

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Despite the national challenge of dealing with Coronavirus, our community continues to pull together to support each other at this difficult time.

St. Mary's Island Resident Association (SMIRA) has always been at the heart of the community, representing the island residents and making sure their voice is heard in all matters concerning life on St. Mary's island (SMI).

With currently up to eight spaces on the SMIRA Board we are looking for more residents to join the board. If you are interested, please contact the board at [admin@smira.info](mailto:admin@smira.info).

SMIRA delivered a number of key activities in 2019 for the community and in 2020 it will continue this with:

- A consultation on the articles that govern it, to ensure they reflect what our community wants today. This newsletter outlines how this will work
- More information on how a neighbourhood watch scheme across the island can be delivered with the help of residents

Finally, I would like to thank all the residents who support SMIRA, attended events and meetings, along with providing personal time and technical knowledge to help deliver everything SMIRA does.



**Chris Reynolds**  
SMIRA Chair



*St. Mary's Island families and volunteers at the 2019 SMIRA Easter Egg Hunt.*

## 2019 KEY RESULTS ABOUT SMIRA AND ITS BOARD

- Full SMIRA rebrand including 'One Island, One Community, One Voice' concept
- Formal residents meetings revised, with new Stakeholder Q&A and polls/votes taking place
- Increased communication using regular updates on notice boards, Facebook, Twitter and email
- New Saturday Drop Ins for residents
- New SMIRA website: [www.smira.info](http://www.smira.info) and online membership registration
- New Sector Representative initiative
- New Easter Egg Hunt held in April 2019 for 100 residents
- New Summer Picnic and Dog Show held in August 2019 for up to 500 residents
- New 'Member Benefits' concept agreed with residents, ready for launch
- New SMIRA Associate Membership
- Governance and GDPR compliance reviews completed plus reconciliation of SMIRA membership
- Approach for resident consultation on SMIRA articles approved at the AGM in November 2019

SMIRA is a company limited by guarantee, that works closely with various organisations, agencies and businesses in the local area. All current Directors are volunteers who live on SMI and give up their time to run SMIRA and represent resident views.

### The 2020 SMIRA Board includes

**Director and Chair:**

Chris Reynolds (Joined Oct 2019)

**Director and Treasurer:**

Yvonne Bishop (Joined Dec 2018)

**Director and Company Secretary:**

John Tower (Joined Mar 2019)

**Director:**

Mandy Samrai (Joined Dec 2018)

As well as Directors on its own Board, SMIRA also holds two positions on the Chatham Maritime Trust (CMT) Board.

**Chatham Maritime Trust Board**

**Members:**

Mandy Samrai & Yvonne Bishop

# SMIRA ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION CONSULTATION

## What are the articles of association about?

The articles of association are the rules which govern how SMIRA is run. These were produced approx. 20 years ago at a time when SMI only had a few homes built. Today our community has 1595 homes with another 167 still to be built in the next few years.

Our community has changed over the last 20 years and now is the right time to review and revise the current articles of association to make sure they reflect what our community wants today.

## Coronavirus impact

Due to the impact by Coronavirus on the nation's ability to meet in traditional face to face formats, SMIRA has had to revise its approach to the articles' consultation, since its original presentation at the AGM in November 2019.

To ensure all residents have enough time to understand and decide what the new articles of association will include, SMIRA will now be undertaking the consultation in two steps.

## • AGM November 2020

A vote by Full SMIRA members (as per current article rules) on key principles that the community wishes to include in the new articles

## • AGM November 2021

A vote by Full SMIRA members (as per current article rules) on the final version of the revised articles of association

## Where can I find a copy of the current articles of association?

The current SMIRA articles of association can be found at [www.smira.info](http://www.smira.info).

## Comparison: What Do Other Residents' Associations do?

To help residents make an informed decision, the SMIRA board has looked at how other residents' associations work, how they are structured and what the key rules are in terms of membership, voting and meetings.

	SMIRA	Kensington	Poundbury	Network Homes	Hammersmith & Fulham
<b>Legal Structure</b>	Limited company	Non legal entity	Non legal entity	Non legal entity	Non legal entity
<b>Board Structure</b>	Board Minimum 2 Maximum 10 (subject to number of members)	Committee Minimum 4 maximum 15 One committee member per household	Committee Minimum 6 Maximum 9	Executive Committee Proportional representation of households. No set number	Management Committee Minimum 4 No maximum
<b>Membership</b>	Full: one per dwelling Associate: anyone over 18	Residents over 16 living in area	All residents	2 residents per dwelling over 18	All residents living in area
<b>Voting Rights</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Voting</b>	Full members only for changes to articles and election of Board members	One per member Associate membership for those living outside area	One per household	One per member	All members that attend meetings
<b>Resident Meetings</b>	AGM EGM (extraordinary general meeting) every six weeks	AGM General meetings no frequency	AGM 3 meetings per year	AGM General meetings 3 meetings per year	AGM General meetings 3 meetings per year



SMIRA AGM in November 2019

## What do the current articles of association say?

The current SMIRA articles of association include the following conditions:

- One vote per dwelling, not one vote per owner/leaseholder at same home
- One full membership per dwelling if you own your home /rent over 5 years
- Joint owners of more than one

dwelling on SMI can both be members

- Freeholders do not need to be SMI residents or live in the UK
- Commercial property tenants do not have to satisfy the 5+ years rental term
- Votes only for full members at AGM to appoint Board and any changes to the articles
- Only full members can become Board members
- AGM papers must be sent in hard copy

## Key principles to vote on

In order to develop new articles for SMIRA, full members of SMIRA will need to agree what should be included.

To ensure SMIRA gives everyone an opportunity to voice their opinion, a series of principles will be voted upon at the AGM in November 2020. This will then set the foundations to amend the article, to be voted on at the 2021 AGM.

These principles include:

- Who can be a SMIRA member?
- Who can vote at a SMIRA meeting?
- Should AGM papers be sent in hard copy or electronically?
- How many SMIRA Board members should there be?
- Should membership be restricted to individuals, excluding corporate bodies?
- Should SMIRA directors be limited to SMI residents?

At the AGM, there will also be votes on minor article amendments and principles to guide the work of the SMIRA board. These will be included in the AGM papers.

## WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US

There are lots of ways to keep in touch with SMIRA and stay up to date with what's happening on SMI including:

### Website and membership registrations:

[www.smira.info](http://www.smira.info)

### Notice boards:

Central Walk and Community Centre, SMI

### Facebook group for all residents:

[www.facebook.com/groups/smiraofficial](https://www.facebook.com/groups/smiraofficial)

### Twitter:

[www.twitter.com/smira2019](https://www.twitter.com/smira2019)

### Email:

[admin@smira.info](mailto:admin@smira.info)

## SIGN UP AS A SMIRA MEMBER AND HAVE YOUR SAY

Under its current articles of association rules, SMIRA offers two types of free membership: Full Membership and Associate Membership.

SMI residents can sign up for SMIRA membership at [www.smira.info](http://www.smira.info) by using the online form to register and create an account. Once completed, SMIRA's secretary will confirm the membership by email.

In order to ensure residents have a say in the revision of the articles of association, SMIRA wants to ensure all residents who are eligible to vote at the AGM take up the offer of **FREE membership**.

# REPRESENT YOUR PART OF THE ISLAND, BECOME A SECTOR REP!

The SMIRA board recognises that different parts of our island may have different needs. We also understand that not everyone can or would like to join the formal SMIRA Board but do want to support their community in some way. With over 3000 residents and more to come, we want to encourage resident voice.

In 2019 SMIRA launched a new initiative called Sector Reps, that created more options for residents to give feedback on issues concerning a particular area of the island. It also created opportunities for more residents to get involved in helping our community.

We already have reps in some sectors, but there are still places available in all of them, as we can have up to three reps per sector.

## Selection

SMIRA asks for residents to express interest in being a sector rep for their specific sector by emailing the board at [admin@smira.info](mailto:admin@smira.info).

## Time requirement

Varied, dependent on feedback from residents, meeting times and site walkabouts.

## Eligibility

- Must be a SMI Resident and a SMIRA member (Full or Associate)
- Must live in sector of responsibility
- Must be able to attend residents' meetings and drop ins to represent sector views

## Key skills

- Good communication skills

## Key duties

- To speak to residents within their sector and seek their views on island living, both positive and negative
- To feedback all resident views to the SMIRA Board prior to or during residents' meetings and drop ins
- At least one sector rep per sector must attend residents' meetings and drop ins to feedback their sectors views
- To work with other sector reps within a sector
- To attend grounds maintenance island walkabouts with CMT to advise on key issues within own sector and feedback results to residents and SMIRA
- To promote SMIRA membership
- To attend any appropriate training
- To promote any new SMIRA initiatives

## Find your sector

Sector 1	Sector 2	Sector 3	Sector 4	Sector 5	Sector 6
Foxtail Close Haven Way Marine View Meadowsweet View Pochard Close Sandling Way (even nos.) The Pintails The Whimbrels Woodrush Place	Egret Close Maritime Way Partridge Drive Redshank Road Samphire Way (odd nos.) The Crescent Woodlark Road	Dewberry Close Restharrow Way Sallow Close Sandling Way (odd nos.) Stonecrop Close Watersmeet Willowherb Close Wintergreen Close	Bittern Way Dunlin Drive Phalarope Way Rivermead	Bradfords Close Cheldoc Rise Goldcrest Drive Island Way East (2-80 even nos.)	Apollo Way Island Way East (1-27 odd nos.) Ringlet Road The Avenue
Sector 7	Sector 8	Sector 9	Sector 10	Sector 13	Sector 14
Deering Close (even nos.) Henrietta Chase (1-14, 53+) Little Victory Mount (17+) Tappan Drive (even nos.)	Deering Close (odd nos.) Henrietta Chase (15-43) Island Way West (2-16 even nos.) Little Victory Mount (1-16)(55+56) Tappan Drive (odd nos.) The Shoreway (26-40 even nos.) The Shoreway (5-21 odd nos.) Westview	Island Way West (18+20) Main Street Stillwater Mews The Causeway (1-45 odd nos.) The Causeway (2-44 even nos.) The Shoreway (2-24 even nos.) The Shoreway (1+3) Westgate	Atlas Place Sector 11 Augustus Way Ripplewaters Samphire Way (even nos.) Wilkey Way Sector 12 The Pinnacles	Blackcap Mews Cade Close Firecrest Close Gadwell Mews The Causeway (41 - 47 odd nos.) The Causeway (46 - 58 even nos.) Westerly Way Whinchat Way	Aster Drive Eastview Island Way West (49 - 57 odd nos.) Teal Drive