

## **Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills – Board Meeting and AGM- 17/09/2016**

### **Report by Councillor Helen Kane**

The meeting took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2016 in the Walton House meeting room at 11.00am.

The Chairman – John Bowles started the meeting stating that at 12.00 noon the meeting would be interrupted for the AGM and then return to the main agenda.

The main report from the Chief Officer, Stella Morris, was a plan of activities for the year 2017 and of course the measures and plans after the Council meeting regarding the rejection of the planning application with PGL.

It is apparent that the site needs to be sustainable, so the Operating Group, which was a result of the recent Group meetings, has the major role in improving relationship and communication and putting fresh ideas for events and plans for the site.

The maintenance of the site and the buildings and the existence of Asbestos were also mentioned, along with the importance of having the Mills open only during events as there are many inappropriate places for the public and not enough staff to safeguard the number of visitors. Asbestos has been discussed in many times and there are two surveys in existence, although the original owner is responsible for the de-contamination of the site. So the board members are looking into this, just in case it is not their entire responsibility- but this is a topic for future item for discussion.

VE celebrations event is coming back but profitability is very hard to estimate in the current climate. From the financial report it is evident that a lot more planning is needed. The Railway was also mentioned – inspectors have advised for training for looking after the rails and installation of toilets.

The AGM took place, where John Bowles is remaining as Chairman for the time being – but as he declared he would like to resign in the New Year. Martin Ives was elected Vice Chairman – working closely with the Chairman will give him an inside picture of the involvement and the responsibilities for taking the Chair in the new Year. The rest of the board members were re-elected.

After that the Board went in private session.