

# Leomansley Area Residents Association

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting 10 November 2007

**Venue: Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane**

**Present: LARA Executive Committee Members** – Jeff Fry (Chair), Graham Edwards (Secretary), Patrick Martin (Treasurer), Mike Wall, John Thompson, Roger Hartley,  
**Members of the Public** – Approximately 40 people in attendance

**Presentations: Bob Haynes, LDC, Sgt Diane Shannaghan, Police, Steve Hill, LDC**

**Apologies** – Valmai Bowden, Dave Sandland, Cllr Tony Thompson, Lichfield City Council Cllr. Terry Finn, Jonathan Staitly (Police), Nina Dawes, LDC, Richard King (LDC), Peter Young (LCC),

### 1. Minutes of AGM 11 November 2006

- 1.1 Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting
- 1.2 John Thompson outlined discussions with LDC in response to a question on S106 monies

### 2. Chairman's Annual Report

- 2.1 Jeff Fry introduced members of the LARA Executive Committee and advised those present on how to become a member. JF also outlined LARA's role as to represent residents' views to official bodies. The Annual report was then summarised by JF covering the following points of activity of LARA over the last year
  - Blair House issues – planning decision has been deferred and LARA's view remains that the area occupied by Blair House should be POS as originally advised to residents by the developer
  - 2 Friary Road – LARA's concern that Cathedral Walk should extend to Friary Road and the view of the Cathedral remain unobstructed had been taken into account in a subsequent planning application
  - S106 – LARA contributed to consultation and questioned the use of these funds for work at the Garrick Theatre
  - Darwin Park Shape The Future Event – LARA represented at the event and view that the recreation zones should not be developed was supported by residents
  - Darwin Park Implementation Meetings – LARA attends meetings between the Developer and LDC. Have raised issues on lighting, landscaping, bins etc
  - Play Area – LARA fought strongly over the last 12 months to ensure the play area was installed. Concerned that there is some abuse taking place and there needs to be some changes especially around the tall slide. The MUGA is also considered to be in an inappropriate location
  - Community Hall – planning application now withdrawn following a campaign by local residents and LARA. Some form of community hall is required but size and location remain critical factors
  - Press & Publicity – have successfully raised issues in both the Mercury and Chronicle
  - Other Issues – speeding traffic, parking etc have been followed up on behalf of residents. Anti social behaviour has been encountered and all local residents need to play their part in reporting incidents and helping stop such behaviour
  - The Future – the Play Areas and Community Hall remain high on the agenda
- 2.2 ***The Annual Report was adopted***

### **3 Finance Report**

3.1 Patrick Martin summarised the Financial Report that had been circulated. End of Year balance stood at £165.39 credit. Patrick pointed out that the current Executive Committee had not drawn any expenses over the last year for general running costs and that because of the small sums involved no formal audit of the accounts had been undertaken. Cllr. Ian Jackson offered to 'cast an eye' over future accounts if LARA felt this would be helpful. Cllr Jackson was thanked for his offer which would be taken up in 2008.

3.2 Although LARA does not have a subscription Patrick advised that any donations to LARA would be welcome.

3.3 ***The accounts were accepted***

### **4. Election of Officers**

4.1 Graham Edwards advised that all members of the Executive Committee were required to resign at the AGM but that the following had agreed and had been nominated to stand again

- Mike Wall
- Graham Edwards
- Patrick Martin
- John Thompson
- Jeff Fry
- Valmai Bowden
- Tim Shrigley
- Chris Hamilton

4.2 No additional nominations were received

4.3 ***All the nominations were accepted by the meeting.***

### **5 Motions**

5.1 No motions had been received and none proposed at the meeting

### **6 Community Safety – Bob Haynes, LDC & Sgt.Diane Shannaghan**

- BH explained that his role was to liaise with residents and the Police in tackling anti social behaviour
- BH asked how many residents had experienced asb – a high percentage of those attending the meeting indicated that they had and that they had also reported it
- BH indicated that the perception of asb was often higher than its actual occurrence
- Play area/MUGA has been recognised as a focal point for some individuals intent on causing problems
- BH asked that people contact him when they do experience problems with asb but in response to a question by Chris Hamilton BH indicated that he didn't think anti social behaviour orders were always the best answer but accepted CH point that they can be useful in certain circumstances
- DS outlined the role of the Incident Management Unit – operates 24hrs a day and according to the nature of the complaint people should get either a priority or standard response
- N'hood Policing Team – operate until 3am (08453 30 20 10) for asb. Can contact Pc Simon Lawrence but best to use the 08453 number which is staffed 24hrs (Nb PC Simon Lawrence and PCSO Elaine Sneed are the local community police for Leomansley)

- Low level calls – someone will come out if staff are available otherwise telephone contact within the week
- PC Mark Bestwick has responsibility for asb. Will view pursuing an asbo as a measure of last resort

## 6.1 Question and Answer Session Plus Comments

- Have been issues with databases being up to date with new roads on the Darwin Park estate but this appears resolved
- Chris Hamilton offered to share working practices on anti social behaviour
- PCSOs – have powers of ‘normal’ citizens – their role is to be active in the community and relate back to police officers as necessary
- Incidents of asb in relation to the MUGA have been investigated, patrols have been instigated and the police are contacting parents of the perpetrators
- Most of the asb so far identified is caused by young people from the estate with one or two incidents the result of ‘outsiders’
- CCTV – should this be considered? BH felt it can be helpful but can also simply displace problems. It is also expensive and presents monitoring problems
- Residents felt parents should be taken to task and held more responsible for the actions of their children. Although BH agreed it also had to be recognised that Social Services face a number of pressures and tend to be under staffed
- BH felt there needs to be more activities from young people
- DS felt problems associated with the MUGA were improving but would check the figures and feed back. BH will also provide information to JF to include on LARA website
- Levels of asb in Lichfield were generally low but police recognise that the problem has grown on the Darwin Park estate as the estate has developed
- Neighbourhood Watch can help in tackling asb. A scheme is being proposed for Blakeman way

## 7 Update from Steve Hill

- 7.1 Play Area/MUGA – SH has met with local residents. The present site has been identified in plans/documents for a number of years. Legal agreements are in place with the developers to ensure equipment was provided
- 7.2 There have been issues over the timing of the installation and there were earlier consultations over what would be provided. There was general acceptance that a play area needed to be provided.
- 7.3 LDC recognise that there are problems and that a solution needs to be found. LDC are working with the developer and residents to find such a solution. It is essential that the majority do not suffer because of the few who currently cause problems
- 7.4 There are two key issues
- MUGA
  - Tall slide
- 7.5 Following meetings with local residents and local councillors LDC are looking at an alternative site for the MUGA eg behind Martin Heath Hall in association with the Scout Hut or Beacon Park where it could be linked with the Heritage Lottery Fund programme. The developer is agreeable to relocating the facility but there needs to be discussions with others including land owners
- 7.6 In relation to the slide it is proposed to remove the ‘tunnel’ and lower the height to about 4 metres. There is also a revised landscaping scheme which SH made available for residents to view and comment on although there will be further consultation

7.7 Sandford Meadow area – LDC now have a proposed landscaping scheme. The area will remain an 'open area' but with peripheral landscaping

#### 7.8 Questions & Comments

- Present landscaping considered very poor and unsafe in certain areas. SH accepted that there are issues
- Parking by play area is an issue
- MUGA – SH advised that the developer is prepared to dismantle straight away. *Views of those present sought and the vast majority indicated that they were in favour of the MUGA being removed now even when those residents living in Blakeman Way did not vote.* A note of caution was raised by a local councillor that there should be wider consultation with residents of the estate
- MUGA is presently closed and the developer is not prepared to open it
- Consultation with young people – there have been local councillor surgeries but SH indicated that consultation had more been with organisations that deal with young people rather than with young people directly
- relocation of MUGA to Beacon Park is a fall back option and there would be considerable delay before it was installed
- design of the MUGA – felt that a mesh construction for side panels would be a better design option
- S106 – has LDC considered buying in parts of the recreation zone using these funds. SH stated that it hadn't but outlined that S106 was allocated to a new Scout Hut, to the Community hall, Community Fund and finishing Cathedral Walk through to Friary Road
- Play Area – would be helpful if there was an age restriction although recognised this would be difficult to 'police'
- Bins – SH indicated these would be installed around the play area quite soon
- Damage to play area – such issues, together with possibility of patrols need to be referred to Kevin Yates at LDC
- Ideas for improving the Leomansley area – e-mail LARA and JF will pass comments on to LDC

7.9 JF quickly summarised that the meeting had agreed that the MUGA should go into storage and SH confirmed that he hoped this would be for only a short time but reminded all present that if it had to go to Beacon Park then there would be a significant delay before it could be re-installed (2 to 3 years)

## 8 Closing Remarks

8.1 JF expressed thanks to Waitrose for the provision of refreshments, to all those who had given up their time to make presentations and to all those residents who had attended and shown their support for LARA