

L A R A

Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd March 2016
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman),
Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher (Secretary), Shaun Bowden,
Sandra Booth, Tracy Shepherd, Ann Morrison

Councillors: Cllrs Ian Eadie & Andrew Smith

Apologies: Peter & Gaye King, Jay Bryan, Dave Mosson
Cllrs Brian & Norma Bacon and Terry Finn

1) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2016 were agreed and duly signed.

2) **Matters Arising – Parking restrictions**

Sandra suggested a walk around the estate asking people for their opinions on the parking restrictions and to see if they should be introduced in other areas of the estate, perhaps taking photos of inconsiderate parking or of any vehicles parking on the new double yellow lines.

A suggestion was made to hold an open coffee morning at Darwin Hall for people to drop in and give us their feedback, but it was felt that perhaps we could have a community board at Waitrose. Ann informed us that the Manager at Waitrose, Tony Kavanagh was very receptive to community matters and it was agreed we contact him to see if this could be arranged. The idea would be to have a large masterplan of the estate showing where the parking restrictions are currently, showing details of what LARA has achieved so far, details of the Pool Project, and to ask shoppers what they thought of these achievements and if there were any issues where they think LARA may be able to help.

3) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported that the Bank balance in the LARA account stood at £1116.27 as of yesterday with a further £16 having been banked giving a total of £1132.77. The accounts from 1st July 2015 to date showed we are still running at a loss of £9.04. Renewals have been sent to those on the mailing list and a further 16 members have renewed their memberships with 5 new members joining. At present we now have 64 members against a total of 76 for 2015.

4) **Walsall Road HGV Weight Restrictions** - Cllrs asked if we had noticed any reduction in the number of HGVs using Walsall Road following the traffic calming at the end by the roundabout, making the turning more difficult.

Ann Morrison said she had not noticed an increase of vehicles travelling along Sainte Foy Avenue, and members who live near Walsall Road were unfortunately not at the meeting so we will ask them at the next meeting if there had been any noticeable reduction in HGVs.

At this point the issue of potholes was mentioned to the Councillors. The roads in and around Lichfield were in a terrible state with potholes particularly on most roundabouts and the question was asked if and when these would be repaired. It was very dangerous for car drivers who are trying to avoid the potholes but even

more dangerous for cycle users. Cllr Eadie informed us of a website where we can report these potholes, this being

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#top>

- 5) **Cycle Poles & Barriers** - Cllr Smith advised that the barrier at the A51 would be painted in May

- 6) **Blair House Pathway** – Cllr Smith reported that this pathway was to be resurfaced in April and once this was done a new barrier was to be erected, hopefully to cover the whole of the pathway leading onto Halfpenny Lane.

- 7) **Lichfield Library** – Dawn gave details of a petition to save Lichfield Library. A petition has been set up by a Simon Partridge. If a total of 3,000 signatures were to be achieved the County Council would be forced to have a public consultation on the proposal. After considerable discussions it was agreed that LARA should support the petition. The petition website on which to sign is :-
<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-lichfield-library>.

If anyone would like to contact Simon Partridge he can be reached on savelichfieldlibrary@simonpartridge.com Tel: 07986 553141

- 8) **Lichfield City Station Toilets** – Barbara asked why Lichfield City Station has had money spent on painting the whole site yet the public toilets on the station have not been working since she had moved to live in Lichfield 4 years ago.
Cllr Eadie reported that it was the responsibility of London Midland as they own the station site. However there was a Rail Promotion Group in Lichfield headed by David Dixon and Ian Jackson was also involved in this so to make contact with them may be useful. In the meantime a letter could be sent to the Town Clerk, Christopher Moulton expressing our concerns at the lack of facilities on the Station.

- 9) **Lagoon Project** – As Veronica was not at the meeting there was nothing to report. Meanwhile Cllr Smith reported some good news in respect of our Project. He confirmed that from what we know as the Waitrose Pool all the way down to the play area (covering Pools 1 and 2) was now adopted so we could now progress a little with our plans for the Lagoon Project. He confirmed that John Smith was very keen to have the Koi Carp from the Waitrose pool removed, and then we could concentrate on the reeds in the hope of getting them totally removed in order to achieve our dipping pool for the use of the local community.

- 10) **Friarsgate** – Cllrs Smith and Eadie reported that it was Cllr Bob Awty who was on the Planning Committee of the District Council in relation to this development. The letter sent to the Council from LARA with our formal concerns on the development was requested by Cllr Smith and this would be emailed to him following this meeting.

- 11) **Quiz Night** – Sandra confirmed that all was in hand for the Quiz night on 23rd April. Score sheets would be printed by Barbara prior to the event which would be handed out to each team at each round. There would be 10 rounds of 10 questions with a picture round during a short interval. Dave Mosson had agreed to do some A3 size picture quiz sheets. It was felt, following the skittles evening that the use of a microphone would be beneficial. Barbara would check with Jeff and Louise Fleming where this was kept. We put a plea out to those present for Raffle prizes for this event. It was felt that we could not keep going to the same places for

vouchers and Shaun suggested that as we had made some money on previous social events that this time we should use some of the money in the bank to purchase some prizes. Barbara agreed to send an email to the whole committee asking for prizes to be sought and notified to either her or to Dawn so that by the next meeting we would know how many we had and if it was felt we had not got sufficient then Shaun's idea could be put into practice.

12) **Website** – nothing to report

13) **Any Other Business** –

Geoff produced a document he had received from the website regarding funding that was available from the Police & Crime Commissioner, by way of a grant between £100 up to £3,000. Geoff would look at it but it looks geared more towards community groups with ideas on how to cut crime in the local area.

We then discussed 'Clean for the Queen' which was a campaign for citizens to tidy up their own areas. LARA were quite happy to do a litter pick but it was felt that we would need our own Hi-viz jackets with LARA on the back so local residents could see we were working for the community and perhaps make us more approachable and attract new members. Obtaining Hi-viz was easy and relatively inexpensive but to get the name on the back was something we would decide on at the next meeting.

14) Date of next meeting Tuesday 19th April 2016

Meeting was closed at 10.00pm.

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