

L A R A

Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 30th April 2014
at Darwin Hall at 19.30hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman),
Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher (Secretary) Ann Morrison,
Jeff Fry, Dave Mosson, Veronica Birkett, Jay Bryan, Mike Gallagher

Apologies: Peter and Gaye King

- 1) The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 19.30hrs
- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - the minutes of meeting held on 19th March were agreed and duly signed.
Barbara asked if anyone had heard from Judith Miracco as she had not communicated with LARA despite the minutes of previous meetings being sent to her. It was agreed by all that she be deleted from the executive.
Ann Morrison asked that the minutes of the meetings be put on the website as it was of public interest.

Action Paul

- 3) **Matters Arising** – None

- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn informed members that the balance in the account was £1055.26 of which £807.50 was ring fenced for the Section 106 projects, and our actual balance for LARA stood at £247.76.

At this point the Councillors invited to attend began to arrive so the remaining items on the agenda were deferred until after the discussions with the Councillors.

Councillors who attended were: Cllr Terry Finn, Cllr Ian Jackson and Cllr Andrew Smith. Each was invited to explain what their duties and responsibilities were. Cllr Terry Finn explained that his responsibilities as County councillor were highways, adoption of roads, lighting, fire authority, and he was Leader of Lichfield City Council.

Cllr Ian Jackson advised that he was the Cllr for Leamonsley Ward for Lichfield DC and City Council.

Cllr Andrew Smith advised that his responsibilities included being a cabinet member for Leisure & Parks which included all open space areas.

He also informed the Committee that Cllr Ian Eadie who was hoping to come but sent his apologies, was a cabinet member for waste management, so any problems relating to bin collections etc, then Cllr Eadie was the contact.

Cllr. Bob Awty had apologised, and it was hoped he would be able to attend the next meeting.

Paul had sent an email to all those members of LARA on email to ask if there were any issues they would like us to raise with the Councillors, The response was as follows:-

Christchurch Lane – one way system

Cllr Finn reported that he had stopped this from going ahead. He advised that the local residents had voiced their opinion at a meeting he attended and from that meeting a Committee had now been formed to address this issue with the Council. Cllr Finn confirmed a meeting had taken place at Trent Valley offices when the residents were asked what they wanted to happen. The outcome from this was that they are now looking at a no right turn out of Christchurch Lane onto Walsall Road at the Friary end which was being considered with a time scale of the end of the year for confirmation of this, along with a more frequent attendance of parking wardens at the busiest times.

Road Adoption

Cllr Finn produced the latest email on this situation from Sharon Daniels, the person responsible for all road adoption within Staffordshire County. It stated

“The next roads to be adopted as we are just waiting for Road Lighting to be confirmed as completed (and inspection needs to be co-ordinated with Eon and our lighting engineer) are the following:-

Lawrence Way, Newbold Close, Blakeman Way, Stonynges Place, Thropp Close, Trunkfield Meadow and Alesmore Meadow.

Unfortunately with it being the end of the leave year our Road Lighting engineer has been off on leave but I am hopeful that these roads will be adopted at the end of May.

Persimmon have now employed a new road lighting contractor and will be shortly commencing their remedial works on the following roads to enable their Road Lighting remedial works to be completed and their roads to be adopted. They are going to get these done as soon as possible so this could be a possible July adoption.

Colling Drive, Maddocke Walk, Caterbanck Way and Broadbent Close.”

In addition to this, it was asked why no white lines had been put at road junctions where there was an island. There were some on the 'long island' on Deykin Road but not at the island along Deykin Road which served Colling Drive and Blakeman Way. Cllr Smith suggested to Cllr Finn that this be looked into to see if these could be implemented in order to hopefully help with the parking of vehicles too close to the junction. Once these white lines were in place the police could then issue tickets for obstruction.

Another parking issue was the parking of Waitrose staff along Whitehouse Drive and Walnut Walk on Fridays and Saturdays. The problem had become slightly easier in recent weeks as they were now only parking on one side of the road instead of both sides, but it was felt that this was still an issue for emergency vehicles and buses, and that vision for car drivers was difficult.

Cllr Smith agreed that it was an unacceptable situation and suggested that LARA send a letter to the Police raising our concerns.

Blair House Development

Paul reported that a number of residents were concerned that the above development had erected fencing that appeared to have encroached onto the open space area.

Cllr Finn advised that the fence was within the permitted planning area . Concerns had also been raised as to why there would be no footpath along the lane leading to the Walsall Road which could be dangerous for children and parents walking their children to school, and why this was not addressed prior to the development going ahead? Cllr Finn advised that the lane was not wide enough for both a roadway and pedestrian footpath and that it had always been the case that it would be a combined road/footpath. Ian Jackson then asked Cllr Finn if this lane would be one to be adopted to which he confirmed it would. Cllr Smith however reported that the ownership of the lane was at present unknown.

Railing & Benches on Cathedral Walk

Geoff asked the Cllrs who was responsible for the railings that front the houses on Cathedral Walk and the benches along the Walk.

Cllr Smith advised that the developer was responsible for this until the roads were adopted when it would then become the responsibility of Lichfield District Council. He was uncertain in relation to the railings on front of the houses but would check and report back. In respect of open space areas, none of these are yet adopted so the developer was still responsible. He advised that adoption would be in three phases,

- i) From Waitrose to the childrens play area
- ii) Cathedral Walk
- iii) Kensington Oval and the remainder

Barbara asked Cllr Smith why the grass verges and islands had not been cut around Darwin Park, the grass was now almost 2 feet high around Colling Drive, Trunkfield and Caterbanck. He responded by saying that once the roads are adopted then the developer is no longer responsible but that it becomes the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council, with Lichfield DC acting as their agent. Barbara reminded him of the email from Sharon Daniels which stated that none of these roads mentioned had yet been adopted. He agreed to look into this and report back.

Jay raised the issue of the reeds by the pond near Waitrose. These had previously been cleared but were now growing at an alarming rate again. Cllr Smith agreed to ask the developer to remove these to an acceptable level.

Potholes

Concern had been raised via residents of the state of the road surface along Limburg Avenue, Sainte Foy Avenue, particularly around the islands, as the number of potholes was increasing and it was becoming dangerous, particularly if cars were swerving to avoid them.

Cllr Finn reported that it was on the agenda to repair these potholes but this would probably not been undertaken until the completion of the Wall Island project (due to be completed at the end of May) at which point there would be fewer lorries using these roads as a diversion.

Section 106 funds

Jeff Fry reminded the Cllrs that when the 106 funding began LARA had received a letter from Steven Hill informing us that any remaining funds from the 106 budget were to be ploughed back into the Darwin Park development. He raised this as it had been noted that this had not happened and that the monies were in fact used

for the Garrick Theatre. As this was some time ago, the Cllrs advised that this would not apply to any future section 106 projects.

Bus Passenger Shelters

An unsatisfactory situation had now developed where the developers were not accepting the three sites agreed between LARA and County Councillor Finn and officers. The Cllrs. were asked to apply pressure on the developers so that shelters could be provided at the sites now chosen. LARA stressed its commitment to improving services for public transport users.

As they departed all three Councillors were thanked for their attendance and input, and Geoff hoped that communication between them and LARA was now firmly established in the interests of the residents. Their attendance at future meetings would be welcomed, and this added significantly to the value of joining LARA, having regard to the recruitment exercise planned for June.

The Committee then dealt with the remaining items on the agenda.

5) **Fundraising** – Veronica and Jay had been very busy and put a lot of effort into the forthcoming quiz to be held on 5th July. It was agreed that a flyer be produced to deliver to all those on the estate (2500) at a cost of £40, and these were to be ready for the next meeting on 4th June. As Waitrose had refused to provide any form of refreshments, it was agreed that Tea and Coffee would be provided and some Committee members volunteered to donate these along with some nibbles for the table. Waitrose did however agree to the loan of glasses for those who would like to bring their own drinks (alcohol). Teams would be of 4 or 6 players. A cash prize of £50 for the winning team. We would hold a raffle during the break, and raffle prizes were being sought.

6) **Subscriptions** – It was agreed that we purchase 250 membership cards via Vistaprint at a cost of £7.45. Paul produced the proposed card and letterhead for the Association and they were both approved by the Committee.

Action Paul

It was suggested that a leaflet be included with the flyer explaining about the new system in respect to membership subscriptions, and Geoff would be drafting this.

Mike Gallagher advised that if we would like to advertise the quiz in the Beacon Magazine, then the editorial and advertisement would need to be with the editor by 11th May. Geoff agreed to meet this deadline.

Action Geoff

7) **Any Other Business** – Jeff Fry reported that he would need a meeting with Geoff which could be outside the Committee meeting to address the Paypal issue.

Barbara informed the Committee that she had not yet received a response from Waitrose with regard to our application for one of the Community Boxes and suggested we chase them. Jeff informed us that his wife who works for Waitrose was now becoming involved with these Community Boxes and he would ask her to chase up our letter of 11th March prior to any further correspondence being sent.

Dawn advised that she noticed that St Michaels School had a Community Box again, which was the second time in 6 months and felt that not enough consideration was being given to other organisations.

Mike Gallagher informed the Committee of a strike by the Fire and Rescue Service over this coming weekend and agreed to let Paul have the details so all members could be made aware of this via the website.

Action Paul

8) Date of next meeting – The date of the next meeting was agreed as:-

Wednesday 4th June at 20.00hrs at Darwin Hall unless otherwise advised.

Please note that a response is required from all the executive and apologies must be sent if anyone is unable to attend a meeting.

Signed.....

Chairman