

# L A R A

## Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16th February 2016  
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

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

Councillors: Cllr Terry Finn

Apologies: Ann Morrison, Jeff Fry, Cllrs Iain Eadie, Andrew Smith, Brian & Norma Bacon

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- 1) The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 20.00hrs , and it was confirmed that Shaun Bowden and Tracy Shepherd were co-opted onto the Executive.
- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - the minutes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were agreed and duly signed.

### 3) **Matters Arising – Police Liaison**

Sandra reported that she had attended a meeting with Marisha Place and the Inspector of Police for this area, which lasted for two hours and both were willing to assist in anything LARA feel needed support. As we briefly discussed at the last meeting, it was confirmed that the figures on Anti Social Behaviour also include abuse, petty crime, inconsiderate parking etc, and Sandra felt that we would not get any further details as we live in a low crime area and the police are obviously concentrating on areas with higher crime rates.

In respect to the addition of Double Yellow lines on the Estate, this does seem to have had a calming effect on the inconsiderate parking of some individuals but in case anyone has a problem in this area PCSO Elaine Ford has supplied us with the following information. We can contact Staffordshire County Council on 0300 111 8000 and ask to speak to the Clear Streets people, or we can email [clear.streets@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:clear.streets@staffordshire.gov.uk) and they will attend to the issue. She advised that they are normally quite quick in responding.

Sadly though, Sandra was informed that due to lack of resources there would no longer be any Police representation at future LARA AGMs.

As residents in Lichfield this did not go down too well and members were disappointed that the Police were unable to attend this annual event to answer any concerns of the residents.

- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported that the Bank balance in the LARA account stood at £1073.15 after everything had been accounted for following the Skittles Evening. The accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 to date showed we are running at a loss of £68.66. The membership for 2015 was 76 whereas so far for 2016 the membership stands at 47, but a reminder will be sent to all those who were members last year to renew their membership, as we did in February last year, so hopefully this would add to the membership.

**5) Parking Restrictions-**

Following the addition of the double yellow lines, Cllr Finn reported only two complaints had been made to the Council, one of which was from a man who used to park his car on the bend of Cathedral Walk/Deykin Road which is now covered in double yellow lines as it is a blind bend.

In regard to the parking of vehicles on the stretch of Deykin Road leading onto Sainte Foy Avenue, Cllr Finn informed the meeting that this section presented a problem with residences each side of the road and it was agreed to keep on with observations. Cllr Finn also reported that there had been an amendment to the proposed Christchurch Lane restrictions, as some residents were concerned that cars would be forced into Christchurch Gardens to park, so this area would also have double yellow lines introduced to stop this.

**6) Walsall Road HGV Weight Restrictions** - The top of Walsall Road has now been narrowed at the junction by the A461 roundabout which should reduce HGVs from entering Walsall Road, encouraging them to use the ring road. The 30mph signs had also been moved to the roundabout where before they were 100 yards nearer the City Centre. Cllr Finn reported that this is all that can be done at present (cost issues) but they will be monitoring the effect that the narrowing has on the traffic along Walsall Road.

**7) Cycle Poles & Barriers** - Cllr Finn advised that this was under his domain and he will sort this out.

**8) Blair House Pathway** – Following our last meeting and the photographs of the staggered barriers erected on the footpaths leading to Halfpenny Lane, Cllr Smith was aware of the ridiculous siting of the one barrier which was nowhere near the footpath itself and therefore has no effect, and is chasing this to get it put right.

**9) Lagoon Project** – Ongoing

**10) Friarsgate** – Cllr Finn reported that there will be a new crossing at the St Johns Road/Birmingham Road junction for pedestrians to cross safely. He advised that the Stowe Ward District Councillors were directly involved in the Friarsgate proposals and Geoff agreed to send them a copy of LARA's formal response to the proposed development so that all involved with the proposals were informed.

**11) Skittles Evening** – Dawn reported that despite a thoroughly enjoyable evening we made a small loss overall of £40.16.

27 bowlers took part with 7 teams. Feedback from some who attended suggested that we have some kind of background music for more atmosphere, although had there been more attending the atmosphere may have been better. It was unfortunate that once again the weather was against us, with torrential rain and wind, and it was also the first England match of the Rugby Six Nations which was felt to be a contributing factor in the low attendance.

The table quiz was felt to be a good idea and went down very well. A total of £83.29 was made on the Raffle thanks to Sandra cajoling money out of every person who attended.

Dave Mosson advised that The Bowling Green have offered their function room free of charge to LARA for a future event which was gratefully accepted.

12) **Future Event** – It was agreed that our next event would be a Spring Quiz which will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (St George’s Day) at Darwin Hall, subject to availability. Sandra volunteered to be Quizmaster and everyone showed their support. Teams would be made of up to 6 people. The quiz would have 5 rounds of 10 questions then a picture round during a short interval followed by 5 more rounds of 10 questions and finishing with a Blockbuster round. The traditional Raffle will also take place.

13) **Website** – Paul advised that a reminder would be sent to all members who have not yet renewed their membership. Now that the article on the Pools Project had been agreed with Veronica this would also be loaded onto the website.

14) **Any Other Business** – Veronica informed the committee that she had emailed Natural England in respect to arranging a speaker evening at some point in the future, but despite emailing twice she felt despondent as no response had been forthcoming. Members thanked her and asked her to persevere.

Sandra reported that there was a light out on one of the footpaths from the Walsall Road side of the estate through to Waitrose. Barbara asked her for the number of the lamppost and she would forward it on to the lighting section at the Council.

It was suggested we issue a Newsletter to all residents showing the achievements that LARA has accomplished so far. It was felt that we could not do this on a monthly or quarterly basis, but considered that we may be able to get one ready for around September/October time in which we could incorporate the details for the Public Meeting (including the AGM) to be held in November. Watch this space!

**Date of next meetings Tuesday 22nd March and Tuesday 19th April**

\*\* Since the meeting I can confirm that Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April is booked for the Quiz at Darwin Hall.

**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, and Eadie**

**Signed.....**

**Chairman**