

L A R A
Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 31st May 2016
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman),
Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher (Secretary), Sandra Booth,
Ann Morrison, Jeff Fry, Veronica Birkett, Dave Mosson, Mike Gallagher
Cllrs: Terry Finn and Iain Eadie

Apologies: Cllr Andy Smith, Shaun Bowden, Jay Bryan, Tracy Shepherd,
Peter & Gaye King

- 1) The meeting was opened at 20.00hrs by Chairman Geoff Lusher who welcomed Claire Hunt and Bridget Jeffrey of Snuffles Hedgehog Rescue and invited them to give a short presentation.

Claire began by saying that Snuffles had been running for only 3 years, when she came across a hedgehog in daylight hours (which you should never see as they are nocturnal animals), she took him in and since then she decided that a rescue centre would follow. She explained that in order for a hedgehog to survive their winter hibernation period they need to reach a weight of 600grams, therefore access to food is essential during the period before this. Bridget then showed photographs of what has become known as "Hedgehog Highways". These are similar to cat flaps in doors except they can be put into gravel boards at the bottom of your garden. They are the size of a compact disc so unlikely to attract any other form of animals as they are so small. These enable hedgehogs to scour for food easily travelling between gardens. She also showed a plan she had obtained from a developer who were taking into account wildlife on new building projects and said this would be a major improvement in keeping them safe if these "highways" were incorporated at the development and planning stages of new housings projects. Geoff agreed to supply Veronica with the building plan numbers in order for Claire & Bridget to approach the developers who are involved with the local issues such as Hallam Park, Deanslade & Shortbutts Lane. Cllr Iain Eadie suggested they also contact the planning officer at Lichfield District Council directly. His name was Shaun Coughlan – Head of Planning and Richard Cox – in charge of any supplementary planning. Claire & Bridget were thanked for their presentation and also for the information leaflets they kindly left with us so that we could incorporate this onto the LARA website.

- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2016 were agreed and duly signed

- 3) **Matters Arising – "Clean for the Queen"**

Ann asked what we were doing in relation to the "Clean for the Queen" initiative which was discussed at the last meeting and if we had done anything about the Hi-viz jackets. Paul had obtained quotes for the Hi-viz jackets along with 3 designs to be printed on the back. Ann suggested we buy the cheapest & put LARA on the back with adhesive lettering. Others felt that it would be better to promote LARA

and by having our logo etc on the reverse residents could see that we are working for the local community. Cllr Eadie also said that it would give a more professional approach to LARA and would show that the funds we are collecting via memberships, social events etc were being put to good use. After discussion a date was set of Saturday 9th July and Cllr Eadie volunteered to liaise with Streetscene promoting this. In the meantime Geoff would get in touch with Gary Brownbridge to obtain the litter pickers and bags so that we can carry out the initiative with the correct equipment.

Ann asked why the petition for the Lichfield Library was not going to be given a public consultation after receiving 6,500 signatures. Cllr Finn informed us that the petition had been organised on false information, therefore the decision had been made that no consultation was necessary. Following this response Ann became angry and would not let Cllr Finn proceed to explain further on the point at which the Chairman asked her to be quiet and let him speak. She ignored this request and Geoff then asked her to shut up and allow Cllr. Finn to speak at which point she said no-one tells her to shut up and walked out of the meeting.

Sandra then asked what happens to the money received from the sale of the Library premises, would this go directly to Staffordshire County Council? Cllr Finn confirmed that the monies would go to Staffordshire County Council but funds would be made available from these monies for improvements to be made at St Mary's in order to accommodate some of the contents from the Library. No-consideration was ever made for the Library to remain in its current position.

- 4) Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported that the bank balance stood at £1376.55 with a further £6.16 in Paypal which was yet to be transferred making a total of £1382.51. She reported a profit of £251.05 was made on the Summer Quiz evening. Dawn then informed us that she had spoken with John Pickwell (the volunteer auditor at the AGM), who was happy to take on the role as our Auditor for an initial period of 3 years, and Dawn agreed to get the Accounts to him by the end of July in order for him to have them ready and signed off for our AGM on 19th November.
- Dawn then proposed that LARA pay for a ream of paper and ink cartridges to Geoff and Barbara for all the work they do sending letters, emails etc, this was unanimously agreed by the Committee.

5) Christchurch Lane Parking –

Tracey had asked for this item to be returned to the agenda but unfortunately she was unable to attend the meeting this evening. Sandra thought the item may be to do with a lady in a 4x4 who had hit 2 other vehicles recently. Luckily her registration was obtained by an onlooker who reported it to the Police and the matter was now being dealt with by them.

However Veronica said there had been an incident where a young child had been hit by a car but she had not seen any follow up reports in relation to this. Cllr Eadie was also aware that an accident had occurred but had also not heard anything further.

This item will be retained on the agenda for the next meeting in case anything further was to be addressed.

Cllr Finn reported that parking restrictions on Christchurch Lane had now been confirmed and he would let Geoff have a copy of the final plans which would be put into place in the very near future.

- 6) **Walsall Road HGV Weight Restrictions** - Cllr Finn reported that the pinchpoint at the top of Walsall Road which was to prevent the large HGVs travelling along Walsall Road was clearly not working and will be re-looked at. It was suggested that an offset/chicane arrangement similar to that in Shortbutts Lane may be the way to go but he will keep us informed.
- 6) **Grassed pavement areas in Alesmore Meadow** – This was an ongoing issue and Cllr Finn had now informed us that this was now being discussed again as it was clearly a health & safety issue. The fact that there had been a few ‘near misses’ did not count as a reason to readdress this, however Cllr Finn assured us that this was going to be looked at again and will keep us informed on any progress. Dave asked if anything had happened in relation to the photos he sent with regard to inconsiderate parking of a vehicle in Alesmore Meadow. Geoff reported no response had been received. However if all those affected reported it also maybe something could be achieved. Reports should be made to clear.streets@staffordshire.gov.uk in the first instance and a follow up letter to the Parking Enforcement Agency. Details are on the Council website.
- 7) **Potholes** – The question was directed to Cllr Finn as to why we have seen road surfacing being done between the Bowling Green public house and the island linking onto the ring road, and also from Wall Island up to the roundabout by Falkland Road, yet none of the dangerous potholes on the roundabouts in Lichfield had been addressed.
He reported that they are on the list to do but further heavy equipment was required to dig deep under the initial road surface in order to refill with hardcore before tarmacking over, but assured us they on the list to be done.
Anyone wishing to report such potholes can do so on the following website, if photos are available then they can be forwarded also.
<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#top>
- 8) **Blair House Pathway** – Nothing to report as Cllr Smith was unable to attend the Meeting, but concerns were raised at the length of time this is taking to be completed, due to an error in erecting the barrier in the wrong place.
- 9) **Lichfield City Station Toilets** – Geoff informed the committee that he had met with the Rail Promotion Group who informed him that the toilets had been closed on advice of British Transport Police who reported that they were being used by drug addicts. The Committee agreed that Geoff would send a letter direct to London Midland to see what response they gave for these toilets being closed. If they are to be closed permanently then the signs advertising their availability should be removed.
- 10) **Quiz Night** – The Summer Quiz was again very well attended with a profit having been made. It was agreed to hold another one to be advertised as a “Christmas Quiz” on Saturday 3rd December (room availability to be confirmed). Sandra was again designated the position as quizmaster after the success of the last quiz that was enjoyed by all. Mulled wine and mince pies to be the main refreshments offered along with the usual tea, coffee and soft drinks.

11) Lagoon Project – Major concerns were expressed in relation to these pools. It now appears there are gold coloured fish in all of the pools even the pool known as the Swan Pool. It was not know if these were baby carp or other types of fish but it was a real concern. Pool 1 (nearest to Waitrose) is almost completely covered with reeds and it was reported that we had not yet received a response to the letter we sent direct to John Smith in this regard. Cllr Eadie suggested we re-send the letter and copy it in to Neil Turner.
It had also been noticed that the lamp-posts on all the pathways are a disgrace with paintwork peeling off and they needed to be looked it.
Can Cllr Smith please suggest a way forward on these issues.

11) Friarsgate – Cllr Eadie reported that the Friarsgate planning had finally been approved last week and arrangements were going ahead for the re-location of Tempest Ford to Eastern Avenue. Once this move was complete work should then begin as monies are already in place for this development.

12) Cricket Lane Development – Although this does not impeded on Leomansley directly Geoff though it was worth mentioning. Cllr Finn reported that the development proposals were to include housing alongside warehouse facilities and discussions were afoot in relation to the traffic flow into the development and its affect on the current flow of traffic onto to A38.

13) Website – nothing to report

14) Any Other Business –

Dawn expressed her concern at the parking of vehicles on big occasions such as the Lichfield Bower, where cars were being parked all around the estate, anywhere a space could be found which was causing traffic flow through the estate to become restricted. Once the new Friarsgate development is complete was provision being made for parking for visitors being attracted to Lichfield? Cllr Eadie felt that the new multi-storey should be sufficient to accommodate the numbers expected.

David Wilson homes have had their planning application approved for the field adjacent to Rosemary Lodge Nursing home and Limburg Avenue.

Sandra asked why property development at The Angel Croft was no longer going ahead. The building was now derelict despite a board advertising new apartments would be becoming available. Cllr Finn reported that the frontage of The Angel Croft is listed so anyone taking on the development has to take this into consideration. Cllr Eadie advised that once planning permission is granted then the developer has up to 3 years to carry out the project. Nothing new can be done until this time has expired.

Veronica reported that she will have new neighbours moving in next door to her. Apparently the house has been purchased by the Lichfield Diocese to be used for retired clergy.

Veronica also reported complaints from some residents in relation to the amount of dog mess around the open spaces on the estate and wondered if more dog bins

could be put up. Cllr Eadie said provision of dog bins should be sufficient and felt that some of the culprits may be children taking the dogs for a walk and not bothering to clear up.

Cllr Finn asked if we as a Committee would like to hold our next Committee meeting on 5th July in the room at the new Fire Station in Lichfield. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and would give us an insight to the facilities it contains. He would check on the date and get back to us to confirm.

Jeff reported that there had been reports of children on the roof of Darwin Hall. This was a safety concern not just a worry in case of any damage they may cause. He asked if anyone saw any children on the roof to remind them they are on CCTV and if possible to take a photo to be forwarded on to PCSO Elaine Ford.

Finally Paul felt it was necessary to mention the outburst earlier when a member of the Committee walked out of the meeting. He said that everyone was entitled to their opinion on all issues discussed at our meetings, but that they should be addressed via the Chair and respect should be given to the person to whom the question or response was directed, with time given in the appropriate way for them to respond. All the Committee agreed.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 22.10hrs.

Date of next meetings Tuesday 5th July at 19.30hrs (Venue to be confirmed) and Tuesday 13th September at 20.00hrs 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