

Vice-Chairs Report – CCRA AGM – Thursday 10th October 2019.

I'd like to say firstly a big thanks to everyone for coming along this evening. An AGM is not necessarily the most exciting event in the CCRA calendar but it is very important for our continued good governance.

The Chair has provided an excellent account of the range of exciting activities and projects we have been involved in over the last year so I am not going to duplicate this list, other than to say that the work we do genuinely enriches our community. I meet many people, from around the world, who are really envious of what we have achieved in this little part of Charlton and we should all feel justly proud of our neighbourhood.

I am going to confine myself to reporting on the activity we undertook at last year AGM. This was a table group activity in which we explored:

1 what the Association does well;

2 what members want the Association to do;

3 ideas for social events and

4 ways in which members can contribute to the work of the Association.

I shall report under those headings.

Firstly - what the Association does well – First and foremost was producing Grapevine and it was clear how much this is valued by the community. I'd like to pay homage to our production team who pull this all together. Secondly members appreciated how we champion good planning and how we run our social programme. Both of these need member's time and commitment and if you are willing to help with these two activities then please let an officer know before you leave the hall.

Secondly - what members want the Association to do – There were many suggestions on how we could improve Grapevine (hatches/matches/dispatches!!, adding jokes and personal stories etc.) and these have been passed to our editorial team. Some suggestions such as running Youth activities is beyond what we could deliver, given our current resources, although we are trying to improve, through our exercise classes provision for our more elderly community.

Thirdly - ideas for social events – these have all been passed onto our Social groups who are exploring how we might fit these into our programme. Member wanted to do more dancing, have a photography group and run more free cycles. Again if you are keen organise any of these activities please let an officer know before you leave the hall.

Finally - ways in which members can contribute to the work of the Association – as this was a group activity it was difficult to distinguish who could contribute to what – so – there were several offers to deliver Grapevine and we desperately need some who could co-ordinate the 'deliverers' and someone to help with managing the small ads programme which is so vital to the viability of the newsletter. These are not burdensome tasks but it would take some weight off the existing Man Comm team if these two jobs were covered. Again please volunteer to help out. It is these small commitments that make a great deal of difference to what the Association delivers to our members.

Finally as I step down as Vice Chair I have to say what a privilege it has been to serve the Association as both Vice-Chair and Chair. I have worked with some exceptionally talented people and have met with kindness, humour and camaraderie. It is wonderful to see the Association mature and grow in the safe hands of our current Chair, Officers and Management committee. May it continue to flourish over the next twelve years and beyond.

Brenda Taggart

October 2019