

L A R A

Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2015
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

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

Apologies: Mike Gallagher, Cllrs Iain Eadie, Andy Smith, Terry Finn

- 1) The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 20.00hrs who welcomed everyone.
- 2) **Minutes** - The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th March were agreed by all present as a true record and were duly signed.
- 3) **Matters Arising** – Ann Morrison asked if we had received a written response yet from Waitrose – Geoff advised that nothing had been forthcoming despite the fact he had spoken to the duty manager in person who said the Manager would be writing.
- 4) **Darwin Lagoon Project**– Since the initial meeting with John Smith a site meeting had been arranged for Friday 15th May with Peter Freeman and Ruth Wojeck of LDC. Veronica and Jay would both be present and Sandra Booth kindly offered to take notes during the site visit for circulation afterwards, but anyone who is available that day and would like to come along is welcome to do so. Veronica will notify time and meeting point later. One of the problems at the pond was the reeds and the response of Cllr Andy Smith and John Smith was to obtain an ecological view on the reeds at the site meeting itself.
- 5) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported that there had been no activity during the past month so nothing to report and confirmed the balance in the bank account was the same as last month £1141.81
- 6) **Summer Event** – The Treasure Hunt suggested at the previous meeting was well under way, thanks to the efforts of Sandra. The date of Sunday 23rd August was confirmed as the best date to hold the event as there were no other events being held in Beacon Park that day. Sandra confirmed that the questions were in progress for the Treasure Hunt. It was agreed the starting point should be Martin Heath Hall which Peter King would secure our booking for, 14.00hrs – 17.00hrs initially but would try to ensure that we did not need to vacate until 18.00hrs in case we ran over a little. There would be a £2 per team charge to cover the cost of producing the papers but a donation box/bucket would be made available for anyone who would like to donate to LARA all proceeds being put towards the Darwin Park Lagoon Project.
As regard advertising for the event it was felt that door to door leaflets were unnecessary and we would put ads in The Lichfield Gazette, The Beacon, Darwin Advertiser with posters being available for local businesses. Geoff / Veronica would give a brief introduction of the Lagoon Project prior to the start of the

Treasure Hunt to make people aware of what we are trying to do for the Community, and a poster on the project would be displayed.

- 7) **Meeting with Highways Manager** – Geoff confirmed that the first meeting with the SCC Community Highway Liaison Manager, Richard Rayson had taken place on 26th March, and Sandra and Councillor Finn had attended. The railings had been erected opposite Christchurch School and the drop kerbs had been addressed in The Dell.

In respect of parking restrictions in Christchurch Lane, SCC were not opposed to a restriction between the hours of 12 noon and 13.00hrs to prevent all-day parking, but preferred to wait for the Darwin Park inspection so that all traffic orders could be proposed together to save cost. Anyone who sees any vehicle parked in an inconsiderate manner, please take a photo, date and time it and send them on the Paul who will keep them in a file ready for the next AGM when we can show that something needs to be done in relation to parking restrictions not only on Darwin Park but throughout the Leomansley Area.

Due to weather conditions the second meeting had been rescheduled for 22nd April and a report will be given at the next committee meeting.

- 8) **Bus Passenger Shelters** – This item would be dealt with at the revised site meeting with Richard Rayson tomorrow and a report will be given at next meeting.

- 9) **Website** – Nothing to report

- 10) **Blair House Pathway** – Report from Cllr Andy Smith:-

I have spent some time investigating this, as I was initially informed that this was a county council matter (as stated in my reply in March to Geoff). However, there has been some good news since then. The district council has now agreed (after some wrangling!) to adopt this pathway, as it is currently under half ownership by the developer and half by an unknown. The legals are happening on this at present, and once done the council can then look at traffic calming measures and / or fencing to the ends of the footpaths. I will update and chase on progress on this, but the fact is that the district council is adopting this path.

Concern was raised that there was no mention with regard to offset barriers being installed at the end of the pathways from Alesmore Meadow into Halfpenny Lane and also the pathway from Victoria Gardens onto Halfpenny Lane, where at the present time children on bikes, scooters etc could easily ride directly onto the lane and into oncoming traffic. This would be reiterated to Cllr Smith.

- 11) **Walsall Road HGV Weight Restriction** – This was in progress but a date was to be confirmed by Cllr Terry Finn.

- 12) **Any Other Business**

Section 106 Funds – A request had been received from John Thompson, who is steering this part of the project, for a further £396 to be re-allocated to the Gateway project for the restoration of trees at The Friary from the remaining Section 106 funds of £1048. The committee were not aware that any Section 106 funds remained, and Geoff was to write to Lichfield DC to establish the current position with particular regard to the amount of money remaining in the Fund.

Veronica – an idea for a LARA handbook was suggested but after discussion it was decided not to go ahead with it.

Peter – Raised the issue of the dangerous crossing at the junction of Beacon Gardens and Ego. Although there was a raised area indicating pedestrian useage, it is very dangerous as there is traffic approaching from 3 different directions. Geoff would raise this with Cllr Finn and he was also asked to check with BSARA to see if they too had raised this issue before.

Sandra – reported that the button at the pedestrian crossing lights on the A51 does not always work – mention to Highways please. Sandra also mentioned that the Friends of Christchurch Lane are producing a history of Christchurch Lane and anyone with any information should contact either her or Richard Paulson.

Dawn – asked about the grass cutting as the height of the grass in Cathedral Walk was particularly bad – Barbara would contact Cllr Smith to check progress.

Next meetings Tuesday 26th May and Tuesday 14th July both to be held at Darwin Hall at 20.00hours unless advised otherwise.

Meeting was closed at 21.50hrs

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