



[www.allesleygreenresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://www.allesleygreenresidentsassociation.co.uk)

AGRA

**Allesley Green Residents Association Meeting  
Tuesday 7 March 2017  
Park Hill Primary School 7.00pm**

**Apologies:** Janice & John Greatrex  
Mr & Mrs Singh Khatkar  
Wayne Guy  
Chris & Geraldine Potts

**Attendance:** As per Attendance Register

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Tony Simons welcomed residents, Ward Councillors - Julia Lepoidevin, Peter Male, Gary Ridley and Sergeant Johanna Comer to the meeting.

**Local Police Report – Sergeant Johanna Comer**

Sergeant Comer updated the meeting on her coordinating role within the Woodlands, Wainbody and Westwood neighbourhood policing teams. She advised that the team had recently been reorganised and comprised dedicated police officers and PCSO's.

The team circulate a monthly newsletters which AGRA send out by e mail to members.

The team can be contacted by e mail at:

[woodlands@west-midlands.police.uk](mailto:woodlands@west-midlands.police.uk)

Sergeant Comer can be contacted directly by calling 101 and asking for Ex 8316312

Sergeant Comer provided an overview of a messaging platform called WMNow which is run by West Midlands Police and Partners. This service can support with neighbourhood watch schemes, share information with people nearby, sends updates regarding local crimes and enables users to provide feedback to the police. It is possible to tailor the site to meet your specific needs and interests and can also log whether you have CCTV.

<https://www.wmnow.co.uk/>

Sergeant Comer provided an update on local crimes over the past 31 days:

- Theft from a motor vehicle – Woodridge Avenue (power tools taken). This crime was linked to an organised gang who have been committing similar thefts during January and the beginning of February. Two people have now been arrested which has resulted in a ‘cooling effect’.
- There was a spike in burglaries around February – however this is starting to decrease as a result of a police operation which focussed not only on Coventry but also Birmingham and Walsall.
- Motor Vehicle theft in Polperro Drive on 14 February. It is apparent that there are more car thefts than is usual and it is possibly linked to the ‘blocking of fob signals’.
- Sergeant Comer stressed the importance of reporting all crimes as this enables Police to build a fuller picture of criminal activity.
- Theft of meat from the Sutherland Avenue Co-op. It is known that these thefts are committed by well known drug users who are doing this to fund their lifestyles.
- Conclusion: In the last 7 days there have been no reported crimes in the area. In the last 31 days there have been some vehicle thefts but no burglaries.

Sergeant Comer advised that there is currently a focus on offender management and therefore police activity is not always obvious within the community. Offender management involves regular visits to offenders who are on bail or licence and local intelligence enables those involved in criminal activity to be monitored. The local Neighbourhood Policing Team is committed to lowering the crime rate.

A resident asked whether Sergeant Comer could confirm that there are ex-prisoners; asylum seekers and/or homeless people staying at the Britannia Coventry Hill Hotel in Allesley. Sergeant Comer could not confirm this, however did advise that the local authority sometimes house people who are homeless in local hotels. Sharon Joshi advised that she was aware of anti-social problems related to residents of the Allesley Hotel.

Mike Cruise asked for clarification as to whether local police are responsible for monitoring HGV traffic along Park Hill Drive. Sergeant Comer agreed to clarify this with the Driving Standards Agency.

Councillor Lepoidevin and Councillor Male advised that they had been willing to support a speed watch in Park Hill Drive but had been unable to agree a date with the AGRA Committee Members. Sergeant Comer agreed that this would be a useful exercise.

Veronika Toor expressed her concerns about the high speed, accidents and near miss incidents that are occurring on the roundabout at the bottom of Park Hill Drive.

Councillor Lepoidevin advised that part time lights have been requested for this junction, however the city council do not perceive that there is a safety issue at this roundabout. There has to be more than 6 accidents in a three year period which result in personal injury before it can be formally perceived as a safety issue. Veronika requested that accident statistics be made available to the Residents' Association. Councillor Lepoidevin will follow this up.

Tony Simons thanked Sergeant Comer for her attendance at the meeting, particularly as she had attended when she was off duty.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Action By</b>	<b>Date Action Required</b>
To clarify responsibility for monitoring HGV's travelling along Park Hill Drive	Sergeant Comer	As soon as possible
To organise a Speed watch in Park Hill Drive	Councillors; Committee Members and local residents	As soon as possible
To clarify number of accidents that have occurred at the Park Hill roundabout	Councillor Lepoidevin	As soon as possible

#### **Matters outstanding from last meeting:**

Councillor Lepoidevin confirmed that she had completed a request to have railings extended outside of the One Stop shop in order to deter people from parking close to the junction. There is likely to be a lengthy wait for this to be actioned due to the number of current requests.

The Allesley Green Residents' Committee Members and several residents have attended all of the Local Plan Inspector's hearings since last June.

Funding has now been approved for the refurbishment of Juniper Park and work on this project has almost been completed.

#### **Minutes of last meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2016 were approved as a correct record. Mike Littlewood proposed acceptance of the minutes and this was seconded by Paul Jarvis.

#### **Annual Report**

Tony Simons presented key events that have taken place over the past 12 months (presentation attached).

Tony expressed his thanks to the following people on behalf of the association:

#### **Support with Local Plan Submissions and Hearings:**

Paul Rowlands  
 Peter Maddock  
 Mike Cruise

Richard Bones  
Paul Runaghan

#### **Support to the Association and continuing to raise funds:**

Greg Smith

#### **Juniper Park Planning & Funding:**

Paul Wright  
Mark Yates – Coventry City Council  
Greg Smith

#### **Delivery of Newsletters:**

April Wickens	Debbie Roach
Julie & Jeremy Friend	Joy Beasley
Janice Greatrex	Clive Murden
Sarah Cockrill	Lynn Simons

#### **Website Management:**

Sarah Cockrill

Thanks also to those who helped with last year's Party in the Park, Quiz Night and Carols in the Close.

#### **Litter Picking Event at One Stop Shop**

Tony Simons advised that there is to be a litter picking event at 10.30 on 12 March at the One Stop Shop. Equipment for this event will be supplied by Coventry City Council rangers.

Eric Golby advised that there is a leaking sewer pipe in the One Stop car park.

#### **Juniper Park**

The newly refurbished park will be formally opened by the Bishop of Coventry Christopher Cocksworth on Monday 20 March at 10.30. Children from the local Busy Bees Nursery and Park Hill School have been invited to the event.

Rangers from Coventry City Council will be visiting the area on Thursday 16 March at 10.30 am to help to improve the visibility of the park which will in turn hopefully assist in avoiding anti social behaviour.

There is to be an Easter Egg Hunt to formalise the opening of the park to the community. Details will be available in the coming weeks.

## Quiz Night

This will take place on Friday 31 March – 7.00pm at Massey Ferguson Social Club. Tickets are now available: £9.00 for adults, £5.00 for children and those who do not wish to order food.

## Party in the Park

This event will take place on Monday 1 May 2017. Volunteers to help at this event will be made very welcome. Residents who wish to have their own stalls will also be welcome.

## Treasurer's Statement

Ann Smith confirmed that during the year 2016 – 2017 there were 119 members of the Association and it is hoped that this number will increase during the coming year.

Ann presented her Treasurer's statement as at 7 March 2017 which shows a current balance of £979.41. It should be noted that this figure does not allow for costs which will be incurred at the Party in the Park event. (Statement is attached).

Greg Smith advised that as charges for the hire of Park Hill School have now risen that they should be advised that there was no heating provision at the meeting. Ann Smith will raise this with the school.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Park Hill School to be advised that there was no heating during the meeting on 7 March	Ann Smith	As soon as possible

## Coventry Local Plan

Tony Simons provided an update on the Local Plan status advising that Coventry City Council planners have now amended the Plan on the government Inspector's instructions and this was presented and approved by Cabinet on 7 March 2017. The Plan will now be presented to full council on Tuesday 14 March and then will go to a meeting of Scrutiny Board in early May. A further public consultation period will then follow probably between 15 March and 28 April. After this period the Local Plan will be sent to the Inspector who will then make a decision as to whether the Plan is sound or not.

Tony advised that there had been a great deal of rumour circulating and that the Windmill Golf course had released information on a plan for Frampton Developers to build houses on the golf course. It should be noted that this was a plan that was available to the Inspector in June of last year and has not yet been approved.

It is hoped that Coventry City Council will take heed of the recent White Paper on Housing which reinforces the status of Green Belt land and Ancient Woodland.

Councillor Ridley advised the meeting that if the Plan goes ahead it will reclassify the land in Eastern Green from green belt and this will make the land available for development. The

land will then be controlled by planners and planning applications. Councillor Ridley expressed his concern that the Inspector did not listen to requests for phasing developments by using brownfield sites first. He also highlighted the fact that statistics used by planners were incorrect particularly in light of Brexit and immigration issues. Councillor Ridley also highlighted the fact that possible economic downturn and a reduction in student numbers would impact on population statistics.

Councillor Ridley also highlighted that the Plan has not given consideration to the infrastructure which would be required to support this development and expressed the view that this should be a plan for local people – not a developer’s charter.

Councillor Ridley advised that the council meeting on 14 March is a public meeting and suggested that interested parties should try to attend. It was pointed out that although it is a public meeting those in the gallery would not be allowed to speak.

Councillor Ridley advised that he and his colleagues would be voting against the Local Plan but that numbers would be stacked in favour of approval. He reassured the meeting that the local councillors would continue to fight the case.

All relevant documents/submissions can be found at: [www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan)

### Juniper Drive Footpath

A resident requested an update on the proposal that the footpath alongside Juniper Drive was to be removed. Councillor Male advised that he had met with council officers and that this element of change is unlikely to be approved when the proposal is considered in March. It was confirmed that this request had originally been made by the former Council ‘rights of way officer’ on behalf of ramblers.

### Potholes – Park Hill Roundabout

Mike Cruise asked the Councillors for clarification as to whether recent monies that had been awarded to the Local Authority would ensure that potholes on this roundabout would be filled as they are deemed to be a hazard. Mike also expressed the view that as these potholes had been filled several times over the past year that it was apparent that the work was not being done satisfactorily. The Councillors confirmed that there were concerns about the standard of work currently being done by contractors throughout the city and that they had particularly raised concerns about the quality of work being undertaken on Dunchurch Highway. They agreed that they would pursue this with Colin Knight, Assistant Director Transportation & Highways to raise issues of performance management and quality of work. Councillor Lepoidevin suggested that Mr Knight be invited to the next AGRA meeting so that concerns could be raised with him

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Raise pothole concerns with Colin Knight	Councillors	As soon as possible
Colin Knight to be invited to next AGRA meeting	Tony Simons & Councillors	June 2017

## Local Bus Service

Nick Zumbe asked the Councillors why the number 82 bus service no longer stopped in Allesley Green. The Councillors advised that this had been a Centro (West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority) decision and that the reason had been to save on the cost of fuel. Nick suggested that a more suitable route which would serve more of the population of Allesley Green and Eastern Green would be for the bus to travel up Park Hill Drive and then on to Eastern Green Lane and then onwards to Meriden, rather than travelling along the A45.

Tony Simons advised that he would make contact with Centro to discuss this issue. This issue has been raised by other residents by email.

Councillor Male advised that he had already raised this point with Centro but was still awaiting a response.

Another resident raised the issue of drivers parking in the bus bay at the One Stop Shop – this is a regular occurrence.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Contact to be made with CENTRO – regarding Number 82 and X1 buses	Tony Simons	As soon as possible

## Former Woodlands School Football Pitches

A resident asked the Councillors for feedback on the Woodlands School site. Her concern was for the 180 children who play for the Firefighter’s Football Club and play on the pitches on this site. Councillor Male advised that there had been some speculation that developers were interested in the site. The Councillors will raise this with the Education Department as it was felt that there was a need for forward planning. There is a possibility that this land could revert back to Local Authority control which would mean that they could make a decision as to what to do with the land in the future.

Councillor Male suggested that alternative pitches could be available on the Massey Ferguson site which has a new pavilion. The resident asked that the football teams be kept updated on any outcome.

## Student Housing

A resident asked the Councillors whether they had any information as to the impact of student housing on private housing that will be released as a result of the purpose built accommodation that is being created for students. The Councillors advised that houses are not currently being freed up as the Universities are continuing to expand.

## AOB

There were no AOB items.

**Date of Next Meeting – to be advised June 2017**

**Meeting Closed: 9.05 pm**