



HALLGARTH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 22ND MAY 2023

Attending

Thomas Priestley, Amy Hardy, Carol Conyers, Chris Pemberton, Helen Shepherd, Mark Shepherd, Karon O'Donoghue, Kate Simpson (KTC), Peter Thornton (WaF), Giles Archibald (WaF)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Karen Banks, Elaine Cuthbertson, Liz Hendry, Carolina Smith and Lana Grindley

2. Tree Planting

Success of the previous tree planting events, including the event with Chris Pemberton and his Year 4 class from St Thomas' school, and the additional planting events on 22nd February and 10th April.

Chris Pemberton reports that his students are giving him regular updates on the trees they planted!

Some canes and protective plastic tubing has been removed, either by kids or by the wind, but some have been making efforts to collect and re-stake the canes/tubing where possible. The majority of plants seem to be doing well, and some die-off is to be expected.

2. Anti-social behaviour on Briarigg

Antisocial behaviour was reported to the police at the start of April by a resident of Briarigg, stating that teenagers believed to be from Hallgarth were coming across the train footbridge from Low Mead and throwing stones at his house.

The resident received a very poor response from the police who only suggested the closing of the footbridge which is not a realistic solution. The resident states they have installed CCTV to capture images of the individuals involved.

No other updates have been given since April on this, but the anti-social behaviour seems to have quieted for now.

It is agreed that closing the footpath is not feasible. Perhaps better lighting of the path/bridge would help deter the behaviour?

3. Steep footpath to St Thomas' School

New tarmac on footpath is excellent, but is very steep and without any barriers at either end or in the middle.

An accident has occurred with one Yr 3 child from St Thomas' who (unsupervised at the time) came down the hill on her bike or scooter (unclear), fell off, and required several steri-strips on her face.

Giles Archibald has written to the council regarding this incident and requesting suitable changes be made.

Barriers were avoided when the initial footpath improvement was proposed due to the narrowness of the path, and to maintain pushchair/wheelchair access. However it is clear that with the new smooth tarmac this will inevitably become a fun speedy path for children, and appropriate measures to limit this are worth investigation.

It was also noted during the walkaround on Friday 19th May (to be discussed next) that the tarmac comes to an abrupt end, changing to loose gravel and dirt. A large pile of rubble has been left by the contractors after the tarmacking and is an eye-sore. This is considered an un-finished job and needs to be sorted.

As this is the only step-free path to St Thomas' school, could the tarmac be continued all the way to Hallgarth Circle, to provide better surfaces for pushchairs/wheelchairs? Although very steep, with suitable barriers at either end and including a solution to limit maximum speeds, this would be a better option for many residents than walking all the way to Windermere Road, or driving.

ACTION: Giles to update HRA with the council's response to his letter.

4. New bin locations

The chronic 'under-binning' of Hallgarth has been raised to the council by the RA numerous times - currently only 4 bin locations (outside the shop, outside the playground, Moore Field Close, and corner of Sparrowmire Lane and Burneside Road).

Giles Archibald was able to arrange a walkaround the estate which was conducted on Friday 19th May with Amy Hardy as the HRA representative, and Giles Archibald (WaF), Sue Warner (WaF Locality Officer), Andy Vickers (WaF Delivery & Commercial Officer) and Mark Harris (WaF).

As a result of the walkaround, we have been told to choose 5 new bin locations, with a view to 5 more if it can be shown a difference has been made. These locations were as agreed in previous committee meetings with one slight variation.

Locations agreed (approximate locations, subject to viability with path/lorry access etc):

- Corner of Garth Brow and Windermere Road
- Corner of Low Garth and Hallgarth Circle (initially at bottom of St Thomas' path but moved due to lorry access)
- Corner of Hallgarth Circle and High Garth
- Low Mead playing field entry point
- Round Hill footpath entry point on Low Garth

See attached map.

During the walkaround other issues were raised. See below.

ACTION: Tom to email the WaF attendees with map of chosen locations and request an installation date

5. Tree branch removed

During the walkaround it was noted by Sue Warner that several tree branches has been removed and left on the grass on High Sparrowmire. The branch removal does not appear to be very neat. Sue took photos of the tree and branches.

A few weeks ago (unsure of date) Amy did see two men in high-viz jackets removing the branches from the trees, but did not see any company logos.

It seems likely to be a sub contractor as it seems to be focused on the phone lines that run through the trees. The company needs to be identified and they need to remove the waste branches.

##UPDATE## – Tom discussed this with some other subcontractors working on the lines on 23/05/23 and they have agreed to relay the message upwards with their management.

ACTION: Tom to email Sue Warner requesting update and request council removal as last resort

6. Pavements

During the walkaround it was noted that the High Sparrowmire pavements are in a very poor state.

This is partly due to the very poor re-surfacing work done by United Utilities, who dug up the entire pavement in front of the High Sparrowmire grass strip. Their resurfacing work is already very uneven and crumbling.

The other main reason for the pavement's disrepair is the damage done by cars driving or parking on the pavements or grass verges.

It was pointed out that if residents don't do this, the roads would be completely blocked (rather than just difficult to get through) and that preventing the use of these areas is not the answer. However a more sustainable option needs to be found, such as tarmacking these strips to prevent damage to the grass and the tracking of mud across pavements. Residents are only trying to access their houses conveniently, and reduce parking on the roads. Can a compromise be found?

This issue has been raised before and it appears that the difficulty in reaching an agreement between the council and Highways England has prevented any progress. However, in the meantime, can the pavements at least be repaired?

Could SLH and HomeGroup be encouraged to convert more front gardens into driveways where appropriate for their occupants? This would help ease the burden on the roads/pavements. This issue has been raised multiple times.

SLH are conducting a walkaround at the start of June – a HRA representative on this would be useful.

ACTION: Tom to pick date for a RA walkaround in mid-July

7. Community Centre garden

Following feedback from residents at meetings and on Facebook a final design combining elements from both initial plans has been created.

Estimated build costs are £64,000. The community centre is now in the process of looking for funding.

SLH (centre owners) have offered to re-paint the railings.

A surveyor has drawn up plans to change the centre internally. They want to embrace the idea of the centre as a community asset for use by residents, not just for hired out usage.

The centre is looking for funding for a paid staff member, to be present on-site so the hall can be open all the time, to enable use of hall as a drop-in location for community. The centre is also looking at extending the hall, creating more spaces and options for residents, so private hire of the hall would still leave areas for community use.

8. Caravan next to community centre

During the walkaround the caravan outside the shop was discussed. Sue Warner (WAF) is aware of the issue but is not sure of the current situation.

9. HGRA Finances

Still funding left in Jubilee pot (£360) and Kendal in Bloom pot (£140).

Tom has previously looked at cost of adding a bench to the Round Hill area, but is £900+ for a standard bench.

Could this funding be used to create an information board for Round Hill explaining the area's flora and fauna, similar to the one outside Serpentine Woods? Is there funding available from WaF/KTC for matched funding?

ACTION – Amy to get in touch with Kate + Peter regarding funding request for display board for Round Hill.

ACTION – Amy to get in touch with Jamie Normington – Heading and Learning at CWT (Plumgarths) who arranges the interpretation boards at Brockhole. Find out information on costs/suppliers.

ACTION – Tom to discuss options with Lana regards use of leftover KiB funding for maintenance of planters

ACTION – Tom to email Peter and Giles with the potential to use the Environment & Highways Sill fund for the bench

HRA still needs an invoice from the community centre for the cost of hire for the committee meetings.

Is there a need this year for another independent audit for the HGRA finances? Last year was very difficult to find an independent auditor without resorting to paying for a firm. If we were a charity, then we would be below the financial bracket for yearly audits anyway. Perhaps we could look at changing to a 2 or 5 year audit plan.

ACTION: Carol to develop a solution regards account auditing

ACTION: Tom to email another request for the invoice from community centre for HGRA usage.

11. Next meeting – AGM

DATE: Monday 4th September, 7pm.

ACTION: Amy to create event on FB and posters for board advertising next meeting.

ACTION: Amy to have a UV resistant poster made with HGRA logo and whiteboard section for date/time.

12. AOB

Garages - No update regarding the garages since the previous committee meeting.

ACTION: Tom to contact Sean Ellam (SLH) for update on garages project.

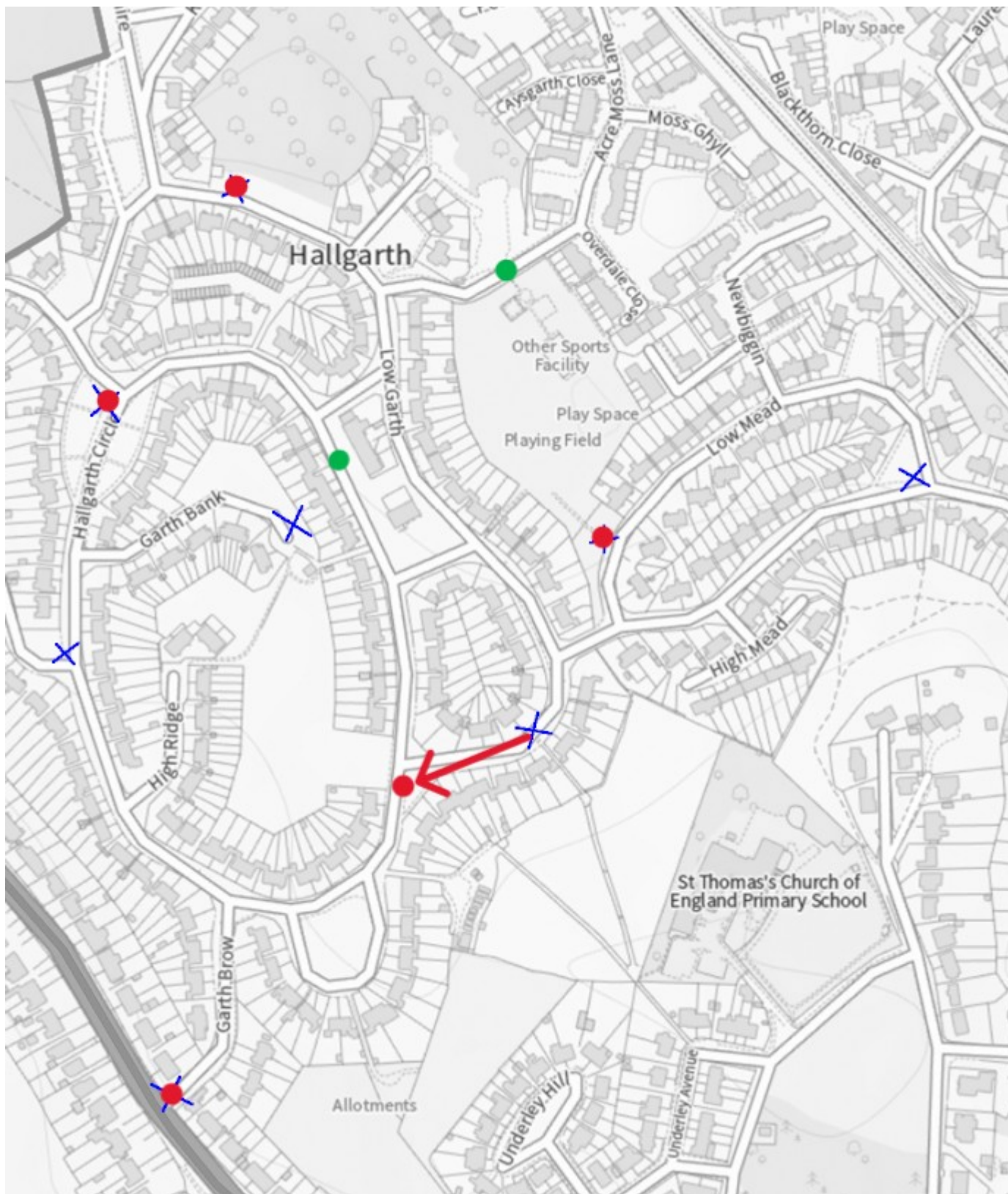
ACTION: Tom to get in touch with Elaine and Karen B regarding their plans for xmas events

Waste in Wellbeing – The use of Hallgarth community centre for the WIW community larder is missed on the estate. However, it was always very complex for WIW to arrange for the sorting, transportation, and storage of the food for Hallgarth. As they are currently running a weekly café and looking at building their own kitchen/café area, it seems unlikely that they have the volunteer capacity to re-instate the Hallgarth larder. It would require a big and on-going commitment from multiple Hallgarth volunteers.

WaF is soon to be releasing a large amount of funding specifically for Poverty Alleviation. If we have any ideas that could fall under this remit, then there is the potential for funding.

NEXT MEETING – AGM

MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER, 7PM



Requested bin locations



Current bin locations (Moore Field Close and Sparrowmire Lane locations not shown on map)



Previously discussed locations