

Parklands Residents' Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parklands Residents' Association held in the Parklands Community Centre on Tuesday 02 November 2004 at 7.30 pm.

Present

Ken Dowsett (Chair)	Maxine Little (Minutes)
Marion Baker	Barbara Muddiman
Jackie Bedford	John Muddiman
Jean Bradshaw	Rhett Norris
Brian Canavan	Liz Percival
Gill Coombs	Jill Sanderson
Wendy Cooper	Sylvia Shepherd
John Croft	Peggy Wayman
Mike Hallam	Michael Willis
Simon Hegarty	Jill Winstanley
Barbara Lee	

Apologies

Rodger Bradshaw	John Livingston
Eileen Canavan	Anita Smith
Brian Cooper	Jackie Richardson
Angela Harris	
Bob Harris	John Delahunty (NBC)
Ann Livingston	Cllr Brandon Eldred
	Andy Young (Local Beat Officer)

ACTION

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that it was good to see so many people had turned out.

It was noted that apologies had been received from Andy Young who was the new Beat Officer. It was reported that Andy had commented that he was very interested in attending future meetings and would try to get to as many as possible. The group was told that that they may have seen Andy out and about already, he often rode a motorbike.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 September 2004

The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated, were agreed as read.

3. Matters Arising

5.3 Traffic Light Timings

The timing of the traffic lights at the junction of Spinney Hill Road and Kettering Road had not been altered.

5.4 Planning Permission for New School Buildings

Liz Percival had attended the exhibition at Parklands Primary School to view the proposed plans for the new school buildings and fed back her findings to the meeting. The main entrance to NSG would still be on Spinney Hill Road. There would be an area at the side of the school for buses to turn round, set down and pick up. During the construction phase, there would be monitoring of site traffic using Spinney Hill Road. The exhibition was also taking place at Parklands Primary School the following evening, Wednesday 03 November.

Ken thanked Liz and reminded everyone that once a formal planning permission request had been submitted, residents would have an opportunity to raise any objections at the Planning Meeting.

6.1 Proposal to Widen Side Gate

There had been no further information received about the widening of the gate at the Chemists to accommodate Tesco Deliveries.

6.2 Other Coppice Drive Shops

Following the concerns about the change of use of the hairdressers it had been observed that the property was now to let, so the new use was still not known.

6.3 Deliveries

It was reported that Tesco were still coning off the section of road in front of the store when deliveries were expected.

6.4 Proposed waiting restrictions

It appeared that the builders were no longer parking all day at Coppice Drive. With regard to waiting restrictions and use of the bus laybys for deliveries, Brandon Eldred had spoken to John Harvey of the County Council Highways Department and was awaiting his response. The meeting heard that NCC was looking to stop all parking restrictions outside of the town centre. It was therefore proposed that John Harvey from Northamptonshire County Council be invited to the next meeting of the Residents' Association.

KD

7.1 Traffic Calming and Safety Near Schools

Ken read out the information that he had received from Brandon Eldred about the traffic calming scheme for Parklands. Based on the two main criteria of reported accidents and deprivation Parklands had been placed 198th on the list so it would be expected that it would be around 2 years before any action was taken. The meeting was very disappointed at hearing this news. Brandon Eldred had indicated that he would be complaining to Mick Young, Leader of the County Council. It was agreed that this item should be carried forward to the next meeting.

WC

At the last meeting a request had been made that minutes be circulated to both schools. Ken read out the positive reply that had been received from Sally Gedney, the new Headteacher of Parklands Primary School. Sylvia Shepherd offered to send in a copy of her minutes with her daughter who works in the School Office. Maxine Little apologised that some copies of the minutes went out late. Now that she had an e-mail address for the school, future copies would be sent electronically.

ML

A request was made that a copy of the minutes also be distributed to Parklands Nursery School.

ML

It was stressed that there was an open invitation for a representative from each school to attend the Residents' Association meetings whenever they wanted.

7.2 Grass Verges

There was still the same concerns about the parking of vehicles on the grass verges. It was noted at the last meeting that Brandon Eldred had spoken to Phil Moore about this issue. However now that Andy Young had taken over as the Beat Officer, it was felt that this issue should be revisited. It was agreed that this item would be carried forward to the next meeting. Ken Dowsett would find out from John Delahunty who the Borough Council contact would be on this issue.

WC
KD

7.4 Vermin and Weeds

Liz Percival reported that the banks of earth around the mobile classrooms at the NSG East Site had now been strimmed and she had been informed that this would happen biannually.

Barbara Muddiman told the meeting that after contacting the Environmental Health Department, the 'Rat Man' had been out and the rats had been removed. However the corner in Devon Way was still badly overgrown.

7.5 Policing of Fields

This item would be carried forward to the next meeting, when it was hoped that Andy Young would be in attendance.

WC

10.2 Suggestions from Kings Heath

The meeting agreed that it had been good of Kings Heath Residents' Association members to attend the last meeting. Following their suggestion e-mail addresses would be collated to try to lower distribution costs and also allow a speedier response time on any urgent issues that arose. Members were asked to add their e-mail address to the attendance list circulated. A new telephone list was circulated by Wendy Cooper. Liz offered to distribute copies of minutes to those living nearby.

4. Chairman's Report

Ken and Brandon had met with Penny Westwood, Headteacher of Northampton School for Girls. He reported that there were no changes to the current transport arrangements. Following a brief discussion members requested clarification about access by the Girls to the East Site via the gate in Goodwood Avenue.

5. Secretary's Report

Wendy had nothing extra to report.

6. Treasurers' Report

It was agreed by everyone present that the Treasurers should now open a bank account for the Association and that there should be five signatories, Chair, Vice Chair, both Treasurers and the Secretary.

Anyone who had any out of pocket expenses was invited to apply to the Treasurers for reimbursement.

7. Constitution

It was agreed by all present that the draft constitution should be adopted subject to one amendment. That in section 6 Annual General Meeting "Residents will be given **8 weeks** notice of the date of the AGM".

Everyone submitted ideas for inclusion in the Application to the Borough Council for a Grant. Ken Dowsett noted the suggestions and would incorporate these into the application which he would make on behalf of the association.

KD

8. Neighbourhood Watch

Barbara Lee had been back in contact with the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator but unfortunately he had been unable to attend the meeting. Barbara would invite him to the next meeting.

BL

The meeting heard about the recent incidents during 'Trick or Treat' when walls in Coppice Drive were vandalised and elderly residents were fearful. It was also reported that the Post Office had been raided and that a bonfire had been lit under the wooden door at the Post Office. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that Neighbourhood Watch would be carried forward to the next meeting when it was hoped that both the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Local Beat Officer would be able to attend.

WC

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Mast

On behalf of Anita Smith, Barbara Lee requested an update on the situation with the phone mast at Coppice Drive.

It was explained that local residents had first heard about the proposal to erect a 12' mast at the parking area in front of the shops when a notice had appeared at Coppice Drive shops. Brandon Eldred had been contacted immediately and he had approached the Borough Council Planners who had advised that the decision would be made by the Planning Officer and it did not have to go to Committee. Brandon had tried to elicit support from Cynthia Spencer Hospice, however they did not appear to be concerned. Since the hospice is in Eastfield Ward it will be difficult to pursue this area of concern much further. Residents were concerned that a mast would affect residents, local school children and workers at nearby premises.

John Croft reported that he had raised an objection to the planning application and had submitted it to the Borough Council, but had received a reply stating that the consultation period had expired and no responses had been received. Brian Canavan had received a similar response however his letter was received before the date of the decision notice. Decision Notice was dated 14.10.04. Brian Canavan received his letter on 12.10.04 and John Croft on 15.10.04. The meeting was very concerned that residents had not been given sufficient notice to lodge any appeals, and that where they had raised objections these appear to have been overlooked by the Planning Officer. Mike Hallam was asked to take details back to Brandon Eldred to pursue with the Borough Council Planning Department.

MH, BE

The Residents Association were concerned at the lack of time to appeal and question the legality of the decision that has been taken.

The meeting discussed ownership of the land where the mast would be sited. It was heard that the Council had removed two trees, but it was agreed that they would be permitted to do this because they maintain the land. A suggestion was made that the Land registry be contacted to clarify ownership, however it was felt that it would probably come back as being common land.

It was agreed that if anyone heard anything further about the erection of the masts that they should start to contact others. It was clarified that the petition at the Chemists was sent to O₂. It was disappointing that the photographs taken by the Chronicle and Echo never appeared in the newspaper.

10.2 Shops on Oulton Rise

Rhett Norris expressed his concern about the tidiness of the area outside the shops on Oulton Rise. It was heard that the Suite Centre was now owned by a London Company. The Borough Council should be contacted to request litter clearance. It was agreed that copies of minutes should be distributed to all shops at Oulton Rise and Coppice Drive.

ML

10.3 Parking Devon Way

Barbara Muddiman reported problems with parking in Devon Way on Saturdays when footballers arrived. They would regularly park on both sides of the road and on the verges, and made access extremely difficult. It was suggested that Alan (Sports) be approached to have a word with the footballers and ask them to be more considerate.

10.4 Tesco Update

Mike Hallam reported that Brandon Eldred, Phil Larratt (Leader of Northampton Borough council) and himself had managed to meet with the Commercial team from Tesco. They had agreed that delivery times could be changed. Brandon Eldred now has a contact and should delivery times slip they can go back to Tesco. Brandon is still negotiating to try to get either one delivery per day via articulated lorry or a maximum of two deliveries per day by smaller vehicle. It was reported that cones are still being put out. Mike Hallam suggested that any incidents like this be noted down and Brandon could then feed specific details to Tesco. John Croft said that he had noticed the improvements, for instance the fish lorry was now arriving later in the morning at around 7.30 am instead of 4.30 am. In addition to the Head Office contact that Brandon had, it was also suggested that we still discuss any specific issues with the Store Manager in a calm manner. The situation would continue to be monitored.

10.5 Tea and Coffee

Liz offered to supply tea and make drinks for everyone at future meetings. Everyone thanked her and agreed that this was a kind gesture and would be appreciated by all but especially by those who had to come straight out after work.

LP

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 18 January 2005 at 7.00 pm in Parklands Community Centre.

Distribution List

All Attendees

All Officers and Committee Members

Bob and Angela Harris

John Delahunty

Cllr Brandon Eldred

Andy Young

Parklands Primary School

Parklands Nursery School

Northampton School for Girls

All Shops on Oulton Rise and Coppice Drive

Copy to be displayed at The Barn

Copy to be displayed at The Community Centre

Distributed via e-mail

Jean and Roger Bradshaw

Brian Canavan

Brian and Wendy Cooper

Ken Dowsett

Simon Hegarty

Mike Hallam

Maxine Little

Rhett Norris

Sylvia Shepherd

Michael Willis

Cllr Brandon Eldred

John Delahunty

Sally Gedney

Penny Westwood