

Parklands Residents' Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parklands Residents' Association held in the Parklands Community Centre on Tuesday 25 September 2007 at 7.00 pm.

Present

Tony Bull	Maxine Little (Minutes)
Brian Canavan	Barbara Muddiman
Brian Cooper (Chair)	John Muddiman
Wendy Cooper	Ged Norris
John Croft	Rhett Norris
Chris Evans	Liz Percival
Pauline Gothard	Jill Sanderson
Philip Gothard	Sylvia Shepherd
Mike Hallam (items 1, 2 & 5 only)	Peggy Wayman
Richard Harrison	Cllr Malcolm Mildren
Simon Hegarty	

1. Apologies

Barbara Lee	Jill Winstanley
Ann Livingston	Cllr Brandon Eldred
John Livingston	Cllr Portia Wilson

ACTION

2. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting after the summer break.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting held on Tuesday 29 May 2007

The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated, were agreed subject to one amendment.

- Item 5 – It was Sylvia Shepherd and not Barbara Muddiman who had experienced an attempted break-in.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Poor Parking Around the Estate

Tony Bull reported that he had been noting numbers of cars parked in Goodwood Avenue and passing them to the Nationwide, who had agreed that they would speak to drivers if they were found to be their employees.

4.2 Model Helicopter Competition

Unfortunately the noise monitoring equipment installed by the Borough Council Environmental Health Department had failed to work, therefore no data was available for the noise levels. In general the noise levels had been lower than last year.

5. Report from County Councillor

Mike Hallam delivered a report on behalf of Cllr Brandon Eldred who was unable to attend the meeting in person due to a prior engagement.

Cllr Eldred had been promoted to Assistant Cabinet Member at the County Council, this was a newly created role and Cllr Eldred would be supporting Cllr Tavener Cabinet Member for Community Safety and would be working on an early intervention project for young people.

Brandon Eldred had been working with Parklands Tigers Football Club to secure funding for changing rooms and boot grids. Simon Hegarty queried whether Adrian Arnold at WNDC had been made aware of this funding, since plans had been announced to try to include changing rooms in the calculation for section 106 finance should the middle school development proceed.

Cllr Eldred was still dealing with complaints about the building works on the Northampton School for Girls main site, including whether the building differed from the plans. This was still ongoing, he would report back as soon as he had any further news.

Additional 30mph signs had been installed in Spinney Hill Road, however residents were disappointed that they had not been fastened properly to lampposts as not only were they not visible to drivers, they were also untidy. Mike Hallam agreed to report this back to the County Council.

MH

Brian Canavan asked whether there was any news on the reinstallation of missing safety barriers at the junction of Spinney Hill Road and Coppice Drive. This was an ongoing issue that residents had reported several times. Mike Hallam was not aware of progress and said that he would raise this again with Cllr Seery, Cabinet Member for Highways.

MH

Residents reported severe traffic delays on Spinney Hill Road at peak times being aggravated by poor timing sequences on the traffic lights at the junction of Kettering Road. Mike Hallam agreed to report this to the County Council. This was an issue that would come under the remit of the traffic project, previously announced by Cllr Wilson, Brian Cooper would chase on progress.

**MH
BC, PW**

Mike Hallam apologised that he had to leave early to attend another meeting, but reminded the meeting that if there were any issues relating to the County Council that these could always be reported to himself or Cllr Eldred.

6. Chair's Report

6.1 School Trips

Recent school trips from NSG had departed and arrived at 3 am in the morning. This had caused a great deal of noise and inconvenience to neighbouring properties. The school had put a letter through doors, however the noise would have been curtailed had the school gates been opened to allow vehicles to park and turn in the school grounds.

6.2 Thomas Becket School – Academy Status

Thomas Becket School had contacted the Residents' Association to seek their support in the school's application to become a sports academy. Their letter outlining the reasons for their application was read out to the meeting who all agreed that the Chair send a letter of support on behalf of Parklands Residents' Association.

BC

6.3 Bradlaugh Fields Barriers

Brian Cooper had found out from the Council that the missing barriers were to be replaced with wider barriers to allow disabled access.

7. Secretary's Report

Details had been received about the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. This was an initiative involving WNDC, the Borough and County Councils and other organisations to plan what should happen to West Northamptonshire over the next 20 years. Public meetings would be held and details for these would be displayed locally in shops etc.

8. Treasurers' Report

A donation of £10 had been received from Mr Beresford.

9. Borough Councillors' Report

Cllr Mildren delivered a report on behalf of himself and Cllr Wilson (who was unable to attend the meeting).

Portia Wilson was working on the traffic project, she would be gathering a committee probably around October to look into all traffic and parking issues on the Parklands estate. Findings and actions would be published and circulated in due course. Issues raised by residents that Malcolm Mildren would feedback to Portia;

- Lorries still making deliveries during school drop off and pick up times.
- Parking on zig-zag lines at the primary school
- Double yellow lines in Devon Way and proposals for further lines – but how would this be policed?
- What was happening with the survey for a parking scheme in Goodwood Avenue?

Simon Hegarty urged all residents to report these issues as they arose, and to obtain reference numbers to ensure that they were actually logged. This would help in building up a definitive record of the problems with traffic on the estate which could be used to demonstrate to bodies such as the County Council that traffic was a problem.

Cllr Mildren updated the meeting on general progress at the Borough Council. The Audit Commission had published a report to indicate that the Council was now moving in the right direction (although slowly). They would revisit in November. The new Chief Executive, David Kennedy, would take up his post from 1 November. The budget setting process was about to begin, once again this would be a difficult process. Sylvia Shepherd expressed her concern that funding to the voluntary sector may be cut yet again, and how badly this would once again affect groups in this sector. Cllr Mildren noted her concern.

10. Parklands Middle School Site

Simon Hegarty provided further update on progress with the campaign to prevent the proposed development of the Parklands Middle School site.

- There was still no date for the planning application to be heard by WNDC, who had still not had the information that they were waiting for from Atkins and Northamptonshire County Council. Again, if the application should go to committee before the next meeting everyone would be contacted.
- Brian and Simon had attended a meeting arranged by Sally Keeble with representatives from the County Council, Barratts and WNDC. At this meeting Adrian Arnold had agreed that where new information had been submitted to the planning application, there would be a case for a limited reopening of the public consultation, for instance a revised traffic assessment was expected. A further meeting was scheduled for 12 October, Brian Cooper and Simon Hegarty would attend to represent the Residents Association.
- Simon requested that residents assist in building up evidence that could be used to challenge a revised traffic assessment (if necessary). Where there were traffic jams and congestion could people take photographs and send these to himself or Brian. Also a reminder to continue to report any problems to the police so that there was a formal record.
- It was still not known who owned the land near to the entrance of the community centre which would be needed to widen Devon Way to allow for access to any new development. Simon Hegarty offered to contact the Land

registry to obtain this information, however there was likely to be a small fee. The meeting took a vote and agreed that they would permit up to £50 to be spent on obtaining this information.

SH

- The Village Green application had been submitted to the County Council and a public notice had appeared in the local paper and on the school gates. It was expected that the County Council and Barratts would object.
- A meeting had been arranged with a solicitor for all householders immediately adjoining the school site to explain the process of prescriptive easements, which they may be eligible for. All agreed it had been a useful meeting. Individuals now needed to decide if they wished to pursue this course of action.
- The Section 77 Application to the Secretary of State to permit development on the site was expected to be heard by an advisory panel in November.

Mr and Mrs Gothard asked whether the building of the new schools were on target. The general consensus was that the senior school was behind and the primary school ahead of schedule, apparently builders had been moved from the primary building site to NSG to help out. The target finish date was September 2008.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Graffiti

Tony Bull reported that graffiti was a problem again in some of the alleyways. Simon Hegarty advised that this should be reported to the Borough Council.

TB

11.2 Fundraising

Concern was raised that although the organisation had some reserves, these were limited and reducing. Money would probably be needed to continue the fight against development of the middle school site. A householder backing onto the school playing fields had offered to hold a gathering and open up their gate onto the fields for a BBQ or similar event that could be used as a social and fundraiser. Members were asked to put forward any other ideas that they may have. It was agreed that the group should also investigate whether any further grants were available.

All
ML

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 27 November at 7.00 pm at the Parklands Community Centre.

Distribution List

All Attendees
All Officers and Committee Members
All Parklands Ward Councillors
Lindsey Ambrose
PCSO David Bullock
PCSO Lucy Atkinson
Tony Nuamah
Parklands Tigers Football Club
Parklands Nursery School
Parklands Primary 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 Community Centre

Distributed via e-mail

Brian Canavan
Brian and Wendy Cooper
Mike Hallam
Simon Hegarty
Maxine Little
Rhett Norris
Sylvia Shepherd
County and Borough Councillors
Council Officers
Police Community Support Officers
School Heads
Parklands Tigers FC