

# Leomansley Area Residents Association

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting 10 November 2012

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

**Present: LARA Executive Committee Members** – Jeff Fry (Chair), Mike Wall (Treasurer), Graham Edwards (Vice Chair), Peter King, Gaye King

**Members of the Public** – Approximately 50 residents in attendance

**Presentations: Cllr Terry Finn; Cllr Ian Jackson; Cllr Andrew Smith, Cllr Ian Eadie, PC Ed Ford (Police)**

**Apologies** – Ken Lawrence (Secretary), Rick Hill (Executive Cttee member), plus several local authority officers and councillors

**Opening Remarks** – Jeff Fry welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced members of the Executive Committee and asked everyone to make use of the feedback forms

### 1. Minutes of AGM 26 November 2011

1.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

### 2. Chairman's Annual Report

JF listed the names of the local councillors and outlined LARA as being 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. At the moment there are 174 residents listed as members. JF detailed the contact email address and website and advised about the regular distribution of information on policing and neighbourhood watch.

JF outlined the issues to be covered at the meeting

- Road adoption.
- Access for emergency services
- Parking

JF showed a number of slides illustrating some of the parking problems being experienced particularly in Deykin Road & Christchurch Lane

JF provided an update on

- S106 funding – still raises concerns but Cllr Eadie to provide the latest position in his presentation
- Maple Hayes Estate – parcels of land now sold
- Open Space Adoption – this is on-going and will be covered later in the meeting
- Marston's Pub Proposal – raises a number of issues although some amendments have been made to the design/layout following public consultation. It is important to note, however, that this remains a proposal at the moment and there is no planning application submitted
- PC Ed Ford/PCSO Elaine Sneyd cover local policing & Ed will provide an update later in the meeting
- New Local Plan – led by Lichfield DC who has estimated that some 8700 additional homes will be required to the year 2028. A number of potential development sites have been identified to accommodate these homes but

none are within Leomansley BUT we need to remain vigilant as regards the Recreation Zones.

- Friarsgate – city-centre development that remains stalled, possibly due to funding issues

## 2.2 Questions/Comments –

- Clarification was sought on the site for the proposed pub and this was identified as being between Waitrose and Darwin Hall
- Questions were raised as to whether this site was the same site as that previously identified for commercial use. It is believed that this is the case and that the area is still zoned for recreational use

## 2.3 *The Annual Report was adopted*

## 3 Finance Report

3.1 Mike Wall presented the accounts for LARA as at 30 June 2012 and explained that the £1000 grant from LDC was for the Trim Trail. Signage for this was still awaited but will be placed near Waitrose. Although the accounts show £174.83 in assets, following recent expenditure this is now close to zero. In summary the accounts show

• Income	£1282.86
• Expenditure	£1184.60
• Surplus(Deficit)	£98.26
• Cash	£174.83
• Total Assets	£174.83
• Less Creditors	£0.00
• Net Assets	£174.83

3.2 MW thanked Ian Jackson for reviewing the accounts

3.3 A question was raised about how the Trim Trail was selected for funding. JF explained that about 3 years previous residents were asked for ideas for schemes to be funded from the Community Chest (£106 funding) and the Trim Trail was considered the most appropriate scheme to fund out of the ideas that came forward. Several positive comments were made on the use of £106 funds for the direct benefit of residents on Darwin Park. £1000 was what LDC required for both producing the sign and installing it which was cheaper than having a firm produce the sign and then another firm install it.

3.4 *The accounts were accepted*

## 4. Election of Officers

4.1 JF outlined that Graham Edwards, Mike Wall and Rick Hill would be standing down this year and thanked them all for the contribution they had made over the years. As regards nominations this year, the following have indicated that they are prepared to stand for the Executive Committee

- Jeff Fry
- Ken Lawrence
- Peter King
- Gaye King

4.2 JF emphasised that LARA really needed new people to volunteer for the Committee and GE asked if there were any additional volunteers for the Executive. The following agreed to stand:

- Andy Turnock

- David Short
- Anne Morrison
- Paul Ledbury
- Dawn Hayward

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

## 5 Motions

There were no motions to be put before the meeting

## 6 Cllr Terry Finn

6.1 Adoption of Darwin Park Roads - Cllr Terry Finn outlined that all works were done bar street lighting for all areas except Chatterton Avenue. As such, formal adoption is now very close. Once the roads are adopted traffic officers will assess where yellow lines should be placed. Once this is done police will have the authority to deal with vehicles causing an obstruction. If traffic orders are required there will be full consultation with residents before anything is implemented.

6.2 Christchurch Lane – a feasibility study has been done into the introduction of a one-way system and of the possible schemes the most appropriate is seen as being one way entering Christchurch lane from the city-end and remaining one-way as far as Leomansley Road. Cllr Finn emphasised that no scheme would be imposed and there would be full consultation with residents.

6.3 Walsall Road Spur – a proposed residents parking scheme has been turned down by the residents themselves. Consideration will now be given to double yellow lines adjacent the junction with Walsall Road and in the 'hammer-head' turning area. Officers will also consider what might be done over and above these yellow lines.

### 6.4 **Questions/Comments**

- *Three local residents raised concerns over a one-way system but Cllr Terry Finn re-emphasised that no scheme would be imposed and that there would be full consultation*
- *In response to a question about when the consultation would happen Cllr Terry Finn was unable to give a date but assured residents that they would be consulted*
- *The possibility of an 'informal one-way system' was raised. The main problems seemed to be at school run times and in similar situations elsewhere the head of the school has asked parents to adopt a one-way approach to the school for dropping off and picking up children*
- *Concerns also raised about the speed of traffic and cars reversing onto local residents drives*

## 7 Cllr Ian Jackson

7.1 Cllr Ian Jackson advised that the allotment scheme proposal to the rear of Martin Heath Hall had been abandoned for the time being. The City Council still has a duty to meet demand for allotments and there isn't sufficient allotment space at the moment

7.2 The City Council will be moving out of Wade Street to Donegal House in the not too distant future.

## 8 Cllr Andrew Smith

8.1 Cllr Andrew Smith advised that all the open space, including the paths and path lighting, should be adopted very soon. At the moment all these areas are maintained

by Taylor Wimpey and as such Taylor Wimpey are keen to handover as soon as possible to avoid further expense.

8.2 The section from Waitrose along the lagoons to the play area is likely to be adopted first, with the play area itself being the first part to be adopted – safety certificates are first required for the play area.

8.3 The section down to Blakeman Way needs the shrubbery attending to

8.4 Elsewhere some tree replacement is required.

8.5 **Questions/Comments**

- *Lagoons – these need attention to remove weeds and the issue of the reeds, which LDC originally asked to be planted, but are now asking the developer to remove, needs to be resolved. Cllr Smith agreed to take this up with officers*
- *Cathedral Walk needs lighting and a safety barrier at its junction with Walsall Road*
- *Who is responsible for maintenance of the grassed areas which act as pavements? Residents are responsible for basic maintenance such as mowing the grass. As regards any shrubbery there appears to be no clear answer although this should be on the deeds for the property*
- *Allington Avenue/Lawrence Way – semi- village green needs to be properly maintained and this isn't happening at the moment. Cllr Andrew Smith agreed to take this up with the developer*
- *The grass verge in The Whytmore is always being parked on. Cllr Terry Finn agreed to take this up.*

9 **Cllr Ian Eadie**

9.1 Cllr Ian Eadie explained the background and legal basis of S106 funding and the rationale Lichfield DC has used to decide on how and where the funds might be used. He displayed a pie chart showing the approximate £2.4 million of funding generated from sites including Darwin Park, Chesterfield Road, Victoria Hospital site etc. Funding has been allocated within the parish as follows

- £968,385 to Darwin Park (the majority for Darwin Hall)
- £437,336 within the wider Leomansley Ward (e.g. for Martin Heath Hall refurbishment)
- £982,051 within Lichfield City (£570,000 going to the Garrick Theatre)
- £36,922 remains unallocated

9.2 The Lichfield Plan – this is still out for consultation although this is now drawing to a close. The Plan sets out LDC's vision of how it will meet future housing needs based on estimates of population growth. The predicted requirement of 470 homes per annum is less than over 500 per annum suggested by a study that was commissioned. New housing development sites are outlined in the Plan including land at the back of Shortbutts Lane. LDC favours development around the existing conurbation rather than the creation of new villages.

9.3 Land between Darwin Park and the by-pass is still zoned for recreational use. The pub, which has already been mentioned, does not have any accompanying planning application yet. A pub, together with shops, was included in an original outline plan relating to Darwin Park but this expired in 2005.

9.4 **Questions/comments**

- *What is the situation with the old farmhouse on Walsall Road (Sandfields farm?) – this has planning permission for residential use but new plans are required*

- *Although the Recreation Zone remains zoned for recreational use it was pointed out that developers may well submit plans for residential use. Cllr Ian Eadie emphasised that this was possible since anyone can submit plans for any land they like.*
- *The legitimacy of LDC's interpretation on the use of S106 funds was called into question since the Secretary of State guidance makes clear that anything funded has to be directly related to the development from which the funds are obtained. As such the wider parish geographical area for the use of Darwin Park funds was open to question*
- *There is a feeling amongst residents that S106 funds have been directed to deal with LDC priorities rather than for the direct benefit of Darwin Park residents*
- *The exact site for the proposed skate park was raised and this was identified as being in Beacon Park on the left side as you walk in from the A51 entrance. There is some S106 funds allocated to this scheme but other funding is still required. Planning permission has yet to be given.*
- *There is some question over the future housing numbers required particularly in light of the current economic situation. Cllr Ian Eadie advised that one of the scenarios used was zero economic growth.*

## **10 Policing – PC Ed Ford**

- 10.1 PC Ed Ford outlined some basic statistics for the Leomansley ward for the period 31/10/11 to 31/10/12
- 10.2 Anti Social Behaviour reports increased to 39 calls.
- 10.3 Overall crime dropped to 89 reported incidents.
- 10.4 Speeding on St Foye Avenue – speed of traffic was measured over the period 4 October to 13 October between the roundabouts where the MUGA is. West bound (out of town), the average speed was 32mph (5436 vehicles) with the highest recorded speed being 43mph at 5am. Eastbound (into town) the average speed was 30.2mph (4119 vehicles) with the highest recorded speed being 40.4mph at 4am
- 10.5 Lead thefts – there have been a number of such thefts in Walsall Road and Christchurch Lane and one person has been arrested and bailed
- 10.6 **Questions/Comments**
- *What age groups are involved in ASB? PC Ed Ford advised that since a multitude of offences get included in ASB statistics, including noise complaints, any answer would be fairly meaningless.*
  - *Parking – one positive effect of the current parking problems is that it slows traffic down. PC Ed Ford advised that there have been no reported accidents although there may well have been near misses*
  - *One resident commented on how parking cones can deter people from parking*
  - *One comment regarding future design of garages – they need to be wider to accommodate modern family sized cars. Some residents simply cannot get their car into the garage and so if they have 2 cars one may well have to be parked in the road.*
  - *Questions raised over whether the police's ability to control parking elsewhere in Leomansley is affected but PC Ed Ford felt that there were no major issues other than those that had already been discussed at the meeting. He also pointed out that people who do park inconsiderately or illegally (e.g. within 25 feet of a junction) rarely do so if the police are around so although inconsiderate parking undoubtedly happens it tends to disappear if the police are in the area. As such the perpetrators are difficult to catch.*
  - *Walsall Road cycle lanes – these are virtually unusable due to parking. PC Ed Ford advised that there was no enforcement action he could take since the way*

*the track has been delineated i.e. broken white line rather than a solid white line means that it is unenforceable.*

- *What is happening about Blair House? Culvert now diverted. The land is owned by Deltabridge and the current planning permission runs to 2014*

## **11 Closing Remarks**

11.1 JF commented that a speed watch scheme is operating in Walsall Road

11.2 JF outlined how to become a member of LARA.

11.3 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 £110.05 collected in donations