterations involving internal dry-lining and general refurbishment. | Approved |
| November |  45A Britannia Square | Proposed change of use of a house (use class C3) to a doctor’s surgery (use class E) | Refused  |
| December | 43 Britannia Square | Erection of steel gates to existing driveway pillars. | Approved |
| December | 22 Britannia Square | Install fencing trellis on existing fence panels at the rear of the garden | Withdrawn |
| December | 42 Britannia Square | Installation of metal gates | Approved |
| 2024 |  |  |  |
| May | Springfield, Britannia Square | Construction of 6m diameter timber-framed reciprocal roof roundhouse within 'Forest school' | Approved  |

Carol Inman

Secretary

18 October 2024