SKBERA AGM Summary

June 09, 2026 by (Summary created by AI)

Action Items

Share Easy Fundraising link

Send the Easy Fundraising sign-up link to residents who express interest so they can register (via computer or app) and start generating passive donations for the association.

Coordinate community meet-ups

Confirm and manage initial tea/coffee meetups at Parkside Community Centre (options: Mondays or Thursdays 10:00–14:00 and possible weekend sessions), publish dates, collect attendee interest, and liaise with the centre about bookings.

Overview

Meeting reviewed **past year activity** and set engagement priorities: planning/enforcement, funding, and community events. **Councillors + MP** attended. Resident Q&A.
Finances under pressure: **£65** loss last year and **£322** bank balance; only **~30** bungalows (about **5%**) regularly pay subscriptions — membership income is critical.
Focus areas: **planning enforcement (HMOs, extensions, commercial vehicles)**, boosting **community engagement** (WhatsApp, street ambassadors, tea/coffee meetups) and developing **fundraising** (Easy Fundraising app).

Committee & governance

Chair reviewed committee role and aims: **encourage engagement** and **protect the conservation area character**; committee meets every **4–5 weeks** on a voluntary basis.
Constitution is the original document and **will be updated** to reflect current regulations and to enable pursuit of outside funding.
Re-election of committee carried out (all standing again except one retiring treasurer). Election of one new Committee member.
Committee stressed it does **not make statutory rules** but seeks to uphold council/government planning regulations and to work collaboratively with the council.

Finances & funding

Treasurer reported a **£65** annual loss and **£322** closing balance; income drop linked to missed subscription slip on invites, hot weather meeting timing, and post-COVID turnout decline.
Membership/subscription shortfall: only **~5%** of bungalows pay regularly; this makes budgeting tight and constrains activities.
Fundraising actions underway:
Easy Fundraising set up for the association; examples (other organisations) have raised significant sums historically (**~£60m** nationally). Early local receipts reported (example: **£45** from an EE switch, **~£62** raised by one committee member via the scheme).
Committee exploring external grants and small local sponsorships to underwrite community events and recurring costs.

Community engagement & events

Communication channels: residents' **WhatsApp group (153 members)** is the primary channel; website needs more active maintenance and cost/benefit to be reviewed at renewal.
Proposed local activities to rebuild community ties:
Regular tea/coffee drop-in sessions at Parkside Community Centre (offered Mon & Thu **10:00–14:00**; weekend options discussed) — aim: informal get-togethers, icebreakers, and outreach to

working/resident groups.
Street / road ambassadors and "meet the committee" sessions to increase door-to-door engagement and membership sign-ups.
Larger summer community events (picnics) and cross-collaboration with the adjacent school for mutual engagement and events promotion.
Practical tools promoted to residents: **Love Clean Streets** (report local defects), **Met Engage** (police/Neighbourhood Watch information), and expanded use of the WhatsApp group for event publicity.

Planning, enforcement & conservation concerns
Key resident concerns: **HMOs**, commercial vehicles, waste, antisocial behaviour, front-garden paving, rear extensions and outbuildings used as dwellings — all perceived to be eroding the conservation area character.
Background: conservation area designated in 1990s, updated **Article 4 Direction and design guide (2014)**; committee has had meetings with senior planning officers and been invited into the council's forthcoming review of planning enforcement prioritisation — opportunity to feed resident views into policy updates.
Enforcement reality: council capacity has reduced (post-austerity) so enforcement is prioritised; retrospective applications and inconsistent decisions create frustration among residents.
Specific technical points discussed:
Solar panels are generally **not permitted on front elevations** within the conservation area; rear roofs and outbuildings are more acceptable but subject to planning discretion.
Outbuildings converted to self-contained accommodation (with cooking/water) often cross the threshold into requiring licensing/enforcement; these are a growing local concern.
Residents urged to report contraventions (vehicles, illegal works) to SNT and council so authorities have incidents to act on.

Communications & practical tools
Website: useful but under-resourced; committee will weigh cost vs benefit at renewal.
WhatsApp remains the main form of communication, committee will push membership growth (goal to convert passive residents into contributors/subscribers).
Apps and tools to improve reporting and safety:
Easy Fundraising — low-effort fundraising via everyday shopping; residents encouraged to sign up (no cost) to generate passive income for the association.
Love Clean Streets — report potholes, abandoned vehicles, overgrown trees; council responds and tracks actions.
Met Engage / Neighbourhood Watch — get local crime/fraud alerts and liaise with Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Outcome & outlook
Short-term: launch community meet-ups, expand WhatsApp membership, promote Easy Fundraising, and compile resident feedback for the council review.
Medium-term: influence council planning enforcement prioritisation and the Article 4/design guide review through the invited consultation; pursue modest external funding and sponsorship to sustain events and basic services.
Longer-term: goal to halt decline and restore conservation area **character and cohesion** through resident engagement, sensible planning outcomes, and focused enforcement where warranted.