

L.A.R.A. Executive Committee meeting 08 September 2008

1. Present

Jeff Fry (Chair)
Graham Edwards
Chris Hamilton (Secretary)
Patrick Martin
John Thompson
Valmai Bowden (Treasurer)
Leigh Yeoman's
Mike Wall

2. Apologies

None recorded

3. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from (14 July 2008) were reviewed for accuracy, no amendments made, agreed as correct by members.

4. Finance

Valmai had mentioned previously that she was standing down from the treasurer position; members agreed this would be a good time to review current funds, before appointment of new treasurer

Current Financial balance September 2008 £335.53, L.A.R.A. agreed cheque to be issued to Jeff Fry for the amount of £40.95, this was to reimburse Jeff for expense he laid out in relation to the Blaire House appeal.

It is also envisaged a further check will be raised for the use of The Martin Heath Hall for the AGM in November 2008, Chris will follow this up and confirm at next meeting.

Valmai raised the question over the current mandate for the two signatures required for the purpose of withdrawing funds, Jeff confirmed that he was already signatory; therefore at this point no other signature was required.

5. LDC Responses to LARA Regarding S106 Funds Usage

Jeff and John reported on the recent discussions with Councillor Roberts in relation to the use of Section 106 monies, more specifically the use of this money into projects such as the Garrick Theatre paving scheme, & Leisure Centres car park expansion scheme (e.g. King Edwards Leisure Ctr et al). Members were asked if we still need to carry this matter forward to L.D.C. Although there were some mixed feelings, it was decided that further challenges lay ahead and Jeff & John would follow up!

Jeff stated that Stephen Hill (L.D.C) was previously given a list of initiatives for spending Section 106 money, but these had never matured, Jeff confirmed he would now be writing to Cllr Roberts at L.D.C highlighting L.A.R.A.'s concerns and asking for a meeting again.

John Thompson added that Councillors Roberts has recently responded to this ongoing matter and needs to be responded to. Also the recent report states that the money was well invested and never mentions a statement made by senior planning officer Stephen Hill

last year that enough money had been spent outside the estate and that he believed the rest should be spent on the estate. Members were particularly concerned with this reaction. John stated that he would follow-up with Stephen Lightfoot & Craig Jordon.

L.A.R.A looked at some further options:

- Review latest correspondence from L.D.C
- Consider writing to independent Ombudsman and take concerns through this process
- Seek independent Legal advise (Mike Wall suggested contacting those companies on a "no win, no fee" basis. Mike to follow up and report at next meeting). Jeff mentioned that one could look for "pro bono" lawyers / solicitors on the net.

6. Implementation meeting.

John Thompson advised that a list had previously been drafted up and both developers and L.D.C were in receipt of this. Jeff commented that some items on the list had been completed, but there were many still outstanding. Chris has volunteered to follow up with master list of outstanding repairs for Darwin Park to be presented at next Implementation meeting. John Thompson is to confirm when that is likely to be.

7. Darwin Hall

Jeff informed members that a Councillors sub group/working party has now been appointed to review the current situation. Members are aware that there has been much debate over these proposed plans and yet we are still no closer to a resolution than we were before. Progress is slow.

L.A.R.A would like to be consulted on any progress, but is precautionary not to affect any decisions directly. It is a matter for the residents. A number of options presently exist. However no final decision is expected immediately, Apparently the working group are scheduled to meet in October 2008. Concern was expressed that this issue may play a negative part of the forthcoming A.G.M. It was agreed that this was a City Council issue more than a LARA issue and we should let the CC do the talking.

8. Play area/amenity areas

- Muga - Taylor Wimpey has this in storage at the moment
- Slide on the play area - inner seats have been removed as they were conducive to late night gatherings of youth who were causing loud, disruption at midnight and afterwards. The metal, tubular slide has been replaced as agreed with Taylor Wimpey and the LDC much for the same reason as previously stated.

9. Blaire House

The concern over the future of Blair House continues. The recent appeal by Deltabridge Investments is now fully with the Inspectorate. Jeff confirmed that L.A.R.A has voiced its concern in a 14-page appeal document complete with photos and maps. It supported residents' concerns about pedestrian-vehicle conflict especially during the school run among other issues of concern.

As yet no final decision has been made. We are waiting to hear from the Inspectorate.

10. A.G.M.

Members discussed the forthcoming event on **Saturday, 22 November 2008, 10am - 12 noon**. Jeff distributed a draft agenda of the meeting for everyone to comment on. As

usual the meeting will feature guest speakers and a number of hot topics. It was decided by the committee that the main one will be Youth this year. Members suggested that the advertising material needs to go to all constituents within Leomansley ward. Mike Wall will look at the printing of leaflets

Chris to contact secretary of Martin Heath hall and confirm booking

11. Date of next meeting Monday, 20th October 2008. 8.15pm Waitrose