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AGRA

**Allesley Green Residents' Association Meeting**  
**Tuesday 14 June 2017**  
**Park Hill Primary School 7.00pm**

**Apologies:**

Tony Simons  
Sergeant Johanna Comer – W M Police  
Moyra Gibbs  
Mike & Carol Littlewood  
Carol & Roger Jones  
Mike & Katie Cruise  
Bill & Tina Eve

**Attendance:** As per Attendance Register

**Minutes:** Liliias Maddock

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Ann Smith welcomed residents, Ward Councillors - Julia Lepoidevin, Peter Male, Gary Ridley and four representatives from Virgin Media - Sumeet (Summy) Bangar (Community Liaison Officer), Michelle Johnson (Community Liaison Officer), Jason Brimfield (Regional Build Manager Activate & Technical Build) and Chris Clarke (Build Engineer) to the meeting.

**Virgin Media installation in Allesley Green – Resident's Concerns**

The main issues which have been raised by residents are as follows:

- That recently resurfaced pavements and roads have been dug up and that the standard of work to make good, is a cause for concern.
- Most of the residents were concerned at how the pavements look where work has been undertaken and feel that it detracts from the general demeanour of the area. Lines that had been cut out and filled are not straight and quality of filling is poor. Pavements are covered in dry mud.

- Residents felt strongly that they should have been consulted before this work commenced. They queried why Coventry City Council gave their permission without any consultation taking place with residents.
- Virgin Media confirmed that they had obtained a permit from Coventry City Council to undertake this work and had therefore followed correct procedure – ie of obtaining Highways permission. Virgin Media confirmed that Coventry City Council could restrict some of the work – but could not stop it taking place.
- Concerns that this work was approved by Coventry City Council when they knew that roads had recently been resurfaced. Permission was only obtained in December 2016. Virgin Media advised that pavements had only received surface dressing and had not a full surface tarmac. Coventry City Council could have restricted this work if a full surface tarmac had been undertaken rather than just a surface dressing.
- Residents want assurance that all the debris that has been left around the roads will be cleared up.
- Concerns were raised that dustbins had not been emptied when work was being undertaken, particularly in Larkfield Way and Beaumaris Close. Summi agreed to follow this complaint up.
- Residents highlighted the need for ramps to be provided where pavements had been dug up and were being left unfinished overnight. Residents are not willing to leave their cars elsewhere due to the fact that there has recently been a spate of car vandalism in the area.
- Concerns were raised that Virgin Media staff were not providing enough consideration for prams and wheelchair users when barriers were erected. Obstructions could also prevent access for emergency vehicles.
- A resident raised the issue of how wiring would go under block paving in High Beech area.
- A resident asked why existing work that had been undertaken some years ago on the Allesley Green estate by NTL could not be used by Virgin Media. It was confirmed that this was not a viable proposal.
- A resident suggested that wiring could have been put into grass verges rather than on pavements, particularly along Woodridge Avenue.
- Another resident suggested that existing pipework could have been used to carry wiring.
- Councillor Lepoidevin asked whether any of the work which had been undertaken so far had been inspected/passed by staff from Coventry City Council. Virgin Media advised that they had not, but were within their rights to do so at any time. Councillor Lepoidevin advised that she understood that an additional inspector had been employed to undertake this role.
- Virgin Media advised that once the project was completed Coventry City Council would undertake an inspection and if they are satisfied that the work has been undertaken efficiently that it would be signed off by both parties. Virgin Media confirmed that a two year guarantee on the work would be given from this point in time.

- Summy confirmed that all of the work undertaken by Virgin Media would be done to 'hawk' standard.
- Councillor Male asked how siting of cabinets was agreed and Virgin Media confirmed that a planning team superimposed photos on to proposed sites and that the Council Officers then confirmed siting if they agreed with the location.
- Virgin Media confirmed that there would be 1 cabinet between 50/60 houses – which would amount to around 10 – 14 cabinets within Allesley Green area.
- Virgin Media confirmed that Coventry City Council have seen the plans and have agreed all cabinet siting locations
- A committee member asked whether residents could be given a copy of the plan so that they could be discussed and challenged/changed where necessary.
- Concerns have already been made regarding the siting of the cabinet off Park Hill Drive (just into Beaumaris Close). Can this site be reconsidered?
- Ann Smith asked Virgin Media what they had learned from attending the meeting. They confirmed that they now appreciated the importance of engaging and liaising with residents.
- Ann thanked the Virgin Media staff for their attendance at the meeting.

- **Outstanding Actions:**
- **That plans are to be shared with residents via Allesley Green Residents' Association Committee as soon as possible.**
- **That contact details are made available to residents should they wish to speak to a Virgin Media representative.**
- **That debris is removed from sites and areas cleaned up efficiently.**
- **That planks are made available to access drives where work has not been completed at the end of a working day**
- **Ensure adequate access for prams, wheelchairs and emergency vehicles.**
- **Action by Council Officers – to inspect work that has been completed so far – as soon as possible.**

### **Allesley Green - Road/Traffic issues**

It is hoped that a speed watch supported by local police will take place in the near future to monitor Park Hill Drive and the roundabout at the bottom of the drive. Residents who are willing to take part in this event should notify Liliias Maddock.

Councillor Lepoidevin provided accident statistics which have been collated by Coventry City Council:

**Parkhill Drive/ A45 Roundabout** – 5 recorded 'slight' personal injury collisions over last 3 year period. All collisions were attributed to **driver error** and the majority of these were rear end shunts. 5 slight collisions is considered to be a relatively good safety record by Coventry City Council considering the capacity of the roundabout.

The breakdown of these accidents are as follows:

Severity:	Fatal – 0 Serious – 0 Slight – 5
Lighting:	Day light – 4 Darkness – 1
Road Surface:	Dry – 4 Wet – 1 Snow – 0 Ice – 0 Flood - 0

A resident from Larkfield Way advised that it had been her understanding that that there had originally been a plan for 4 sets of traffic lights around this Park Hill / A 45 roundabout but had been advised that monies had run out before this work could be completed. Councillor Lepoidevin agreed to check this and to clarify reasons for not completing the work.

Linda Jarvis raised her concerns that the traffic lights on the Rye Hill junction of the roundabout confuse drivers coming off the A45 from the Birmingham Road direction – there is a tendency that they proceed over junction when lights are on green without taking notice of the give way line.

Councillor Male asked for clarification as to whether Colin Knight from Coventry City Council had been asked to attend an AGRA meeting. Ann Smith confirmed that he had been invited to the meeting but had to defer until the next quarterly meeting. This invite will be extended once again.

### Centro Bus Service

Councillor Male advised that he had been unable to make contact with Centro regarding the X1 bus timetable. However, he has spoken to the Labour Cabinet Member, David Welsh who is on the Centro Board and it is hoped that he will be able to raise this issue directly with Centro.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
To organise a Speed watch in Park Hill Drive	Residents who wish to take part to notify Liliias Maddock	As soon as possible
Clarify whether there should have been four sets of traffic lights at Park Hill roundabout	Councillor Lepoidevin	As soon as possible

Invitation to Colin Knight to attend the next AGRA meeting	Tony Simons/Ann Smith	Before the next meeting in September/October 2017
Centro Bus Service X1 – follow up action	Councillor Male	As soon as possible

### Local Police Update

Peter Heath provide the latest crime figures for May 2017 which he had received at the bi monthly meeting with local police.

Total Crime for the Westwood Ward (including Tile Hill, Eastern Green and Allesley Green)

63 crimes recorded which included the following:

- 5 burglaries
- 18 assaults
- 12 vehicle crimes
- 15 thefts

Specifically within Allesley Green there were:

- 10 vehicle crimes
- 2 reports of criminal damage
- 1 assault
- 1 Anti-Social Behaviour report taken out.

Colin Smith advised that the next meeting with local police would be on Tuesday 20 June at Fletchamstead Highway Police Station and he advised that residents would be welcome to attend any future meetings.

### Local Plan Update

Peter Maddock provided an update on the current status of the Coventry Local Plan. The modified Local Plan was approved by council on 14 March 2017. Despite a request by the Conservative councillors to include phasing in the modified plan, which would ensure that brownfield sites would be built on first, the ruling Labour council would not support this request.

The modified plan went out to consultation and this ended on 28 April 2017. A significantly high response was made by residents in Allesley Green and Eastern Green and as a result the council did not send these responses on to the government Inspector, Ms Rebecca Phillips until 12 May 2017. The council officers have confirmed that they are still working to the assumption/timetable which is to expect a report from the Inspector by the end of June/early July and they that will keep the Local Plan website updated accordingly.

During the past few months the committee have been made aware that there are key opponents to the Local Plan which includes Geoffrey Robinson MP and Andy Street the newly elected Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority. The committee have remained in contact with these key individuals to maintain the opposition to the Local Plan.

Councillor Ridley advised the meeting of the process that would follow if the Local Plan were to be agreed. The Plan would return to full council around September and there would follow a 6 week period during which the Secretary of State could reject the Plan.

Councillor Ridley outlined his concerns that as the council would be responsible for assessing planning applications that it would be seen to be easier to build on green belt land as it would prove to be more profitable. He also raised his concerns that the impact of Brexit on the economy and future student numbers could adversely impact on population statistics that have been used to formulate the Local Plan.

#### **Treasurer's End of Year Statement**

Please refer to the attached presentation.

Ann Smith, Treasurer confirmed that there had been an increase in membership this year from 116 to 125. It should be noted that a few members had left the area during the past 12 months.

Ann asked for suggestions of any projects that the association could undertake to enhance the area. Suggestions so far: to erect fencing around the newly refurbished Juniper Park playground; to erect a community noticeboard; to place a local wildlife information board around the area. It has been noted that there are several good wildlife photographers around the area and it is hoped that they photos could be added to the AGRA website in future.

#### **Wills & Powers of Attorney – presentation by Peter Heath**

Peter gave a very informative presentation on this subject. A copy of this presentation is attached.

Ann Smith asked for suggestions on what type of presentations residents would like to hear at future meetings. Ideas can be forwarded to Liliias Maddock, Secretary.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Action By</b>	<b>Date Action Required</b>
Ideas for future presentations	AGRA Residents	

## Juniper Park

Ann Smith advised that the newly refurbished Juniper Park was opened by the Bishop of Coventry on 20 March 2017 and this was followed by celebratory tea and cakes. It was acknowledged that the refurbishment has been appreciated by the community.

Coventry City Council are still awaiting delivery of three large boulders that will be placed in the Park.

A resident pointed out that there is a considerable gap between the slide and the earth surrounding it and requested that it be filled in to avoid any injury

Ann Smith advised that ideas were required for Phase 2 of Juniper Park. Suggestions so far include: clearing shrubs close to the brook; creating a pond dipping area; installation of equipment suitable for children who have a disability. It is anticipated that additional funding might be applied for.

A resident raised the issue of dog fouling, particularly within the children's play area. It was suggested that dogs should be kept on a lead around this area until a solution can be found. Residents were reminded that there are suitable bins around the area for disposing of dog waste.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
H & S issue on slide to be addressed	Colin Smith / Tony Simons	As soon as possible
Ideas for Phase 2 of Juniper Park	AGRA Members	

A resident requested an update on the future of Woodlands School. Councillor Lepoideivan confirmed that she would be meeting with the Director of Education week commencing 19 June and would raise this matter.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Feedback on discussion about future of Woodlands School	Councillor Lepoideivan	As soon as possible

## Thank You for your support

Lilias Maddock and Colin Smith thanked all the residents, Councillors and Coventry City Council wardens (50+ people) who have supported the association during the past quarter. This included: Litter Pick, Cutting Back Shrubs, Opening of Juniper Park, Quiz Evening, Easter Egg Hunt, Website, Delivery of leaflets and newsletters and Party in the Park. It was agreed that a great community spirit was developing in the area.

Lilias asked that anyone who is interested in setting up groups in the area such as Reading Group, Photography Group, Art Group, Walking group should get in touch with the committee as information about such groups can be posted on the AGRA website.

Ann Smith thanked all the residents, Councillors and Virgin Media staff for their input at the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 21.08.

Next Quarterly meeting: To be confirmed.

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