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AGRA

**Allesley Green Residents' Association Meeting
Tuesday 10 October 2017
Park Hill Primary School 7.00pm**

Apologies:

Guro & Aurik Khatkar
Mike & Katie Cruise
Moyra Gibbs
Alan & Eunice Nixon
Mary Williams

Attendance: As per Attendance Register

Minutes: Liliias Maddock

Welcome and Introductions:

Tony Simons welcomed residents, Richard Copland, Councillor Male, Councillor Ridley and Councillor Lepoidevin to the meeting.

Our Local Countryside and Wildlife – Richard Copland

Richard Copland a local wildlife photographer gave a presentation on the flora and fauna of the areas around Allesley Green and Allesley Village which showed the plethora of birds and wildlife which can be enjoyed around the area.

Richard recommended the follow website for those who would like to explore the area:

<http://www.coventry-walks.org.uk/>

Tony Simons thanked Richard on behalf of the residents.

Review of the Minutes of the last meeting on 14 June 2017

The following outstanding actions were discussed:

- **Proposed Speed watch in Park Hill Drive.** It had been decided at the last meeting that this event be postponed till after the summer months, Councillor Ridley advised that this would be easy to arrange once volunteers had been identified. Councillor Lepoidevin advised that it would be important to undertake this event when traffic levels were at their peak.
- **Clarification as to whether there should have been four sets of traffic lights at Park Hill roundabout.** Councillor Lepoidevin advised that she was awaiting a response from council officers and would report back as soon as this was clarified.
- Some of the **Health & Safety concerns around the slide in Juniper Park** have now been addressed by council workers who have compacted the soil around the slide. However it was agreed that further work needs to be done to address these concerns. Tony Simons advised that steps either side of the slide would be required to avoid further soil erosion. This will be followed up by Colin Smith and Tony Simons.
- **Juniper Park – Phase 2.** Tony Simons advised that more funding would be required in order to make further improvements to the area and that funding applications would be made around next Spring. Colin Smith asked whether residents had any suggestions as to how the area could be improved.
- **Future of Woodlands School.** Councillor Lepoidevin advised that she had not received any new information about the proposed use of this area and that she would keep the association updated.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
To organise a Speed watch in Park Hill Drive	Residents who wish to take part to notify AGRA Committee	As soon as possible (avoiding school half term)
Clarify whether there should have been four sets of traffic lights at Park Hill roundabout	Councillor Lepoidevin	As the information becomes available
Health & Safety repairs to slide in Juniper Park. Steps to be added to the side of the slide	Tony Simons/Colin Smith	As Soon as possible
Suggestions for improvements to Juniper Park.	Allesley Green residents to make contact with committee	As soon as possible
Future of Woodlands School - updates	Councillor Lepoidevin	As the information becomes available

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017 were approved as a correct record - Keith Jackson & Michael Ashby proposed acceptance of the minutes.

Police Report

Tony Simons advised that Sergeant Johanna Comer had now left the Woodlands Ward policing area and that her replacement had not been available to attend the meeting.

Colin Smith presented an update on local crime statistics which were for the month of August 2017. Colin advised that there had been a high level of shop lifting crimes in Tile Hill, Bannerbrook and at Martin's News shop. Also that there had been a high level of domestic violence incidents in the Woodlands Ward. Colin also reported that 14 people from the Woodlands Ward had been given prison sentences in August. Tony Simons advised that crime statistics in the Allesley Green area remained low.

Local Plan Update

Tony Simons provided an update on the status of the Local Plan.

He advised that the Warwick Local Plan had been approved by the government inspector. Areas around Baginton, King's Hill, Finham, Burton Green and Westwood Heath will experience the impact of this Plan.

Tony provided an update on the actions being taken by the 'Keep our greenbelt green' group regarding a potential judicial review. AGRA representatives have attended these meetings. The main challenge will be around the ONS data which has informed both the Coventry and Warwick Plan which is believed to be inaccurate.

Peter Maddock attended a meeting of this group on 10 October and advised that the barrister working for this group has advised that the main challenge and common aim for both the Coventry Plan and Warwick Plan is on the Coventry population numbers. The group is in the process of setting up a limited company and have currently got £20,000 available to pay for the first stage of a judicial review. The legal application for the judicial review is to be lodged by 27 October with the deadline for submission being 2 November 2017.

Tony advised that following several weeks of delay the Inspector's Report, had now been received by Coventry City Council planning officers, who were currently fact checking the document with the planning inspectorate. Once these checks are completed the document will be available in the public domain during the next couple of weeks. The next planned Cabinet meeting is 5 December 2017, however Councillor Ridley confirmed that it would be possible for an extra ordinary Cabinet meeting to be arranged before this date if officers request this.

If the Plan were to be accepted at the Cabinet meeting it would then be presented at a full Council meeting for approval. Councillor Ridley advised that there would be no further consultation period and that once decisions were made at Cabinet and Full Council meetings that the Plan would then be adopted.

Tony advised that some members of the AGRA committee had met with Hallam Developers who are the proposers for all of the land on Eastern Green (Site H2:2), apart from the golf course area. The committee made it clear to Hallam that they are still opposing any development, however they felt that it was prudent to have an awareness of the proposals should the Local Plan approve building on this green belt area. The committee challenged the developers on the following areas: traffic issues, including contractor's traffic; Community facilities; open green spaces; location of shops; location of affordable housing and apartment

blocks; location of pub; tree planting and retention of existing trees; separation of new area from Allesley Green and flood risk. It was noted that the developer did not have answers to many of these questions.

Councillor Ridley advised that the Woodlands Ward councillors had also met with Hallam Developers as an intelligence gathering exercise and confirmed that their position had not changed and that they believe that brownfield sites should be used first before releasing green belt land to developers and also that a phasing approach should be adopted. The councillors are mindful of the lessons learned on the Bannerbrook estate where there was a shortfall in delivering all that was promised.

Greg Smith highlighted the fact that traffic issues would be extremely problematic for Eastern Green residents and expressed his hope that residents of both areas would work together on this issue.

Betty Griffiths asked whether the name of the proposed developers for the golf area was known and it was suggested that this might be Bracewell Holdings. Colin Smith advised that the Windmill Hotel had a protection order and would therefore not be affected by any development.

Betty also asked whether any specific supermarkets had expressed an interest in opening a store on the site – it was confirmed that none of the supermarkets had shown an interest so far.

Councillor Ridley confirmed that Hallam Developers are marketing the site on behalf of the landowners but would still be required to go to the council to apply for planning permission. Councillor Ridley raised his concerns that the Local Plan had not identified accurate housing needs or housing numbers and that he was concerned that a Housing Needs assessment which is planned for next year should have been undertaken prior to the Plan being developed in order to ascertain more accurate information.

Tony Simons advised that the AGRA committee would be writing to Coventry City councillors requesting their support to retain green belt land and also asking a series of questions regarding the accuracy of data used to determine housing needs; why they wish to build warehousing and industrial units on green belt land; asking that they consider regeneration of current housing stock and highlighting infrastructure pressures.

Coventry to Solihull Bus Service No 82

Tony Simons advised that several residents had raised their concerns that the bus service no 82 to Solihull no longer stopped in Allesley Green. The AGRA committee have undertaken a recent survey of its members and also on the local Face Book page and had around 50 responses, with the majority of people expressing the view that they would use this bus if it were to be reinstated. It was identified that several students at Solihull College were having to catch the bus from Allesley Village each day.

It was agreed that Tony Simons and Councillor Male would meet again with Councillor David Welsh who sits on the West Midlands Transport Authority committee to request the reinstatement of this bus route to Allesley Green.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Centro Bus Service 82 – follow up action. To meet with Councillor David Welsh	Councillor Male and Tony Simons	As soon as possible

Juniper Park – Volunteers Required

Tony Simons requested volunteers to support improvements to Juniper Park which will take place on 27 & 28 October 10.30 – 2.30, in conjunction with Coventry City Council rangers and volunteers from Warwick University.

Work which will be undertaken is as follows:

- Improving path by the footbridge
- Pruning overgrown trees and shrubs
- Planting of over 1,000 spring bulbs

Colin Smith advised that volunteers should meet at the children’s play area in Juniper Park at 10.30 am on each of the days and recommended wearing appropriate clothing, gloves and where possible to bring their own equipment such as secateurs, spades, trowels, dibbers.

A resident asked why in some areas that grass was no longer being cut. Tony Simons advised that this was a result of budget restrictions, however agreed that the area really needs to be cut more than twice a year and that he is trying to negotiate this.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Juniper Park improvements initiative	AGRA Committee, Allesley Green Residents	27 & 28 October 2017

Quiz & Chips

The quiz and chips evening will take place on Friday 13 October – 7.00 pm at Massey Ferguson Club. Tickets are £9.00 for adults and £5.00 for children. Food will be served around 8.00 pm.

Carols in the Close

This event will take place again this year on either 19 or 20 December around the Birch Close area. It is hoped that some additional singers will lead the concert this year. Confirmation of the date of this event will be circulated when the date is known.

Councillors' Report & Questions

Councillor Ridley advised of the content of the Cabinet Meeting which took place 10 October 2017 which included a report on the potential purchase of the Coombe Abbey Hotel by Coventry City Council. Councillor Ridley expressed his concern that this report had been kept confidential by the ruling labour group until 24 hours prior to the meeting – he therefore took the decision that the conservative group would not support this proposal as they were unable to quantify any risks at such short notice.

Keith Jackson asked for clarification as to what progress had been made on clearing up the staining to pavements which had been made by Virgin Media contractors and highlighted a cracked pavement outside his home. Councillor Lepoidevin agreed to continue liaising with Virgin Media to find a solution to this and advised that she had met with a customer liaison officer, a council representative and residents recently to discuss this ongoing issue. Councillor Lepoidevin confirmed that there is a 2 year guarantee on the work which was undertaken.

Tony Simons advised that Coventry City Council will not permit an en masse jet washing exercise asserting that this would foul the drains – they had however agreed that individual residents could undertake this process.

Mike Littlewood suggested that Virgin Media should be asked to make a sizeable donation to AGRA to compensate for the inconvenience which has been caused.

Bryan Williams highlighted the fact that he was still collecting slime and debris which was running down towards his house from a neighbouring road.

It was agreed that ongoing dialogue with Virgin Media and council officers was required.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Outstanding issues regarding Virgin Media work to be resolved	Councillor Lepoidevin and AGRA committee	Ongoing

Dog Fouling

Tony Simons raised an issue regarding dog fouling around Juniper Park on behalf of Mike Cruise. He advised that it was important to protect the area and requested that dog walkers take responsibility for clearing away any mess made by their dogs.

Information, support and advice on how to report dog fouling can be found on the AGRA website:

<http://www.allesleygreenresidentsassociation.co.uk/Community>

A resident from Larkfield Way again raised her concerns about the safety of navigating the roundabout at the bottom of Park Hill Drive and cited examples of drivers failing to stop when leaving the A45 coming from the Birmingham direction and suggested that rumble strips might slow the traffic down. Councillor Lepoidevin suggested that this would be a suitable area for undertaking a speed watch initiative.

Thank You for your support

Tony Simons thanked all the residents who have supported the association during the last quarter by delivering AGRA newsletters.

April Wickes	Bryan & Mary Williams
Theresa Mason	Debbie Roach
Sarah Cockrill	Stephen Turner
Joy Beasley	John Payne
Jeremy & Julie Friend	Janice Greatrex
Dave Ruff	Wayne Guy

Thanks were also extended to Wyevale Garden Centre, Coventry for their £30.00 donation towards the purchase of spring bulbs.

Meeting Closed: 20.50

Next Quarterly meeting: January/February 2018 - To be confirmed