

# L A R A

## Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2015  
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman),  
Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher (Secretary),  
Dave Mosson, Veronica Birkett, Sandra Booth, and Jay Bryan

Apologies: Ann Morrison, Jeff Fry, Peter & Gaye King, Mike Gallagher, Cllrs Smith, Finn,  
Eadie & Bacon, PCSO Elaine Ford

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- 1) In the event that the Chairman would be late arriving the meeting was opened by the Vice Chairman Paul Ledbury at 20.00hrs, when he welcomed prospective new members Shaun Bowden and Tracy Shepherd.
- 2) **Minutes** - The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th October were agreed by all present and duly signed.
- 3) **Matters Arising** – none
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported a bank balance of £1020.25 as at 24<sup>th</sup> November and confirmed that all AGM costs had now been paid, also the public liability insurance had been renewed, and she had paid £50 deposit towards the skittle hire for 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
- 5) **Review of AGM** - Dawn reported that there were 28 Residents at the AGM along with 7 Committee members making a total of 35 in total. Shaun suggested perhaps we should give a welcome pack to all new members. This was something that had been discussed before but we felt at that time that things are always changing and it would be difficult to keep updated. Also it was suggested that perhaps the AGM could be made a little sharper so that it didn't take so long. Having said that he said it was the best one he had attended so far so we are moving in the right direction.  
Another idea was to call it a public meeting which will incorporate the AGM, this way we may get more attending.  
It was the unanimous view that not having any police presence was unacceptable and Sandra agreed to arrange a meeting with the local Inspector to give our views and try to make sure that someone would attend next year's AGM.

**Crime figures** - Paul had produced a graph which showed the increase in the level of Anti Social Behaviour in the LARA area from December 2010 to August 2015. It has increased four fold over the past 5 years, according to the Police figures, with the split being 88.8% on the Darwin Park Estate, 2.9% along Walsall Road and 8.3% in the Christchurch Lane Area.

**Pick Pockets** – At the AGM Sandra mentioned about a small group of Romanians who were pick pocketing women at cash point machines in local shops & supermarkets. She reported that after the AGM two women approached her and said it had happened to them. Sandra advised that if anything like this happens to anyone we know or hear of, make sure they ring 101 and obtain an incident report number.

- 6) **Parking Restrictions** – Geoff reported that he had not yet heard from Cllr Finn regarding the requested maps for Christchurch Lane and Darwin Park proposed parking restrictions and had hoped he would be at tonight's meeting. However he will continue to try and obtain these so they can be put on the website for all members to see.

Tracy advised that parents are no longer allowed to park their cars on the school car park which will obviously increase the number trying to park on the road when dropping off or collecting children.

Sandra reported that the barrier that had had been put up opposite the school entrance to stop cars parking on the footpath had been hit by a car and is in need of attention.

- 7) **Walsall Road Weight Restriction** – Ongoing issue which will be mentioned again to Cllr Finn.
- 8) **Blair House Pathway** – Although apologies had been received from Cllr Andy Smith he had sent an email advising that the barriers at the end of Alesmore Meadow & Victoria Gardens leading onto Halfpenny Lane will be erected within the next two week. This was welcomed by all. With regard to open spaces & grass verges, the Chairman had received an email from a resident who over 12 months ago had approached Cllr Finn to ask if the grass footpath opposite her house could be replaced with tarmac. There are areas on the estate where the footpaths suddenly disappear and you are faced with a grassed pathway. This particular resident has an elderly parent who is disabled and in a wheelchair and each time she goes out for a walk she has to leave the tarmac footpath and go into the road because the wheelchair gets stuck in the grass, and this is clearly a health & safety issue. It is also difficult for young mums with pushchairs who have the same problem. This issue will be raised with Cllr. Finn.
- 9) **Lagoon Project** – Veronica reported that she was getting increasingly concerned with regard to the Koi Carp in Pool 1 by Waitrose and the fact that John Smith appears not to want them removed. She went to Wyevale Garden Centre to ask their advice and they recommended a local fishing expert. Veronica had also received a 'My Staffordshire' magazine which was full of green ideas so she contacted them and is awaiting their response. They have a website for anyone interested in having a look.  
[www.staffordshiregov.uk/mystaffordshire](http://www.staffordshiregov.uk/mystaffordshire).
- 10) **Friarsgate** – Geoff reported that he had not yet had a response to the letter sent to Lichfield District Council expressing our concerns in respect to this development, but would keep us informed of any developments.
- 11) **106 Monies – Trees**  
A plan was tabled showing the locations of the four trees proposed for planting in The Friary.
- 12) **Skittles Night** –  
As mentioned in the Treasurer's report the deposit of £50 for the hire of the skittle alleys had been paid, and Barbara agreed to contact Louise Fleming to find out what time we could have access to the room to enable set up ready

for the Saturday Evening. She would liaise with Dawn regarding delivery and collection of the alleys.

It was agreed that advertisements would be put in the Lichfield Gazette, Darwin Advertiser, Beacon Magazine and Look Local. Posters would be made available for display in Darwin Hall and Martin Heath Hall.

The full cost of the Alleys was £150. Prizes to the value of £42.50, £40 to be spent on refreshments and it was proposed to do a raffle to get funds in.

Taking this into account Dawn suggested £4 per member and £5 for non-members. Anyone wishing to join on the night can take advantage of the reduction to £4.

- 13) **Website** – Paul reported that there are new pages in the process of being uploaded onto the website in regard to the Deanslade Farm and Friarsgate Developments, and also the Pools Project. Dave agreed to forward the photos of the Pools to Paul for him to include on the website.

14) **Any Other Business** –

Sandra asked if the barriers and pole at the A51 on the pathway from Christchurch Lane could be repainted. They are very rusty and flaky and at one time they were painted white so they were visible for walkers and cyclists alike especially during the dark nights. This could avoid a potential fatality should anyone not see them and go over the barriers directly on the A51.

Jay asked if we were on the mailing list from Lichfield District Council to advise LARA of any future planning projects in our area, Geoff confirmed we were.

Next Meetings Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February both to be held at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

**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 Bacon**

**Signed.....**

**Chairman**