

Leomansley Area Residents Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting Held Monday 16 July 2008 at Waitrose

Present

Jeff Fry (JF) Chairman, Valmai Bowden (VB), Graham Edwards (GE), Patrick Martin (PM), Chris Pawsey (CP), John Thompson (JT)

1. Welcome and Introductions

JF welcomed Chris Pawsey as a prospective co-opted member of the Executive.

2. Apologies

Chris Hamilton, David Sandland, Mike Wall

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of 19 May 2008 with minor amendments were agreed.

4. Finance Report

VB circulated a summary of the position showing, as at 14 July 2008 there was a balance of £335.53. VB indicated due to changed circumstances she would be standing down as Treasurer. She agreed to do so at the AGM and that in the meantime bank statements are to be sent to the Secretary.

5. LDC proposed uses of Social & Community facilities section 106 monies.

Garrick Paving: Following LARA representations on the Garrick paving scheme the Chairman spoke to one of the authors of the report to the Council's Executive about the failure to include in the main body of the report details of the Darwin Park objections. 15 of the 29 objections related to the use of Darwin Park section 106 monies and the report unfairly had not brought out the level and detail of concerns. JF indicated it was evident the Council was not responding to the majority view of the public comments.

Leisure Centre car park extensions: A report to the Council's Executive on 8 April indicated that local consultation was to be undertaken about proposed use of section 106 monies on car park extensions at King Edward VI and Friary Grange Leisure centres. Until contacted by JT seeking clarification about the consultation proposals LDC had initiated no consultation with LARA on this issue. A letter and briefing note has now been received. Clarification has been requested of the total number of users of each centre and what proportion of the cost is to be from Darwin Park monies. That information is still awaited. JF expressed concern that the Council were ignoring the Statement of Community Involvement requirements on consultation and that without the approach to LDC it is doubtful we would have been consulted. The options open to LARA were discussed.

Action –JF to write to Councillor Neil Roberts requesting a meeting and a press release be issued in the event the matter is not satisfactorily resolved.

JT to forward comments to Neil Turner re the car parks issue.

6. Implementation meetings

No date for the meeting has yet been confirmed. *[Note: now fixed for 24 July 3.30 p.m.]* No meeting has taken place since the meeting on 30 January. JF confirmed he had requested that Persimmon be represented. The need for County Council presence for matters they are responsible for was discussed.

Matters to be raised to include:

- Non collection of cuttings from grass mowing
- Overgrown flower beds
- Gaps in planting scheme
- Replacement of dead and removed trees within the estate and on Sainte Foy Avenue (County road)
- Weeds in gutters in estate & block paving on Birmingham Road roundabout
- Absence of dog bins and distribution of litter bins
- Street lights not working and not painted
- The need for a 20m.p.h. speed limit in Darwin Park.

Action – Executive members to send e-mail to the Chairman about any further outstanding issues for the agenda of the implementation meeting for a schedule to be collated.

8. Fradley Against Curborough Town

The implications on the allocation of housing sites in the District and particularly the City were discussed. If a significant level of additional development is permitted at Fradley this would contribute towards meeting the District's overall housing target and reduce the numbers of new housing sites required elsewhere in the District. LARA's main priority is protecting the City and the Western Recreation Zone in particular from further housing development. Following discussion it was agreed that we do not wish at this time to take a position regarding the proposed development at Fradley.

Action – JF to advise the FACT group of our decision.

9. Community Hall

JF circulated a report of the Town Clerk for the City Council meeting on 21 July summarising the responses to the exhibition and associated consultation. The City Council promise to send the questionnaire directly with all Darwin Park residents had not been implemented. The majority of respondents opposed the Community Hall. Members of 102 households on Darwin Park had commented and none from the Chesterfield Road development.

Agreed: given the low proportion of residents of Darwin Park who had responded that LARA remains neutral on the matter.

10. Blair House

No change.

11. Play areas

JF advised he had been consulted on the revisions to the slide following which the works had been implemented.

12. Walsall Road car parking

A resident of the cul-de-sac section between Christchurch Lane and the Western Bypass had approached LARA about problems with cars being parked during the day. This has been raised previously and is part of a wider problem of car parking around the City centre.

13. AGM

Arrangements are to be confirmed at the next meeting. JF will e-mail Executive Committee members about the date and the arrangements. He will also seek to secure a national speaker on the topic of building a community.

Action – JF to action

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8 September 8.15 p.m. Venue – Waitrose