

NETHERNE ON THE HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17 OCTOBER 2025

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Present: Rozalind Earp (*Chair*), Alison Johnson (*Treasurer*), Ranji Vimalathas (*Committee Member*), Anthony Davies (*Committee Member*), Marie Robertson (*Committee Member*)

Apologies: Adele Sewell (*Committee Member*), Jane Shufflebotham (*Committee Member*), Emma Sinclair (*Incoming Committee Member*), Councillor Mus Tary (*Conservative Party Councillor for Hooley, Merstham and Netherne*), Councillor Frank Kelly (*Conservative Party Councillor for Reigate and Banstead*)

In attendance: Ashley Fowler (*Incoming Chair*), Martin Gardner (*Incoming Treasurer*), Meaghan Saunders (*Incoming Committee Secretary*), Councillor Shasha Khan (*Green Party Councillor for Hooley, Merstham and Netherne*), Councillor Joel Gabriel (*Green Party Councillor for Hooley, Merstham and Netherne*)

The meeting was held in the Village Hall, Netherne on the Hill.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies were received from committee members Adele Sewell and Jane Shufflebotham; incoming committee member Emma Sinclair; Councillor Frank Kelly for Reigate and Banstead and, Councillor Mus Tary for Hooley, Merstham and Netherne.

2. REPORTS

Chairperson's Report

2.1 The Committee received the final Chairperson's report from the outgoing Chair, Rosalind (Roz) Earp. Roz has served as Chair of the Netherne on the Hill Residents' Association (NoTHRA) since 2018, and will be succeeded by Ashley Fowler. Also stepping down is the Committee's Treasurer, Alison Johnson, succeeded by Martin Gardner.

2.2 It was reported that the most recent update from National Highways was received at the end of August. This included details of the installation of a 30mph speed limit through Hooley (implemented on 31 March 2025), associated road markings and high friction surfacing to improve vehicle safety. In addition, the amendment to Surrey County Council's (SCC) Civil Parking Enforcement designation had been approved, allowing SCC to assume civil parking enforcement responsibilities along the A23 in Hooley. National Highways is seeking funding to support in considering the proposal for a yellow box junction at the intersection of Netherne Drive and the A23 and, installation for a secondary traffic light to improve visibility for vehicles entering the junction. A further update regarding a pedestrian crossing is expected before the end of November 2025. **Action:** Ashley Fowler to monitor for National Highways November 2025 update.

2.3 It was reported that committee member, Jane Shufflebotham, is currently leading an initiative to allow for a permanent outdoor table tennis table to be installed in the village. An initial proposal was positively received by Netherne Management Limited (NML), with request for further clarification on several points. The Committee will respond to these by

January 2026. **Action:** Jane and Ashley to draft answers for Committee review. **Action:** Jane to create fundraising plan and undertake grant research with the support of the Committee.

- 2.4 The Committee has continued to lobby for improved public transport links to the village and has conducted seven meetings to date in 2025. From these meetings, it was reported that the East Surrey Transport Committee obtained cost estimates from the Transport for London (TfL), for a proposed shuttle service to Coulsdon. The costs ranged from approximately £200,00 for a limited weekday service (7am-10am and 4pm-7pm, Monday to Friday) to approximately £1 million for an extension of the full 463 bus service. In March, Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Growth asked NoTHRA to provide the TfL costings and confirmation of TfL willingness to work with SCC in writing. The Committee has secured this information and is seeking a follow-up meeting to discuss next steps. Former committee members Rosalind Earp and Alison Johnson will continue to progress this work and provide regular updates to the Committee. The Committee will send a representative to any meetings held. **Action:** Rosalind and Alison to progress the bid for public transport in the village, with the support of the Committee.
- 2.5 A new Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) service for Reigate and Banstead was launched on Monday 13 October. The bus will serve Reigate, Merstham, Woodhatch, Nutfield, Banstead and parts of Redhill. Details on how to book will be published on the NoTHRA website and village Facebook page once confirmed via Reigate and Banstead Council. It was noted that the request for an out-of-area stop in Coulsdon was denied. Residents are still able to use the Tandridge DDRT service. **Action:** Meaghan and Ashley to publish booking details to website and Facebook page.

Treasurer's Report

- 2.6 The opening balance as of 30 September 2024 was £2810.98, a bank balance of £2270.80 and cash balance of £540.18. The closing balance as of 17 October 2025 is £3570.81, a bank balance of £3248.97 and a cash balance of £321.95. Full details are available in the report attached at Annex A.

Social Activities and Events Report

- 2.7 NoTHRA had a successful year of community and fundraising events in the village, supported by committee members and resident volunteers. The Committee extended thanks to the volunteers who make these events possible.
- 2.8 Community events in 2024-25 included the Christmas Family Fayre on 7 December 2024 and the Netherne Family Fun Day on 13 July 2025. Both events were a huge success with many residents of all ages turning out to enjoy the festivities. A notable mention was given to the crafts corner at the Christmas Fayre, the Drama Llama's magic shows, Marta for her Zumba routine and Jack for his tennis workshop. Special thanks were given to the Pavillion Team, Natalie and her husband for running the BBQ and Mikey the DJ.
- 2.9 The date for the 2025 Christmas Family Fayre is Sunday 14 December 2025. The Family Fun Day is scheduled for Sunday 12 July 2026.
- 2.10 NoTHRA held several fundraising events in 2024-25 including two successful quiz nights on Saturday 23 November 2025 and Saturday 7 June 2025, a total of £1189.07 was raised. Special thanks were given to Lee Sheldon for hosting the quiz. The date of the next quiz is Saturday 21 March 2026. In addition to the quiz nights, NoTHRA hosted Bangers and Bingo for the first time, raising money for the proposed table tennis table.
- 2.11 NoTHRA also supported the Bramble Cut to restore the woodland area for bluebells, led by Sonja and 15 volunteers from the village. The day was a success with more planned for 2026.

Sonja also coordinates the village's volunteer litter picking group, gallantly keeping the village and surrounds free of rubbish.

Classics' Report

2.12 The Committee received a positive report from committee member Marie Robertson on the activities of the Netherne Classics Group. The Group of residents aged 50 plus, meets every Monday between 11am and 1pm for tea and coffee at the cricket pavilion. In 2025 the Group enjoyed trips to various events and activities in the local area, made possible by the fortnightly bus. It was noted that the bus was unfortunately running at a loss however, thanks to the kind donations from resident Michael Lee in memory of his wife Ann Lee (a recently passed member of the Group), the bus is able to continue in 2026.

2.13 The Classics Group extended a heartfelt thanks to outgoing Chair and Treasurer, Roz and Alison for their support shown to the Group and efforts in campaigning for a bus which would be extremely beneficial to older residents. Further thanks were given to the Committee, Estate Manager Jonathan Hart, the Methodist Housing Association, local Councillors including Shasha Khan, the East Surrey Rural Transport and Tech Angels.

Parish Council Update

2.14 Committee member Anthony Davies updated the meeting on the progress of the proposal and consultation for a new Parish Council, following the government plan to convert all remaining two-tier counties and their district/borough councils into single-tier unitary authorities. This includes plans for Surrey County Council and its borough/district councils (including Reigate and Banstead) to be replaced by two new unitary authorities (expected to be East and West Surrey). Forming a parish council would allow villages like Netherne the opportunity to protect local voice in decision making, strengthening the ability to shape planning, protect green spaces and look after the community.

2.15 After consultation with residents via surveys, social media and personal contact, 91% of Netherne residents who engaged were in favour of expressing interest to be part of a proposed new parish council covering the northern part of the borough. NoTHRA was unanimous in its support for the proposal and has formally submitted a request to be included in the new Banstead area parish council. The borough council is expected to review all responses and provided feedback toward the end of 2025, if approved, the new parish council is likely to be formed in May 2027. It was noted that members of the audience expressed support for the proposal, with some commenting that they may be interested in running for roles on the new parish council. **Action:** Anthony to actively engage with the process and provide regular updates to the Committee.

3. QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

3.1 A member of the audience queried the recent increase in traffic and the number of trucks moving through the village on a daily basis. The Chair had been in touch with the owner of Alstead Manor Farm, after a previous complaint was raised about trucks passing through the village. The farmer confirmed that work is being done on the farm which requires a small number of trucks to pass through the village. The farmer had proposed submitting a request to NML to build a through road from Netherne Drive to the farm, avoiding the need for trucks to access the farm via the village. The Committee will continue to investigate this issue. **Action:** Ashley to maintain contact with the owner of Alstead Manor farm.

3.2 A complaint was raised about the frequent fly-tipping taking place behind the shop, following the removal of the recycling bins. Despite residents reporting fly-tipping to the Council, the Council has not been removing the rubbish which led to intervention from the Estate Manager at the expense of NML. The Councillors present at the meeting

acknowledged that unfortunately clearing of the rubbish by residents or NML is a deterrent for the Council cleansing team to address the issue. Residents also raised that the sign delegating responsibility of the area to the Council is gone and, that the Council website is still signposting people to the spot as a recycling point. Councillor Khan agreed to investigate and rectify the out-of-date information on the website. Residents were encouraged to continue reporting incidents of fly-tipping. **Action:** Ashley to follow up with Councillor Khan on recycling point information and query management of the space with NML. *[Secretary's note: the Committee has since confirmed that the Council sign, which includes a CCTV warning, penalty information and Council details, is still present at the site].*

- 3.3 A member of the Committee queried the possibility of redesignating the old recycling point site to electric vehicle charging points. NML bear responsibility for this land and the Chair had previously contacted NML to suggest this. NML agreed to explore the possibility, but failed to provide further response. **Action:** Ashley to follow up with NML for electric charging point opportunities.
- 3.4 Several queries were raised in relation to dangerous and careless driving in the village, with a request for an update on the possibility of reducing the speed limit from the standard 30mph to 20mph. The Committee confirmed that it has been lobbying the Councillor for a reduction in speed limit. It was recommended that the village could elect to become part of the community speed watch initiative, which would provide evidence for the need to reduce the speed limit. Residents were encouraged to continue reporting potholes via the online reporting method or directly to the local Councillor. It was noted that the next parking review will take place in November 2025. Residents in support of double yellow lines in areas of high traffic, bends, corners and intersections should participate in the review.

4. NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 4.1 Incoming Chair, Ashley Fowler, introduced himself as a resident of the village for the past 16 years and expressed thanks to Roz and Alison for all of their work on the Committee. Ashley is passionate about the village and is excited to bring new ideas and energy to the Committee.
- 4.2 The incoming Treasurer, Martin Gardner, introduced himself as a resident of the village for the past 18 years. Martin is passionate about the village and surrounding areas and would like to get more involved in the work of NoTHRA and support the village community.
- 4.3 The incoming Secretary to the Committee, Meaghan Saunders, has been resident in the village for 1 year. Originally from Australia, Meaghan was drawn to Netherne for its community feeling and abundance of green spaces. Meaghan is keen to support the work of NoTHRA and keep the community spirit alive in Netherne.

5. ELECT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 5.1 The Committee approved the election of the following members to the Committee:
 - i. Ashley Fowler
 - ii. Martin Gardner
 - iii. Meaghan Saunders
 - iv. Anthony Davies
 - v. Emma Sinclair
 - vi. Ranji Vimalathas
 - vii. Marie Robertson

- viii. Adele Sewell
- ix. Jane Shufflebotham

6. ELECT OFFICERS

6.1 The Committee approved the election of the following officers:

- i. Ashley Fowler as Chair
- ii. Martin Gardner as Treasurer
- iii. Meaghan Saunders as Secretary

7. CLOSE MEETING

7.1 Outgoing Chair, Roz, gave a final thanks to the Committee members and wished the incoming officers and committee members luck in continuing on the work the Committee has done in the last few years.

7.2 Following the formal meeting, information was provided by Councillor Joel Gabriel on the composition of the proposed unitary councils, with the current number of councillors in the area reduced from 500 to 20. Residents seeking further information on the unitary council plan and parish councils, can visit the nethernevillage.uk webpage.