

L A R A

Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th April 2016
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

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

Apologies: Cllr Terry Finn and Shaun Bowden

- 1) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2016 were agreed and duly signed, with one amendment that apologies had been received and should have been recorded for Mike Gallagher.
- 2) **Matters Arising – “Clean for the Queen”**
It was agreed we would take part in this initiative, but firstly get some quotes for Hi-Viz jackets. These can be bought at a reasonable price but to have LARA printed onto them would make it expensive. A decision was made that we purchase Hi-Viz jackets and then stencil ‘LARA’ onto the back of each one with a permanent marker. Jeff suggested we contact ‘Streetcare’ who would willingly loan us the litter pickers, and rubbish bags and would then collect anything we pick up afterwards from a designated place. All costs & details at the next meeting.
- 3) **Treasurer’s Report** – Dawn reported that there was no change in the bank balance. It remains at £1132.77 but there is £4.43 in our Pay-pal account which is yet to be drawn down making a total of £1137.20. She confirmed that one more member had renewed making a total of 65 members against 76 in 2015.
- 4) **Walsall Road HGV Weight Restrictions** - Cllr Terry Finn had sent his apologies for the meeting but at the time also conveyed his disappointment that the narrowing of Walsall Road by the roundabout at Limburg Avenue seems to have had little effect on the number of HGVs travelling down Walsall Road and he would be looking at other options.
There were still areas of Darwin Park where the 10 metre rule for parking by a junction was not being observed. One area was at Sandfield Meadow where specific cars are parked on the white junction line itself, thereby making it difficult to pass. A letter to the parking enforcement agency should be sent to see if they are willing to do a patrol of the area.
Another issue that was raised was the grassed pavement areas along Alesmore Meadow. This is an ongoing problem for some residents with wheelchairs, those with children in pushchairs, and children on scooters or bicycles, whereby they have to enter the roadway in order to continue their journey. One couple had raised this issue with Cllr Finn a while ago and had been disappointed not to have had any feedback from him by the AGM last year. LARA also sent a letter asking if these areas could be paved over and the grass removed as it had become a serious safety issue. This was still unresolved so it was decided to revisit this issue again by writing to Terry Finn and County Highways.

There were still some cars parking inconsiderately along Walnut Walk near a blind bend. We believe the family have 3 cars, 2 garages (but the cars do not fit in the garages) so the 3rd car is always parked in the same place. A photograph had been taken and will be sent to Geoff for onward transmission to the parking enforcement agency for possible action.

- 5) **Blair House Pathway** – Cllr Smith had previously reported that this pathway was to be resurfaced in April and although there are a few days left nothing seems to have yet been completed. This is of a major concern as now the lighter nights have arrived children are out and about on their scooters and bicycles and could easily ride into Halfpenny Lane as no protection is in place.

In addition to this, we had seen notices by the Bowling Green roundabout stating that '*surface dressing will be taking place within the next 7 days*' presumably to fill in the dangerous potholes that have appeared not just on the Bowling Green roundabout, but also on the roundabout leading to Birmingham Road, and the roundabout leading into Maxtock Avenue. These temporary signs have now disappeared and perhaps Cllr Smith could throw some light as to when this work will now be carried out.

- 6) **Lichfield Library** – Feelings on the Lichfield Library relocation were still fairly high. Most cities have a very grand Council House, one to be proud of and a suggestion was made that in order to keep this wonderful building where the Library is currently situated, why hasn't thought been given to the relocation of the District Council offices into this building? or even Social Services ? If the council offices were to be relocated here, that would free up their current site to help provide further area into the Friarsgate Development which could maybe give more consideration for layover parking for tourist coaches on that land, or even more apartment buildings. It was understood that the petition to save the Library had reached over 5,000 signatures. Therefore a public consultation should be taking place. Can Cllr Finn give us any indication as to when this public consultation will take place?

Geoff informed the committee that there is an open invitation for people to attend a meeting regarding the new proposal for the Cricket Lane Development, (that is the land on the east between Tamworth Road and London Road along Cricket Lane itself). The meeting is being held at Wade Street Church on Thursday 21st April 2016 between the hours of 15.00 & 19.00hrs for anyone who would like to go and see what is being proposed.

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7) **Lichfield City Station Toilets** – Geoff reported that he had met with the Chairman of the Lichfield Rail Promotion Group who had recently written to London Midland (who are responsible for the upkeep of the toilets), but he was yet to receive a reply.
- 8) **Quiz Night** – Dawn reported that we have secured 8/9 raffle prizes for the evening and this was agreed to be sufficient. Veronica & Mike agreed to sell the raffle tickets, £1 per strip and tickets would be drawn individually as before.

Jeff had arranged for the glasses again from Waitrose. Barbara & Dawn would be 'front of house', Geoff would be greeting people on their arrival. Sandra confirmed everything was in place for the quiz itself, Dave had kindly helped with the picture round by producing A2 size photo sheets to display for one of the rounds.

Dawn confirmed we still have Tea & Coffee, Barbara advised that she had Gluten free biscuits and cakes and also 2 packs of nibbles from the skittles night which are still in date.

Access to the building would be at 6.00pm, Barbara will confirm with Louise and notify all members.

9) Lagoon Project – Now that we had received confirmation from Cllr Smith at our last meeting that the land covering Pools 1 and 2 and down to the play area was now adopted we can begin with our plans for our dipping pond, bat boxes, bird boxes etc. Veronica will draft a letter to John Smith asking when the Koi Carp are going to be removed and what the procedure is to do so. We will also approach Cllr Smith in regard to the removal of the reeds once and for all. When can this take place, are there any costs involved and how can LARA help to finally get these issues resolved so we can forge forward with our plans for a Community dipping pond for children and wildlife trail for the community?

In respect to the bat boxes etc, Tracy informed us that where she previously lived someone from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust came along and did a bat walk one evening, explained which bats were living in their area, where best to site boxes to encourage them etc. They also helped with other wildlife issues so she was going to see if she had a contact name and would notify Veronica who will further investigate.

10) Friarsgate – Geoff reported that despite our letter to the District Council detailing our proposals on the Friarsgate Development nothing had been received back from them. He confirmed that copy of the letter was also sent to Cllr Andy Smith at his request, also to the Councillors of Stowe Ward whose ward this is. It was agreed that we keep a close eye on the website, and Geoff agreed to write to Cllr Bob Awty who is on the Planning Committee to ascertain the date of the planning hearing.

For anyone else wishing to keep a track of events the website is www.visitfriarsgate.co.uk There is also a link to the Council site from this address.

Ann advised that the Town Clerk Christopher Moulton may be a useful contact for information.

11) Website – nothing to report

12) Any Other Business –

Peter King informed us that he had obtained a new map from the Council showing changes to the Leomansley Ward boundaries. He would get another copy so we can use for the website.

Ann asked about the grants available from the Police and Crime Commissioner mentioned under any other business at the last meeting. Geoff had looked into it but felt it was not something LARA could get involved with as it was particularly geared towards the provision of long-term sustainable positive activities for young people to help reduce anti-social behaviour.

Dawn reported that she had been in contact with the gentleman who had offered his services as Auditor of our accounts following the AGM in November, to see if the offer still stands. If for any reason this was no longer open to us it would give us

time to seek out another professional before the end of our financial year on 30th June 2016.

Sandra asked if there were any other Residents' Associations in Lichfield apart from Beacon Street. Dawn mentioned that there used to be an 'Alliance' at one time but they seem to have gone very quiet, as have Beacon Street Residents' Association who have not posted anything on their website since December 2014. Jeff said that the Civic Society was still active and headed by John Thompson who has been involved with LARA in the past.

It was agreed that we hold our AGM this year at Darwin Hall, subject to the availability of the Hall. The date of Saturday 19th November was proposed at 15.00hrs and Barbara would contact Louise to check if this was available.

13) Date of our next two meetings are Tuesday 31st May at 20.00hrs and Tuesday 5th July at 19.30hrs.

Meeting was closed at 22.00hrs.

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, and Eadie

Signed.....

Chairman