

Leomansley Area Residents Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 20 November 2010

Venue: Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane

Present: LARA Executive Committee Members – Jeff Fry (Chair), Mike Wall, John Thompson, Graham Edwards, Rick Hill

Members of the Public – Approximately 40 people in attendance

Presentations: Cllr Terry Finn; Cllr Derek Love; Neil Cox LDC, Sgt Richard Morris

Apologies – Jon Allinson, (LDC planning officer); Nina Dawes (LDC Chief Executive, Ann Huggins (Customer Service Manager, Taylor Wimpey Homes); Peter Young (Town Clerk); Ann Morrison, Mike Gallagher, David Smedley, Bob Autey, Crystal Roe, Neil Roberts, Richard King, Elaine Sneyd, Howard Lawrence, Sean Coghlan (LDC planning officer), Stephen Lightfoot (LDC), Phil Clayton, Neil Whitehouse

Opening Remarks – Jeff Fry welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped that the morning would provide for an informative discussion

1. Minutes of AGM 16 January 2010

1.1 Chair asked if there were any comments on the minutes

Patrick Martin moved that the minutes be agreed; seconded by Ian Jackson

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

2. Chairman's Annual Report

JF outlined the reasons for LARA to exist and asked everyone present consider making a donation to running costs. Without donations LARA could not cover the basic costs of meetings, e mail communications and the web site

JF pointed out that feedback forms are available for people to raise issues or make their views known on any points raised in the meeting

JF provided an update on

- Blair House – Deltabridge have still to redesign the site layout to avoid building over the culvert. It appears that Taylor Wimpey is responsible for redirecting the culvert before development begins.
- Leomansley Woods – complaints of fly-tipping and fires have been dealt with but Maple Hays Trust who own the woods have erected 'Private: Keep Out' signs. Police and Clls will provide an update on this later in the meeting
- Leomansley View & Christ Church Lane – issues relating to parking that are not easy to resolve
- Darwin park Estate – number of areas where parking of vehicles is causing difficulties for traffic – Whitehouse Drive, Lightwood Close, Deykin Road were all referred to
- Footpaths on Darwin park – lighting issues
- Darwin Hall – up and running. Members for the management committee and general volunteers still required especially somebody with accounting skills.
- Section 106 funds – LARA acquired funds for a trim trail around the estate together with outdoor gym equipment which is now sited with the MUGA
- There will be an environmental enhancement for Kensington Oval
- Local Development Framework – will be covered later on the agenda

- Policing – PCSO Elaine Sneyd has been moved temporarily. PC Ford is the local constable for the area
- Community Speed watch for Walsall Road – will hopefully be implemented shortly if there is enough interest from residents for this. Residents should register their interest with the police (PC Ed Ford, edward.ford@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk).
- Bus Shelters – should these be provided on Darwin Park – JF asked for feedback since position of shelters can be very controversial amongst residents
- Allotments R/O Martin Heath Hall – additional allotments being proposed. Will be considered by the Council on 6 December – issues around access
- Tree Preservation Order for trees in the Church yard – may cause difficulties for the Church in maintaining these trees

2.2 Questions/Comments –

- David Humphries raised concerns over the method and level of consultation over the allotments. Feels access/parking could be a real issue for local residents. Cllr Terry Finn confirmed that he is intending to raise the issue of process with the Council
- David Hartley – Chair Martin Heath Hall Management Cttee -recognised the issues of parking. Although Martin Heath Hall car park was not a public car park the gates were kept open to prevent parking problems on Christ Church lane being worse than they already are. He has concerns that the allotment proposals could exacerbate an already difficult issue
- Cllr Ian Jackson commented that he had suggested that martin Heath hall car park be extended using S106 funds but the Vicar had objected – perhaps it was time to reconsider this option
- JF pointed out that LARA had tried about 3 years ago to get the Church/School/LDC/Hall together to find a resolution to this issue but without any real success

2.3 *The Annual Report was adopted*

3 Finance Report

3.1 Mike Wall presented the accounts for LARA as at 30 June 2010. In summary

- £170.07 at the start of the year
- £111.30 in donations
- £156.50 expenditure
- £124.87 net assets

3.2 MW thanked Ian Jackson for reviewing the accounts

3.3 *The accounts were accepted*

4. Election of Officers

4.1 GE confirmed the nominations as

- Graham Edwards
- John Thompson
- Jeff Fry
- Patrick Martin
- Rick Hill
- Mike Wall

- 4.2 GE asked if there were any additional volunteers for the Executive. No additional nominations were received although Roger Hartley noted that he thought he had seen an e-mail nomination circulated.
- 4.3 Richard Henshaw proposed that the nominations be accepted; Seconded by Roger Hartley
- 4.4 ***All the nominations were accepted by the meeting.***

5 Motions

- 5.1 The following motion was put to the meeting and accepted

This meeting requests all local elected members to pursue proper lighting of all the footpaths on the Darwin park estate and to advise local residents of a date by which this lighting will be provided. The footpaths to include the track from Walsall Road to Blair House, the footpath alongside the former Victoria Hospital site, the footpath from Walsall Road to Ormond Close

Councillors present commented that the initial response may well be that the paths are not yet in the ownership of the local authority and therefore the LA is unable to act

Cllr Jackson advised that S106 monies are likely to be used to cut back shrubbery on the Ormond Close/Walsall Road footpath; this should improve visibility and allow light from the existing street lights to better light the footpath

Blair House track – likely to be done when the development takes place

Former Victoria Hospital site – have in-principle agreement with David Wilson Homes that they will light the footpath

Local resident commented that other paths from Walsall Road to Christ Church Lane need to be properly lit especially the footpath off The Dell (to Walsall Rd) and the one that goes back alongside the school parking lot in the direction of the back of the school.

6 Local Development Framework/Core Strategy – Cllr Derek Love & Neil Cox, LDC

- 6.1 Cllr Derek Love gave an overview
- About 3 years since the original submission was rejected
 - Has to be evidence based
 - Original housing growth target of 8350 with 4000 in Lichfield (2500 of these remain to be built)
 - Main housing sites are in south Lichfield and Streethay
 - The Western Recreation Zone is vulnerable but LDC do not propose to designate the land for housing or commercial development
 - Local authorities can now set their own housing targets
- 6.2 Neil Cox updated on the core strategy
- Deals with the big strategic issues
 - Currently out for consultation
 - Have taken account of earlier representations – received over 1000 comments
 - Contains a revised spatial strategy and policy framework. This will guide the publication of an allocations document
 - Transportation, sustainability, heritage, tourism are covered
 - Strategic development locations – for the most part removed the threat of development of green belt land and have reduced the scale of development in Lichfield city
 - Streethay – 850 dwellings still proposed

- South Lichfield – housing development still proposed but not on green belt land
- Lichfield city centre – retail development
- Completion of southern by-pass
- Employment – concentrate on Eastern Avenue/Britannia Park
- Need to take the opportunity to comment now – consultation closes 28 February 2011. Following this round of consultation the draft Core Strategy will be assembled and submitted for approval in about October 2011
- There will be exhibitions in the Guildhall – more local ones can be organised if there is a demand
- There is a summary document of about 30 pages and a series of topic papers will be prepared
- Suggest consider – what are the current issues; should Leomansley change; do you want to see more development; should the RZs continue to exist

6.2 Question and Answer Session Plus Comments

- Concern that the planning inspector could over-turn local decisions
- Clarification on housing numbers sought
- Boundaries on the map look as though they could include green belt land – confirmed any green belt land would not be developed on
- Concerns that the housing numbers were based on “demand” as opposed to “need”
- Concerns that there is financial incentive for the council to encourage development of houses.

7 Policing – Sgt Richard Morris

7.1 Overview of crime statistics between January 2009 and October 2009 vs current year

Crime	1/1/2009	Current Year
General	123	62
ASB	84	68
Burglary	13	11
Robberies	0	0
Motor Vehicle	4	1
Theft Frm MV	13	2

There has therefore been a significant improvement over time

7.2 Questions & Comments

- Leomansley Woods – are privately owned but access is allowed
- Neighbourhood Watch for Walsall Road – Rob Nunn confirmed there is a co-ordinator at one end of the road but need additional volunteers to cover the whole road
- MUGA – opens 22 November and asked that the police be notified of any problems. On balance, police feel that it is in the right place
- Speeding is an issue and volunteers are required for Speedwatch
- Local resident reminded people to remain vigilant – lead stolen recently from Church roof

8 General Question and Answer Session

- Cllr Terry Finn – regarding highways and roads, early development phases of Darwin Park should be adopted by Christmas
- Cathedral Walk – will have barriers at either end – will be of the off-set railing type
- Concerns over the volume of traffic using Walsall Road and continued use by HGVs – suggested there should be a weight limit
- Concerns about the crossing point at the Walsall end of Walsall Road – at least one accident and other ‘near-misses’
- Crossing point needed for MUGA – this will be provided

- Leomansley Woods and the attempt to restrict access – Cllr Terry Finn confirmed the Trust is made up of developers. He is hoping to meet them and set up a Friends of Leomansley Woods locally to ensure access is maintained
- Footpaths – debate continues on ownership
- Tree preservation order for churchyard – not clear on the extent of the TPO. Meeting with LA being organised
- Issue of learner drivers using Christ Church Lane – JF to write

9 Closing Remarks

9.1 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

NB £62.85 collected in donations