

Leomansley Area Residents Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 26 November 2011

Venue: Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane

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

Members of the Public – Approximately 20 people in attendance

Presentations: Cllr Terry Finn; Cllr Ian Jackson; Ed Ford (Police)

Apologies

Opening Remarks – Jeff Fry welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced members of the Executive Committee

1. Minutes of AGM 20 November 2010

1.1 Other than spelling corrections to Bob Awty and Christl Roe the minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

2. Chairman's Annual Report

JF outlined LARA as an apolitical organisation operating in the Leomansley Ward for the benefit of local residents. Residents need to request to be a member and although there is no membership fee, LARA is dependent on voluntary donations to meet its running expenses. JF detailed the contact e mail address and website and advised about the regular distribution of information on policing and neighbourhood watch.

JF asked that people complete the feedback forms available at the meeting to raise issues or make their views known on any points raised in the meeting.

JF highlighted who the local councillors are and then provided an update on

- Blair House – approval for 3 houses renewed and the 14 conditions attached to the planning approval remain to be complied with.
- Leomansley Woods/Sloppy Woods – Maple Hays Trust is selling a large area of land that includes the woods
- Roads – issues remain at crossings and roundabouts but Cllr Terry Finn will provide more detail in his presentation
- Speed watch – proposal for Community Speed watch on Walsall Road for which 7 volunteers are required – 2 people have come forward to date
- Parking – problems of double parking and obstruction remain. There are also areas of private land where ownership/responsibility is unclear – Cllr Jackson pointed out that it was originally envisaged that there would be a management organisation formed to take responsibility for these areas but this had not happened.
- Western Recreation Zone – various planning proposals have been put forward in the past despite their current designation as 'recreational use'. LDC will be looking to allocate land for development as part of its Core Strategy and LDC may look to include the WRZ – local residents need to make their views known about the potential use of this land e.g. could it be used for football pitches, allotments, business use, open land. Several comments that development should be resisted and the land left as grazing land or put to recreational use as originally envisaged.
- Allotments R/O Martin Heath Hall – proposal to extend the allotments has been made. The last resolution at City Council was to transfer the land for

use as allotments. There is also a counter proposal to designate the land as a Village Green. There have been issues of communication with local residents.

- Communication & Consultation – the allotments is an example of where communication with local residents on important issues could be improved. In this case the Lichfield Gazette was used to publicise the allotment proposal. Do local residents feel this is appropriate? There needs to be a clear line of communication that everyone understands
- Open Space Adoption – footpath lighting responsibilities are now with LDC. Street lights are still with the developer. The footpath from The Friary onto the Darwin Park Estate adjacent the former Victoria Hospital site will be lit. Although the open space remains unadopted the 1st phase of adoption should commence April 2012. Roads remain unadopted
- Neighbourhood Police Team – Ed Ford & Elaine Sneyd are the local PCSOs. The attack on Cathedral Walk 16 October was a key local issue. Local residents did pull together to provide the police with important information. There were also issues/confusion on the police's side over where Darwin Park is since there is a local road named Darwin Park as well as this being the local name for the new estate. The police were, however, very quick and positive in resolving this issue.
- Darwin Hall – currently very well used. An additional lighting column would make a marked improvement to the lighting and safety of the adjacent footpath.
- MUGA – this has been well used since it was opened
- Nearby Developments – there are proposals being developed for South Lichfield which is the site R/O Shortbutts Lane
- Neighbourhood watch – run by Rob Nunn who provides regular updates for the local area.
- Executive Committee Meetings – proposed future meeting dates listed

2.2 Questions/Comments –

- There is a need to ensure all footpaths are adequately lit to help provide a safe environment
- Cathedral Walk could be better lit near Friary Road
- Need to ensure all the emergency services know exactly where the estate is

2.3 *The Annual Report was adopted*

3 Finance Report

3.1 Mike Wall presented the accounts for LARA as at 30 June 2011. In summary

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| • Income | £127.70 |
| • Expenditure | £176.00 |
| • Surplus(Deficit) | -£48.30 |
| • Cash | £205.07 |
| • Total Assets | £205.07 |
| • Less Creditors | £128.50 |
| • Net Assets | £76.57 |

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
- Jeff Fry
- Rick Hill
- Mike Wall
- Ken Lawrence
- Peter King

4.2 GE asked if there were any additional volunteers for the Executive. No additional nominations were received.

4.3 It was moved and accepted that all the nominations be approved

4.4 ***JF pointed out that John Thomson & Patrick Martin were standing down after serving on the Executive for several years, although John Thomson would retain an advisory role. JF asked that the meeting show their appreciation for the commitment given by both John and Patrick over the last few years***

5 Motions

5.1 The following motion was put to the meeting by JF and accepted

That this meeting requests the City Council to clarify its method of communication with local residents and LARA on issues affecting the Leomansley Ward

6 Councillors Terry Finn & Ian Jackson

6.1 Cllr Terry Finn

- Adoption – legal processes of STWA have been the main reason for the delays. As of 23 November all contracts for the remaining road repairs had been issued. 1st Phase adoption (Poolfield Road area) should commence early 2012.
- Traffic Regulation Orders – residents will be asked what regulations they want implemented
- Footpath between Walsall Road and Ormand Close will have a street light.
- Walsall Road – looking at ways to slow the traffic down and deter HGVs from using the route
- The Friary – may create 3 coach parking areas since the existing ones will be lost when the outer Friary development takes place.
- Walsall Road cul-de-sac – may look to restrict parking and have a residents parking permit scheme

6.2 Cllr Ian Jackson

- Maple Hays Trust Land sale – residents need to be wary of proposed changes to planning legislation. This land is green belt but may come under pressure
- Western Recreation Zone – considers that there should be no move to accept any proposal to develop this land
- Sandifields farm – application for small business units with some living accommodation above still stands. As this is green belt the development is limited to the footprint of the former farm buildings
- Walsall Road Post Box – it had been expected that Royal Mail would replace the post box that has been removed but they have now indicated that it won't be replaced.

7 Policing – PC Ed Ford

7.1 Overall there has been an 11% reduction in crime and a 63% reduction in anti social behaviour

- 7.2 There have been burglaries where people have left windows open, doors unlocked etc. there has also been some opportunist crime on the Waitrose car park.
- 7.3 Smart Water Initiative – if groups of residents get together then they can purchase Smart Water via Rob Nunn for about £20 per household, a considerable reduction on the normal price. Each quantity of Smart Water is 'DNA coded' for each specific property.
- 7.4 Neighbourhood Watch – if you want to join then register at the website (www.owl.co.uk)
- 7.5 Pickpockets – be aware that pickpockets may operate in Lichfield over the Christmas period. Bells, to attach to purses etc, are available from the Police Station
- 7.6 Cuppa with a Copper – will continue although they have been poorly attended.
- 7.7 Mapping/identifying place names – police rely on OS and local authorities to identify roads as they are adopted. Whenever possible post codes are used to identify specific properties. If you are reporting an incident and you do not have the post code best to provide as much detail on the location as possible – Google will then be used to try and identify the exact location.
- 7.8 Cathedral Walk attack – 11 arrests made. Awaiting forensic evidence and the investigation continues
- 7.9 Shift patterns for the PCSOs and rapid response teams outlined.

8 General Question and Answer Session

- Houses at the end of Cathedral Walk – development continues but affected by current economic climate
- Woods – would a Section 52 Right of Access help protect them from development – Cllr Terry Finn agreed it certainly would do no harm and agreed to raise with the Legal Department of Staffordshire CC
- LARA AGM – asked that a different month be considered and that requests for Executive Committee members be made in a separate leaflet or made clearer on the AGM notification
- Martin Heath Hall – request for better lighting around the perimeter although it was commented that there are motion sensor lights and the high intensity light, which has been out-of-order, is about to be replaced
- Litter Bin required close to Leomansley Woods
- Allotment proposal – comment that it is better left as an open field
- WRZ – Darwin Park FC is looking for a home ground and the WRZ would provide an ideal solution. The key difficulty is the owner who is not interested.
- Church Yard Tree Preservation Order – LDC have clarified that the TPO covers all trees between Christchurch Lane by the Church and the by-pass.
- Parking – pressure on parking due to restrictions close to the city centre is now pushing the problem out to other areas.

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 £100.00 exactly collected in donations