

**L A R A**  
Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 2015  
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman),  
Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher (Secretary), Ann Morrison,  
Dave Mosson, Veronica Birkett, Peter & Gaye King, Jay Bryan  
Sandra Booth

Councillors: Cllr Terry Finn

Apologies: Jeff Fry, Mike Gallagher and Cllrs Ian Jackson, Andy Smith, Iain Eadie

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- 1) The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 20.00hrs who welcomed everyone.

As Councillor Finn was in attendance it was agreed that we should deal with those items in which he was directly involved so that he could leave the meeting at a reasonable time.

**Meeting with County Highways** – Cllr Finn was to arrange a meeting with the County Highways to discuss the possibility of parking restrictions on the estate. He would try to arrange this for the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> February and this would involve Geoff, Cllr Finn and the Highways Dept.

**Barrier in Christchurch Lane** – Cllr Finn reported that it was seen as inappropriate to erect a Barrier opposite the outside of Christchurch Primary school in Christchurch Lane, as it had been seen as a danger, in that if a vehicle left the road and hit the barrier there was the possibility of trapping someone between the barrier and the wall.

**Adoption of roads on Darwin Park** – Cllr Finn reported that there were still some lighting issues, and until these had been addressed complete adoption would not be taking place.

**Uneven footpaths in Christchurch Lane** – Cllr Finn said he would speak with Highways and get this looked into so that repairs could be undertaken.

**Bus Passenger Shelters** – Cllr Finn asked what response we had received from those living within 25 metres of where the proposed bus shelter was going to be put. Geoff informed Cllr Finn that he had delivered 25 letters asking for residents input by way of consultation and so far had only received two responses. Discussions on this would be ongoing, but there was a suggestion that the shelter be put where the existing bus stop is at present. This would be an item on the agenda for the meeting with the Highways and Councillor Finn in the coming weeks.

**HGV Weight Restriction – Walsall Road** – Cllr Finn reported that he was trying to get closure on this as he did at Boley Park with a 7.5 ton limit on Walsall Road, - Ongoing.

**Education Facilities for Hallam Park residents** – Cllr Finn confirmed that Priory Academy in Cherry Orchard was well under construction with a further 200 places

becoming available for Primary children. He also mentioned that the catchment areas would be changed to accommodate, and he was in touch with Ben Adams at the Education Dept. and would keep us updated.

Cllr Finn then left the meeting.

- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - the minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January were proposed by Sandra Booth and seconded by Paul Ledbury as a true record, all agreed and they were duly signed.
- 3) **Matters Arising** – None
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported that the Bank balance in the LARA account stood at £1082.42. There was also £9 to go in and another £9.46 from the paypal account. She reported that we had obtained two new members which now brought the total of subscribing members to LARA up to 60.
- 5) **Website** – Paul reported that he would now update all the numbers regarding membership, as the emailing list needed to be updated. He also agreed to email all those on the present emailing list with details of the new subscription charge and how to become a LARA member for all those who were unable to attend the AGM. From the response he would then be able to clear any unwanted or old email addresses.

Sandra asked if it would be possible to get a breakdown of how many members were from Darwin Park and how many from Christchurch Lane and Walsall Road. Dawn would provide the details in due course.

- 6) **Review of Quiz Night** – Dawn advised that a total profit for the latest quiz night raised an impressive £440.33. The members then relayed feedback from those who attended via the Chair.  
**Geoff** - Some felt that the questions were a lot harder than the last one. It was felt that the quizmaster was being pedantic with the answers to some of the questions.  
**Jay** – people need to be able to answer the majority of the questions in order to enjoy the evening and feel they had as much chance as anyone to win a prize.  
**Peter** – felt that with such good prizes then the questions needed to be a bit more difficult.

Unfortunately Ann felt that all this feedback was particularly aimed at her and felt it was a personal attack on how she ran the quiz. Geoff explained members of the committee were simply giving feedback in order to improve in the future. Ann stated that she didn't need feedback and felt it unnecessary and would not accept any criticism only to state that she was not prepared to do another one.

In respect to attendees, it was clear that the distribution of hand delivered flyers did not have much effect on who attended. Only 4 tickets were sold on the door on the evening, with 60+ having been sold via committee members and by word of mouth. Only 8 attended from flyers distributed, 6 attended from having seen the advertisement in the Darwin Advertiser.

Paul suggested that maybe we should purchase an A Board which could be displayed at the end of Cathedral Walk, a week prior to our next event. This would

be taken in each evening but may be just as effective as walking the streets putting leaflets through doors.

- 7) **Friarsgate Development** - Paul had received an email from Jeff Fry in relation to the Friarsgate Development in which it is stated that the Civic Society were the ones to lead on this development. Geoff had not seen this so Paul agreed to forward it on to him.
  
- 8) **Lichfield Alliance** – Geoff tabled the leaflet that had been produced by the Alliance with the objective of co-ordinating questions to Councillors up for election in May.
  
- 9) **Darwin Lagoon Project** – Prior to discussion thanks were given to Veronica for all the hard work she had put in with regard to the suggestion of a project for LARA to incorporate the residents and children of the community.  
Please see appendix A attached.  
All committee members felt this was a really good idea and endorsed all that Veronica had proposed. This would enable her to report back to John Smith with definite proposals so we could then obtain details of the costs involved in bringing this to fruition.  
Jay and Veronica had visited Christian Fields which was a similar project a while ago although now, many of the walkways and information boards were no longer there.  
Geoff agreed to make contact a friend of his who is a member of the RSPB to see if he could direct us to the right people in order to help get correct details for the information boards for the areas suggested.

Sandra Booth knew a lady who knew everything there was to know about Bats and would ask for her advice also in relation to these areas and the possibility of erecting bat boxes.

#### 10) **Any Other Business –**

Sandra advised that the Friends of Christchurch Lane have a Garden Open Day each year where people can come round and look at other peoples gardens. This year the theme was Gardens Through the Ages. So far there were 12 gardens on the visiting list but a volunteer garden was needed from the Walsall Road side of Darwin Park to illustrate how they have changed over the years. If anyone has such a garden they would like to open up the dates are 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> July. The contact is a Richards Paulson of 9 Leomansley Road, Tel: 01543 264660  
Email: [paulson49@btinternet.com](mailto:paulson49@btinternet.com)

Discussions followed and the Darwin Walk was mentioned. Peter & Gaye had done this walk as had a few other committee members, although some I hear never got past Mabels Tearooms!!!  
However anyone who is interested in taking part in the Darwin Walk the contact is Steve Sanders and Peter would get contact details for the next meeting.

Dawn then reminded everyone that it had been suggested previously that we should hold a mid-year meeting for residents so they could drop in and see how we are getting along, to see if there was anything they could do to help and generally have a chat along with our PCSOs who agreed to come along. This would be very informal, unlike the AGM where some people may find it difficult to get their concerns across in a short space of time.

Geoff confirmed that we had not had a response to our letter to Waitrose re staff parking, so he hand delivered another copy of the letter a couple of days before the meeting. Having spoken with PCSO Elaine Sneyd about this and other issues, she had advised him to go to the store and ask to see the manager in person, which he will do.

The next event LARA was suggesting to do would be a Treasure Hunt. Sandra knew of someone with experience in these and would do some investigations before the next meeting.

Next Meeting confirmed as Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March followed by Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April Both to be held at Darwin Hall at 20.00hours unless advised otherwise.

Meeting closed at 22.10 hours.

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

**Copies sent to Councillors, Finn, Smith, Awty, Eadie and Jackson**

Signed.....

Chairman