

L.A.R.A. Committee meeting 10 March 2008

1. Present

Jeff Fry (Chair)
Graham Edwards
Chris Hamilton (Secretary)
Patrick Martin
John Thompson
Valmai Bowden (Treasurer)
David Sandland

Guests

Steve Wilcox – resident of Cathedral Walk
Residents of Christchurch (Leomansley)

2. Apologies

Mike Wall
Roger Hartley

3. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from (28 January 2008) were reviewed for accuracy, no amendments made, agreed as correct by members.

4. Matters arising/actions.

L.A.R.A. welcomed guests from Christchurch regarding potential relocation of the MUGA at the rear of Martin Heath Hall, those attended Gareth Davis, Carol Williams, Vicky Marsden, David Hartley and Christine..... They confirmed they had recently canvassed the local area in light of these new proposals and to feed back the thoughts and feelings of local residents.

Jeff outlined the initial concerns that the residents of Blakeman Way had with the initial siting of the M.U.G.A, furthermore the concerns raised from Councillors Derek Love & Ian Jackson into the suitability of this site. Valmai expanded on this matter and explained to members and guests the origin of the youth facility and the problems potentially it may have brought, Valmai stated that similar problems may only be exported????

Jeff added no final decision had yet been made by LDC, however it was accepted for now that the M.U.G.A. was not suitable within Darwin Park.

Residents of Christchurch stated their objections as:

- Current problems around Martin Heath Hall (vandalism)
- Lack of current Policing
- Traffic issues (learner drivers use this route)
- Noise pollution
- Youths drinking and associated anti social behaviour

John Thompson advised members and guests of the current planning regulations and the appeal process. Residents of Christchurch requested that L.A.R.A. send letter of objection to L.D.C. on their behalf, Jeff agreed to this, but advised that L.A.R.A. played no part in recommending alternative site.

5. Darwin Hall

Steve Wilcox from Cathedral Walk conveyed his recent consensus amongst other residents regarding the proposed Community centre, he reiterated that the recent consultation was merely to gauge people's opinion; he referred to recent article of Lichfield Mercury's and the problems with general access through Heathcote Place. He stated that he personally had no objections to the concept of the hall, just the proposed location.

John Thompson explained the previous process of planning and what is currently on the table, but concessions have been made, Patrick added to this saying that the current application has been scaled down significantly. Steve reiterated his concern for access to the hall and stated that roads were already inadequate and wouldn't accept further traffic congestion.

Finally Jeff confirmed that L.D.C. would be sending detailed consultation to all residents including those on the Leamonsley, subject to L.A.R.A. agreeing to the content of the questionnaire. John Thompson spoke a little more about the current planning guidelines and potential amendments.

Steve requested L.A.R.A. to support their concerns and write to L.D.C. Jeff agreed a letter of concern could be drafted

No other business was discussed due to time taken with the above matters, therefore previous business would be forwarded to next meeting

Date of next meeting 19 May 2008. Time 8.00pm. Venue - Waitrose