

Leomansley Area Residents Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2 November 2013

Venue: Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane

Present: LARA Executive Committee Members

Members of the Public: Approximately 50 residents in attendance

Presentations: Cllr Terry Finn; PCSO Maggie Griffiths (Police), Rob Horton (Staffordshire Fire and Rescue)

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 10 November 2012

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

2. Chairman's Annual Report

JF identified the local councillors for the area. JF then gave a review of the year detailing LARA's accomplishments and highlighting current issues.

Current matters on which JF provided an update included:

- Road adoption on Darwin Park – lack of junction lines, parking restrictions and the delays in adopting the roads.
- Bus shelters – Two proposed by Waitrose and one on either Deykin Rd or Sainte Foy Ave.
- Public Open Space adoption on Darwin Park – including the health and safety concerns of the excessive reeds in the top lagoon.
- Lichfield District Council's "Fit for the Future" plans to cut expenditure.
- Section 106 funds – and where they have been spent.
- Traffic matters on Christchurch lane – the problems and the proposals for a one way system.
- Hallam Park housing proposal for the WRZ and the associated infrastructure – the planning officers have said that the current saved local plan does not have the weight that it used to – 900 new homes are required in Lichfield and the NPPF has a presumption in favour of granting planning applications.
- Marston's Pub – LARA were instrumental in getting the licensing committee to restrict the licensed area and keep the area immediately next to the pre-school unlicensed.

2.1 Questions and Answers

- David Short raised concerns about the reeds in the lagoons, suggesting the council were at fault for requiring them in the first place and that no satisfactory resolution had been forthcoming from the council. Cllr Terry Finn noted that the culvert under the road was part of the adoption by the county council and the rest was part of the open space adoption by the district council. JF said that LARA were still talking to Cllr Andy Smith about the problem.
- Cllr Terry Finn proposed that all four councillors should meet regularly with the LARA Executive Committee to discuss issues like the reeds.
- A member from the floor questioned if the reeds affected the ability of the lagoons to drain the surface water from the estate.
- A member (George) from the floor informed the meeting that the Hallam Park proposal was not the only one and that the fields near The Whytmore that were not

on the Hallam Park proposal were also subject to a housing proposal from Walton Homes.

- Mike Wall questioned if the planning conditions for the Blair House site had been met as the passing places on the lane had not been put in place as the planning conditions required them to be before the development started. Graham Edwards suggested that the track should have been resurfaced before the rest of the development had started.
- Cllr Terry Finn said that the lane to the Blair House development was not and would not be adopted by the County Council, but said he would look in to the planning conditions not being met.
- JF noted that Jon Allinson was responsible for planning at LDC.

3 Finance Report

3.1 Dawn Hayward presented the LARA accounts for the year ending 30 June 2013 and a financial analysis comparing this year with the previous four years. LARA made a surplus for the year of £17.22 with total funds before the AGM of £192.05. DH reminded people that LARA relies on donations and the goodwill of the Executive Committee. In summary the accounts for the year showed:

• Balance brought fwd	£174.83
• Income	£227.32
• Expenditure	£210.10
• Surplus(Deficit)	£17.22
• Year end balance	£192.05

4. Election of Officers

4.1 JF informed the members that he would be standing down as chairman of LARA and indicated that the following people were prepared to stand for re-election to the Executive Committee:

- Geoff Lusher (Chairman)
- Paul Ledbury (Vice-Chairman)
- Dawn Hayward (Treasurer)
- (position open – no nomination) (Secretary)
- Veronica Birkett
- Jay Bryan
- Jeff Fry
- Peter King
- Gaye King
- Ken Lawrence
- Barbara Lusher
- Ann Morrison

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

5 Motions

A proposal was submitted by Paul Ledbury to change Clause 6.1 of the LARA constitution. This stated:

The members shall elect an Executive Committee of representative members. Such committee shall include: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer (who shall be three different people) plus up to seven ordinary members.

The proposal was to change the word "seven" to "ten". This was to reflect the current size of the Executive Committee, which was necessary due to the limited amount of time members have to devote to LARA, and the amount of work that is undertaken.

An amendment from the floor was submitted to change "*Chair, Secretary and Treasurer*" to "*Chair, Vice-Char, Secretary and Treasurer*".

The motion was accepted unanimously.

6 Cllr Terry Finn

6.1 Adoption of Darwin Park Roads – Cllr Terry Finn informed the meeting that rapid progress had been made and that over 85% of the Darwin Park roads were now fully adopted. He noted that Newbold Close had not as boulders had been placed on the service strip adjoining the road. Cllr Finn was shortly to meet with the Highways department to discuss road markings. Cllr Finn said he would consider parking issues and traffic regulation orders and suggested meeting with the LARA Executive Committee to feed back any information on these matters. Cllr Finn presented a map showing the current adoption status of all the roads on DP.

6.2 Christchurch Lane – Cllr Finn reported that a one way system was being proposed by the County Council on the section of Christchurch Lane east of the junction with Leomansley Road, with traffic flowing in the easterly (towards Lichfield) direction. All the residents of Christchurch Lane would receive a letter in the next couple of weeks allowing them to vote for or against this proposal. Cllr Finn said there was currently some debate by traffic officers over whether the outlet of the one-way system onto Walsall Road should be restricted to a left turn only.

6.3 Questions/Comments

- A member suggested that the Walsall Road crossing near the end of Christchurch Lane be converted into traffic lights.

7 PCSO Maggie Griffiths (Police)

7.1 PCSO Griffiths reported that despite the organisational changes in the local policing, that Leomansley was covered 7 days per week to 10pm. She acknowledged that parking was a concern and asked residents to call the police if they had concerns. PCSO Griffiths reported that ASB was down in Leomansley and so was theft of metal, but that garden ornaments were at risk.

7.2 Graham Edwards questioned the local PCSO presence suggesting that police presence would be directed towards problem areas and away from Leomansley. PCSO Griffiths said that there would be a PCSO patrol in Leomansley at least one day per week and that there was also now an Immediate Response Unit with two officers patrolling every night ready to respond specifically to any ASB complaints.

7.3 PCSO Griffiths reported that the PCSOs now have cars to enable them to cover the larger areas they are responsible for and reminded people to contact the police on the 101 non-emergency number if they had any concerns.

7.4 In regards to the police being at the council offices, PCSO Griffiths reported that there was a button at the front door of the council offices to contact the police when the council was closed.

8 Rob Horton (Staffordshire Fire and Rescue)

8.1 Rob Horton reported that the Fire and Rescue service had a web site and email address for reporting any non-emergency issues. No serious fires had been reported since the fatal fire in Thacker Drive in 2011. Some small fires had been attended in Leomansley Woods.

8.2 RH advised that in three story properties, the auto-closers on doors should not be removed and that doors should be closed at night to help prevent the spread of fire.

8.3 RH told the meeting that the Fire and Rescue service provided free fire risk checks and would fit smoke alarms for free in houses that needed them. The service could be contacted regarding this on 0800 0241 999.

8.4 RH reported that there had been two incidents where the fuel for bio-ethanol gel fuelled fires had exploded whilst the fires were being refilled, and that these could be lethal. He advised that at present there were no restrictions on selling these but that the Fire and Rescue service were working with Trading Standards to try to stop them being sold.

9 Closing Remarks

9.1 JF reminded people that they could join the LARA exec if they wished and that LARA relied on donations.

9.2 JF reminded the meeting about the Walsall Road Speedwatch, and the local Neighbourhood Watch.

9.3 JF thanked Waitrose for the provision of refreshments, and thanked the visitors and residents for attending and showing their support for LARA.

9.4 Cllr Terry Finn thanked JF for his work over the years as Chairman of LARA.