

Leomansley Area Residents Association

Bulletin No.1: January 2005

The number of members continues to grow. At the time of writing more than 60 residents have formally joined LARA. All residents of the Leomansley area are eligible to be members of the Residents Association. Membership is free though any donations will be gratefully received.

The Committee met on January 24th. The minutes of the meeting are available on the website. The main issues that were discussed are summarised below:

1. Darwin Park development

We are concerned at the pace of housing development without the corresponding provision of social and community facilities. We know that the developers have given large amounts of money to Lichfield District council (so-called Section 106 money) to help provide local community facilities. We would appreciate your views on how this money should be spent. What services or facilities do you think are required for Darwin Park residents?

We are also concerned about slippages in the development timetable and apparent changes from the original development brief. We suspect that the District Council's planners are not holding the developers to account as they should. We are seeking an urgent meeting with the District Council to address this and other points.

Many residents continue to complain about the poor state of the roads and the troublesome speed bumps on the estate. At the moment the developers are responsible but complaints seem to go unanswered. It is not clear when the County Council Highway Authority will take over responsibility for the roads.

A parcel of land at the western end of Darwin Park, close to where the supermarket will be built, was originally designated for recreational use; however there are now moves to develop the land for office and commercial use - possibly including a car showroom. We believe that the land should be retained for recreational use. Please let us know what you think.

2. Walsall Road: cycle route and controlled crossings

Work on the cycle route has now started, but the County Council has provided little or no information about the details of the scheme (e.g. How will this affect parking on the Walsall Road?). We have written to the Senior Project Engineer to ask for details and to complain about the lack of public consultation.

3. Other traffic issues

We are pursuing a number of other issues:

- Progress on completion of Southern bypass
- Delays on pedestrian/cycle links connecting to City centre
- Wide load routes
- Lighting and safety of link paths

4. School provision

The increasing population of Leomansley means that more school places are needed. Should these places be met by further development at Christ Church school or is a new school needed within the Darwin Park development? Whatever solution is preferred we believe that there is a continuing problem of traffic management around Christ Church school.

5. Leomansley and Trunkfield brooks

We intend to talk to water engineers to find out if it is possible to improve the flow in these two brooks. We intend to press the council on safety issues - particularly as the open space alongside Trunkfields brook will encourage children to play there.

Dr Michael Wall
Chairman,
Leomansley Area Residents Association