

Chairman's Report 2017 AGM

(Delivered by Carolyn Spencer, in the absence of Bron Curley)

Welcome to the 56th Annual General Meeting of Amersham and District Residents Association. Unfortunately, Bron Curley is not able to be here this evening and he has asked me to deliver the Chairman's Report in his absence.

We are glad to see so many of you here, particularly in view of the rather unpleasant weather this evening.

As usual, I will start with changes to the committee. As mentioned at last year's AGM, Les Jayatilaka has decided to return to Australia and tonight is his final ADRA meeting. We are grateful for his hard work during his time on the committee and wish him and his family all the best for their new lives back in Perth. We hope that Les will accept this book of photographs of the Chilterns as a small token of the Association's appreciation.

Unfortunately there have been no new committee members this year. As you will appreciate, this makes the annual appeal for help all the more urgent. We are desperately in need of more committee members. We really need at least four (but ideally six) more members, so that we have the benefit of a wide selection of opinions at our monthly meetings. Meetings take place in the Small Barn Hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm. There is no meeting in August, and the December meeting is usually brought forward to the second Wednesday. Meetings generally last between about forty five minutes and an hour and a half, so committee membership is not an onerous commitment for those who do not take officers' posts. If you feel that you might be able to contribute, please do come along to a meeting.*

On the positive side, Penny King and Liz Jones, as our new Secretary and Planning Officer, have settled well into their respective posts and have already made significant contributions to the work of the Association.

I would like to thank all the current committee members for their support and for their efforts on behalf of the Association.

HS2 rumbles on and it is, unfortunately, looking almost certain that it will go ahead.

Amersham in Bloom goes from strength to strength and the work of their volunteers has made a huge difference to the appearance of our town.

Heritage Day in the Old Town is a huge success attracting numerous visitors.

We are lucky to live in this lovely area, but we need to be vigilant to ensure that it stays that way. As you have heard, we have been very active again this year in commenting on planning matters and we hope to continue to be so, but we really do need more help.

Please carry on contacting committee members to let us know of your concerns about local matters. We will do our best to represent the views of members, but, as I have mentioned before, if we write to one of the local authorities about a particular matter, our letter is counted as only one comment, despite the fact that we have over eleven hundred members. If there is something which concerns you, please make sure that you write to the relevant council as well as raising it with us.

Thank you all for coming

Addendum to Chairman's Report – Carolyn Spencer:

You will recall that Bron has mentioned at previous AGM's that he would like to stand down as Chairman. After fourteen years, he has now decided to do so with immediate effect. We are extremely sorry to lose him, but are very grateful for all he has done for ADRA during his long period of service. We send him our best wishes for a speedy return to full health. As he is not here this evening, the presentation which we had planned to make to him to mark his retirement, will be delivered to him tomorrow.

This does, of course, have an impact on the next item on the Agenda – Election of Committee Members.

*At the conclusion of the meeting, three members came forward to volunteer to attend a future committee meeting on a trial basis.