

Copthorne Residents' Society

Executive committee report for 2024

The Executive Committee

1. Your executive committee was (with roles): Joe Watts (Chair); Fred Cleary (Treasurer); Sally Williams (Secretary); Linda Coles (website); Jim Forder; Gordon Ross (entertainment); Hasmita Bheda (IT and membership), Kirsti Eraneva Dibb (road maintenance), Mike Collins and Jas Bassan. At the end of this year, and in accordance with the Rules of the Society, 3 members (Jim, Gordon and Mike) will stand down and intend to stand for re-election. There will be at least one vacancy on the Committee for 2025.
2. The Committee met five times during the year.

The Trustees

3. The society has two Trustees: Andrew Gallagher and Mark Clare. The committee is grateful for their continued support. Ideally the Society needs four Trustees. If you would like to be considered for the role please contact Joe Watts (copthorneresidents@gmail.com)

The Society's constitution

4. The Society last revised its Rules of Membership in 2020. As a Society we may need to consider whether a society with a trustee structure is the most appropriate structure for the future, particularly around liability. Alternative models **may** include being a Limited Liability Company or a Community Interest Company. This was briefly discussed at the AGM in 2024 and the Executive Committee asked to investigate options. The alternative models all seem to have significant workloads involved in their setting up and their running. We were recommended to consider 'Directors' and Officers' (D&O) insurance. This seemed to be an alternative, or at least temporary solution, to the issue of providing greater reassurance for the Executive Committee and Trustees (current and future). The Executive Committee agreed to this approach, and we have had D&O cover since August.

Road Matters

5. The road is generally in good condition.
6. The gullies and drains were cleared in June 2023 (they were previously cleared in 2018). Our plan is to clear the gullies again in 2025 including Chess Vale Rise.
7. It is important that residents keep mud and grass cuttings away from the drain covers. If you have boundary stones on your verge make sure they are at least 30 cms back from the road surface.
8. The lines on the road were repainted in August 2023 (they were previously painted in 2019). The extended yellow lines near the junction to the Green have made turning into the road significantly safer.
9. Two bags of hardcore were supplied by the Society to Chess Vale Rise and then spread by volunteers from the Rise.
10. Snow and salt: the salt bins have been maintained. There has been no need to spread salt during the year.

11. We have continued, with the help of the Trustees, to pursue the ownership of the section of road from the boundary between numbers 50 and 52 Copthorne Road and the junction with the Green. This section is neither owned by the Society, Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) nor Herts County Council. We continue to seek to have that section of road repaired.

Planning Applications

12. The committee has posted a final version of the Society's "Considerate Building Policy" on the website following discussion at the 2023 AGM. Please follow this policy if you are having work done and please keep out of building sites if not authorized.
13. The committee will continue to pursue the agreed policy of upholding covenants should such matters arise.

Subscriptions and Road Fund

14. The subscription was raised from £75 to £85 for 2024.
15. If you have not yet paid, we can accept subscription payments by direct credit to the Society's bank account (Barclays Bank, Rickmansworth branch Sort Code 20-91-79; Account number 10134171). Please make sure that you provide a reference that will allow the committee to identify your payment as follows: House Number/Name, Road reference, Surname. For road reference can you use the following abbreviations; CR - Copthorne Road; CC - Copthorne Close; CVR - Chess Vale Rise; U – Uplands; and MC - Millthorne Close
16. Please email us at Copthorneroadresidents@gmail.com once your payment has been made so that we can ensure it is in the society bank account. We will also use your email to keep in touch – please provide if we don't have it.
17. The subscription for 2025 will be set at the AGM – the recommendation of the Executive Committee is that the rate is increased to £95 and we review next year with further information on likely future road surfacing costs which may require a substantial increase. We will send out invoices for the 2025 subscriptions as in earlier years and seek to follow up non-payers.

Social Events

18. Following the flurry of social events in 2023 (Coronation street party, Open Gardens and a Wine and Cheese Appreciation Evening), 2024 in contrast was much quieter with no events held. Our thoughts for 2025 include another Open Gardens (possibly in May) and Wine Evening (possibly in October) but we would very much welcome suggestions for other events to bring neighbours together.

Website

19. Members can contact the committee through the email: copthorneroadresidents@gmail.com.
20. The Committee has continued to update the website for the Society through the year <https://www.crs-croxley.org.uk>. Suggestions for further improvements are welcome.