
2015 Annual General Meeting



Place SYDNI Centre, Sydenham, Leamington Spa

Date Thursday 16 July 2015

Time 7.30pm

1. Attendance

Staff - 4; Board – 6; Volunteers - 10; Visitors – 10

Staff: M Smith, K Scott, S Boyer, M Lythell

Board: M Begg, G Randall, J Armstrong, C Pollock, R Twiney, J Beart

Volunteers: S Barber, A Goodwin, D Anderson, K Patterson, M Noonan, G Marsh, J Webber, J Colledge, R Cleal, H Portrey

Visitors: Cllr A Stevens, Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa, and Mr I Stevens, Cllr M Littlejohn, Mayor of Warwick, Cllr M Doody, Chairman of Warwick District Council, J Armstrong, C Begg, J Noonan, Mrs Noonan, S Twiney, J Pollock

Apologies

P Austin, K Sandhu, P Blackledge, P Moir, C White MP

John Armstrong (JA) welcomed all, particularly the Mayors and Chairman of WDC.

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM were proposed as approved unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

JA reported that 12 months ago Action 21 had been served notice to quit the Ramsey Road site. The hunt for new premises had been challenging but the recent move to Court Street had been achieved successfully. Action 21 now had 6 years' security but faced a sizeable rent after moving from rent free property.

Laura Smith, the park ranger, had transferred from Action 21 to employment by Warwick District Council, and Action 21 had relinquished the East Lodge premises in Jephson Gardens. The number of staff had been reduced to three to achieve financial viability.

The future aims of Action 21 remained the same with the priorities being to remain financially viable and carry out projects in the areas of recycling, energy, transport, food and education.

General Manager's Report

Martin thanked all the 60-70 volunteers (including the Trustees) who were the life blood of the organisation. He welcomed the two new shop managers and the volunteer bike workshop manager. He reported that 100 tonnes had been kept out of landfill last year with 400 bikes, 1000 tested electrical items and 24000 shop items being sold. The Re-Useful Centre continues to sell items through Amazon and E-bay.

Bike Workshop Manager's Report

Martin Lythell reported on the activities of the bike workshop. Sales averaged 40 per month in the summer. There were currently 7 mechanics and he would welcome further recruits.

The Dr Bike free bike checks and low cost repairs were very popular and were offered at special events such as the Peace Festival and the Big Bike Revival.

5. Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31st March 2015

Geoff Randall (GR) Honorary Treasurer reported a deficit of £3k in 2014-15. The drop in income was due to the move, loss of sales and increases in rental of £26k. Reserves covered the deficit and sales so far this year were encouraging. Action 21 hoped to break even by the end of this financial year. The financial statements for 2014-15 and reports were approved unanimously.

6. Questions from the Audience

Cllr Doody asked about the number of staff employed. It was explained that only three managers were paid. Cllr Littlejohn asked about the role of social media in promoting Action 21 and offered to make available a stall at Warwick Market Place for Action 21. She also mentioned the Retro Bike Show in Warwick in August where Action 21 could get publicity for its bike activities. John Colledge suggested an Action 21 leaflet should be offered with every sale. Martin Smith reported an Action 21 bookmark was to be included with book sales. Cllr Amanda Stevens asked if students were interested in Action 21. Martin Smith reported that students were regular customers and word spread quickly within the student community.

5 Appointment of Independent Examiner

A proposal to re-appoint the current Independent Examiners Dafferns was approved.

6 Election of Trustees

John Armstrong and Chris Pollock stood down by rotation and were willing to stand for re-election.

Gareth Davies had stood down as a Trustee and was warmly thanked by John Armstrong for his long length of service and strong support for Action 21.

Cllr Richard Edwards had also stood down and JA thanked him for his contribution.

Julia Beart and Peter Blackledge (representing the volunteers) were elected as new Trustees. This was proposed by Roger Twiney and seconded by Margaret Begg.

7 AOB

There was no other business.

8 Date of Next AGM

Will be announced well in advance of the meeting date.