



Your voice in the local community

IRARA AGM meeting Wednesday 17 September 2025

Attendees

Committee: Shaun Thomas, Claire Law, Helen Skipp, Sue Roberts, Chris Brigstoke-Williams, Liz Haxton, Will Emrich

Residents: Brian Skipp, Simon Amstutz, Charlie Law, Paul Haxton, Adrienne Lee, Jack Kennedy

Councillors: n/a

Apologies: Vickie Thomas, Cllr Sue Lissimore, Katie Vargas, Sarah (14 Irvine) Jenni (Audley)

ST welcomed everyone to this year's AGM

Minutes from Previous AGM

ST confirmed that the Committee had signed these off.

Simon A said he had not seen them, and asked if this year's minutes could be published on the IRARA website.

It was agreed that this year's minutes would be published on the website and cascaded via mail chimp

Matters Arising from last years meeting

Membership benefits were explained in the newsletter

Location of defibrillator – this info was included in the last newsletter

Coffee morning – it was decided to organise a one off may not be very well attended. HS had investigated local ones, and details were put in the newsletter

Broadband event – this did not happen, as Open Ifra came and went very quickly before one could be arranged

Beheaded lamp post in Capel Rd – HS contacted the Civic Society, and their advice is best to leave for the time being, as we are not in a preservation area, so by highlighting this could mean it gets removed.

20mph and double red lines or traffic calming: We are on the waiting list for 20 mph CL will chase this up.

Simon A said he has been in touch with the schools with regards to coaches, all agreed this is better, albeit not perfect.

The committee looked into double red lines and the outcome was cascaded in the newsletter

"We have looked into the possibility of having red lines at the junction of Capel and Irvine Roads but having spoken with Cllr Lissimore to look at what red lines would entail, we have decided not to proceed and will

continue to seek 20mph limits on all the streets. We felt that the red lines would have a disproportionate impact on the houses outside which they would be painted and, being actually quite short in length, would be unlikely to make a significant enough impact on either the parking or turning issues. “

Simon A suggested that we do a count of school children to support the 20mph speed limit. **The committee agreed to contact Cllr Sue Lissimore to see if this was of use.**

Street trees/ benches/ wildlife area – **The committee will chase up councillors, and it was agreed that residents can decide to do some light tree maintenance at their own risk.** Lack of response from councillors and officers has been disappointing

The committee also agreed to put a reminder in the newsletter, asking residents to cut back their own hedges and trees

3. Chair's Report –

ST reminded everyone that the two aims of IRARA are Neighbourhood improvement & community cohesion / wellbeing

ST reported on the Orchard and IRARA together – IRARA is the majority shareholder in the orchard and all of what happens in the orchard contributes to those two aims

ST highlighted the following events :

The quiz in March had a great buzz and was very well attended

The 2nd Street Meet in June was a great success and was good to see so many children

The Wassail in January was well attended and memorable, with special thanks to Anniemation

4. Treasurer's Report including membership

HS presented her report

Opening Bank balance £2,254.10, closing bank balance £2,121.83

Income £504.61 (£117 from subscriptions, £30.77 Bank interest, £356.84 fundraising/ donations, mainly from the quiz)

Costs £636.88 on printing, subscriptions and included £466.58 on the street meet and Christmas social

5. Election of Committee members

All current members are happy to restand for a further year and nobody else wished to join

6. Activities & ideas for next year

Activities that happened:

Our 3rd use of the chipper to recycle all the material generated – thanks to Upson mowers and LH for helping make this happen. Composting increasingly important and we can use it better.

10 Nov 24 was our 3rd fungi foray in the orchard with local expert Sarah Manning who will be coming back on 19 Oct 25

27 Oct 24 1st of 2 litter picks – thanks to SR for taking it on

7 Dec 24 Christmas drinks – was not so well attended, but was a very wet and windy Saturday

12 Jan 25 Wassail – This was so well attended and memorable, with special thanks to Annie Mation

26 Jan 25 tree pruning session

29 March 25- the 2nd new quiz, with thanks to Claire and Charlie Law.

March 25 newsletter was distributed including coffee mornings and support groups

26 April 25- Open day in the Orchard – to see the blossom – and wildflower planting which was ok but the following drought put paid to the flowers themselves

27 April 25 litter pick

29 June 25 - Street meet –really well attended on a hot day, with stalls/ activities including : tea, cake, games, face painting, ice cream, entertainer, massage – more children attended than last year.

17 September 25 - fruit pressing in the Orchard

And monthly work parties in the Orchard continued

Ideas for next year :

Orchard - Our first 5 yearly Management plan review will take place for which we have raised funds, through grants, IRARA contribution and donations. There are some funds left to pay for courses, kit, but will need to raise more

Street Meet – We are keen to hear from any group of neighbours who would like to take a lead in running the Street Meet 2026 on their road/street. The committee agreed it was quite simple to set up and run, and would do this again, but only in Irvine Road. There were no volunteers to run one in a different road. As there were not a lot of attendees, **it was agreed that ST will send a message out after the meeting, and specifically contact a resident, who had questioned the location this year.**

A Bunting making evening – it was suggested that we hold a Bunting making evening at the Arc Light Bowls club in the winter – to make reusable bunting for events. **The Committee will arrange**

Simon A suggested that to increase attendance at next year's AGM, we look at inviting a local speaker (such as the Civic Society) . **The Committee will explore this good idea**

Simon A suggested a Christmas Window display competition. **The committee will explore**

A Dawn chorus event was suggested **The committee will explore**

SR suggested organising coffee break meetings in the street, for people that work from home. **The committee will explore**

7 AOB

ST thanked everyone for attending and for Jack for allowing us to use the bowls club again