

Leomansley Area Residents Association

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on Monday 26 January 2009 at Waitrose

Present: Jeff Fry (JF) Chairman, Rick Hill (RH), John Thompson (JT)

1. Welcome and Introductions

JF welcomed Rick Hill to the Executive.

2. Apologies

Chris Hamilton, Graham Edwards.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of 20 October 2008 with minor amendments were agreed.

4. LARA email forum

The need for policy guidelines for the email forum was discussed and it was agreed that guidance be sent to members. JT and Graham Edwards have agreed to act as moderators.
Action – JT to circulate the guidance to members.

5. Community Hall

Consideration was given to a request that LARA support the relocation of the Community Hall to a site between the rail line and Sainte Foy Avenue. Following receipt of the request JF contacted the City Council about the proposal. He was advised that the site was not considered suitable because it was not yet in public ownership, the time frame for transfer was uncertain, it is across a main road, it would involve loss of public open space and the highway authority would not agree to a vehicle access. Based upon this feedback it is evident it is not being progressed by the City Council.
Action – JF to reply accordingly to the member.

6. Implementation meetings

JF reported that he was awaiting information about the date of the next meeting from Lichfield District Council. JF expressed concern about the scale of outstanding works within the development and the continuing lack of lighting at Kensington Oval. RH offered to draft a letter to the Chairman of Taylor Wimpey about the lighting and any other serious issues.
Action – JF to supply details to RH of lighting problem and other issues for RH to draft a letter.

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

JF reported on correspondence from Councillor Neil Roberts from which it is evident that the written assurances that Darwin Park monies would be spent on facilities for the development will not necessarily be honoured. Instead the Council is going to consider the outcome of the City wide community consultation currently under way. A list of potential projects and schemes for section 106 social and community facilities and other problems in Darwin Park was presented to the section 106 officer at LDC, Asmita Kathrani, at a meeting in December.
Action – agreed that we continue to follow up with officers and local councillors progress on implementation of potential projects and schemes of direct benefit to Darwin Park.

8. Local Development Framework – Core Strategy.

There is currently a non statutory consultation being conducted by the District Council on the core strategy preferred options which includes the distribution of 8000 houses across the district. The implications of the proposed allocation of housing sites in the district and

particularly the City were discussed. The housing sites study has identified a large number of sites in the City that have development potential although some like the Western Recreation Zone (WRZ) are not currently allocated or available for development. LARA has previously submitted comments on the Core Strategy. If a higher 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. There is a significant danger that the City allocation of 4000 houses of which 2500 are to be on new sites will lead to proposals to build upon the WRZ. LARA's main priority continues to be protecting the WRZ from housing development or other development.

Action – JT to draft comments to LDC supporting the Civic Society submission, advocating that the current local Plan policy on the WRZ be maintained and re-iterating previous comments on the core strategy that community, play and social infra-structure should be phased with the associated housing and not left as in Darwin Park until the later stages.

9. Blair House

The appeal decision was noted.

10. Walsall Road car parking

It was noted that JF has given support on behalf of LARA to residents of the cul-de-sac section between Christchurch Lane and the Western Bypass who are pressing for action to resolve problems with cars being parked during the day.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

Subject to availability of Executive Committee members it was agreed the next meeting be on **Monday 9th March 8.15 p.m. Venue – Waitrose**