

# SAINT MARY'S ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

This meeting was well supported with a total of approximately 19 residents and PCSO Angela were in attendance. This was due to the meeting being advertised on various Facebook sites.

### ACTING CHAIRMAN CHRIS REYNOLDS REPORT:

Chris Reynolds opened the meeting, stating that Malcolm Gray has resigned from the Chair and as a Director due to other commitments. Malcolm and the Board took SMIRA through the tough times of the pandemic with the use of zoom meetings to replace face to face resident meetings. The residents thanked Malcolm & wished him well.

Chris has been in touch with various people with a view of identifying another chairperson. Chris asked the meeting if anyone would be willing to help on the SMIRA Board and if so to see him after the meeting. Chris agreed to stand in as temporary Chair until a permanent replacement could be recruited.

Chris also mentioned that he and Mona remain as the SMIRA representatives on the CMT Board.

### SMIRA HELP

We need a permanent secretary, a new chairperson, treasurer and at least four more board members. It was mentioned that some people can be officers. **Post meeting note: We have a volunteer to become Chair, another to become Treasurer and someone to take minutes of future residents meetings.**

### COMMUNICATION

It is obvious that we need to be able to communicate with more of the Island households, i.e, letters to go out to residents with any relevant information of island activities. It was mentioned that these could be circulated with the CMT invoices if they are prepared to co-operate.

### DOCKSIDE PARKING CHARGES

The charges introduced at Dockside do not seem to have made an awful lot of difference with many finishing their business within the one and a half hours free time. It was mentioned that some residence feel they should get a free permit to park. Apparently the link to obtain parking passes doesn't work & Chris agreed to investigate.

## **MACHINE SHOP 8**

Someone asked what is happening to machine shop 8. This is a grade 2 listed structure which is currently owned by Dockside. One possibility is for it to be purchased by CMT which is being looked into but is very expensive. Dockside have applied for planning to use it for Paddle Tennis court, although there are concerns about noise and extra parking.

## **GILLINHAM DOCKS**

Chris had a meeting with Richard CEO of CMT regarding the development of the docks. Peel Ports have applied for commercial structures and with a view to residential development on another part of the site.

CMT is concerned that sea water replenishment to Basin 2 is maintained. Peels history is vast and various around the country.

Both Peel and the opposition to their planned development briefed SMIRA at previous residents meetings. This was followed by an online poll where the majority of residents were opposed to the development. Kelly Tolhurst our MP has briefed the House of Commons on this and it was also subject to a recent question at PMQ's. SMIRA will continue to oppose Peel planning permission submissions.

St Mary's Island is private land owned by CMT and the council. Peel cannot make reference to its use in any planning application without CMT permission.

Several people agreed to do a leaflet drop to inform residents how important resisting the development of Gillingham Docks is and not to allow Peel Ports to develop as this will be detrimental to the whole island.

Mona is arranging for another briefing regarding the development. Details will be published when known.

## **QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

### **What is going on with Countryside developments?**

Now that Visch have taken over from them. It is anticipated they will remain on site for another year – rectification work & environmental work

### **MUGGA:- Play areas on the new development, where are they going to be?**

As far as we know just off the new bund.

### **BUS SERVICE:-**

is not maintained or sponsored by SMIRA. In hand with Habib (councillor) and Ariva. Still under discussion.

### **COBBLES:- By the Marina bridge are in need of repair.**

Council are liable. (there is a fix my street app).

**SPEED WATCH:-**

Where is the flashing light sign it seems to have disappeared. Looking for it!

NOTE:- Notice to be put on FB to remind residents that household waste should not be put out until Wednesday morning and food waste should be put in the brown bins, thus by avoiding being raided by Foxes and cats.

**DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:- SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 10.30 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Minutes recorded by Angela Andrews - resident**