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AGRA

Allesley Green Residents Association Meeting
Thursday 30 June 2016
Park Hill Primary School 7.00pm

Apologies: Greg Smith
John Payne
Dave Ruff
Peter Maddock
Paul and Linda Jarvis

Veronica Toor
Debbie & Peter Roach
Janice Greatrex
Alan Nixon
Angela & David Satchwell

Attendance: As per Attendance Register

Welcome and Introductions:

Tony Simons welcomed residents, Ward Councillors - Julia Lepoidevin, Peter Male, Gary Ridley and Mark Yates, Parks Development Officer, Coventry City Council to the meeting.

Juniper Park Presentation – Mark Yates

Mark Yates gave a comprehensive presentation which highlighted the origins of Juniper Park and its significance as a conservation area. Mark has been proactive in working to re-establish this area as a children's playground and has been involved in the negotiations to access external grant funding from WREN, a not for profit business that awards grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects from money raised from the cost of disposal of refuse and waste.

Mark advised of the redeeming features of the park and its potential for natural play and learning in this area. He shared details of the work that he had undertaken along with Paul Wright, a local landscape architect who has designed the plans for the new play area.

Mark advised that a second phase of development is planned to enhance the infrastructure and habitat of Juniper Park - which will include:

- Remodelling of the brook
- A new footpath
- Potential for a seasonal pond

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- Repairs to the bridge over the brook, which is currently in disrepair
- Bank profiling (similar to work which has been undertaken in Whoberley)
- River dipping platform (similar to that which has been created in Allesley Park)
- Habitat development of woods, trees and grassed area

It is hoped that the local community will support with this work by undertaking practical tasks such as nature identification; undertaking surveys of the area and assisting with seasonal tasks such as tree planting and hedge pruning.

It is expected that work will commence on the play area in September with completion by October 2016.

Tony Simons thanked Mark for his interesting and comprehensive presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached with these minutes.

Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2016 were approved as a correct record. Diana Jackson proposed acceptance of the minutes and was seconded by Eric Golby.

Local Police Report:

Peter Heath provided an update from a meeting which he had attended recently with local police.

Police had provided a map of the Woodlands Ward which plotted incidents and it was noted that there were no significant concerns around the Allesley Green area.

- There had been several car break-ins recently in the Appledore Drive area. It was suggested that the cars affected had been left unlocked and that there had been no significant losses. Police advised that thefts from unlocked cars would not be eligible for insurance reimbursement.
- Local police are continuing to monitor the use and supply of 'legal highs' and drugs, with significant attention being given to the Tile Hill area.
- An AGRA member had previously reported that he had found car number plates in bushes around the area. The police confirmed that these were not linked to stolen cars – but were more likely being used to facilitate petrol thefts.
- Sergeant Nathan Witts advised that he would be willing to present a Crime Prevention update to AGRA. However, as Sergeant Witts has recently moved to a new post this will be followed up with the new sergeant.

Councillor Male advised that it is the intention of the Woodlands Ward councillors to bring together local residents groups from Allesley Green, Bannerbrook Estate, Tile Hill North and Mount Nod to share knowledge and work together on community issues.

Tony Simons advised that he had requested that he receive an update from local police in order to provide a current crime update, however this had not been received in time to inform the meeting. Tony also advised of the importance of asking for a crime reference number when reporting crimes. Non urgent incidents can be logged using 101 telephone number. A local resident advised that they had received a prompt response when they had reported a crime using 999.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Local Police to provide an up to date crime report	Local Police Officers	Monthly
Crime prevention presentation to AGRA to be arranged	Local Police Officers	Before next meeting in September/October 2016
Meeting with Councillors and representatives from local Residents' Associations to be arranged	Councillor Lepoidevin/Councillor Male/Councillor Ridley	Before next meeting in September/October 2016

Summary Report of AGRA's Actions during the last quarter

Tony Simons presented a summary of key areas of activity which had taken place over the past three months:

- The 3rd **Party in the Park** took place on 2 May 2016. This event did not make a loss despite adverse weather conditions and was successful in fostering a positive community spirit. A financial breakdown is included in the attached document.

Tony Simons advised that AGRA had been able to purchase a large marquee and three stalls from Coventry City Council at a reasonable cost, these will provide a valuable asset for the Association for future events.

Tony expressed his thanks to the following people who provided support at the event:

Janice Greatrex
Geoff Brown
Keith Jackson
Nigel Bones

Mary & Bryan Williams
Dave Ruff
Eric Golby
Peter Maddock

➤ **Dog Fouling**

Tony Simons escalated concerns around these issues following complaints from local residents. Members of the Dog Fouling team visited the area and arranged for stencilled notices advising of fines to be painted on pavements and also installed an additional bin for dog waste.

Councillor Lepoidevin advised that the dog fouling team consisted of 2 dog wardens; 8 animal welfare/pest control officers and also confirmed that the penalty for dog fouling is £100.00 (£60.00 if paid within a specific time limit).

Helpful information for reporting problems is outlined in the attached document and is also on the AGRA website.

➤ **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Concerns have been raised about incidents which have occurred around the Juniper Park area recently – mainly on Friday evenings. This has included substance abuse and has resulted in litter which has included broken bottles, syringes and drug related substances. There has also been evidence that an air gun had been used in this area. Tony Simons has requested that police increase patrols to the area.

➤ **Coventry Local Plan**

Colin Smith provided an update on the current status of the Local Plan and advised that Rebecca Phillips had been appointed as the Independent Examiner and Lisa Albrighton as the Local Programme Officer for Coventry City Council. Colin confirmed that AGRA would be making representation at the Hearings which will commence on 12 July and end on 11 October 2016. The final conclusion/report is expected in November 2016.

Coventry Local Plan information can be found at www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan

Councillor Ridley advised that it is not known yet how the recent decision to leave the EU might impact on the Local Plan. It was agreed that Councillors Lepoidevin, Male and Ridley would meet with the AGRA committee to discuss how to prepare for the forthcoming hearings with the Independent Examiner.

➤ **Juniper Park**

Colin Smith provided an update on meetings which he had attended with Coventry Green Space and Heritage Forum; Sherbourne Partnership and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Details are included in the attached document.

Tony Simons advised that through the City Council's Asset transfer initiative that local residents would be able to attend their First Aiders training at no cost. This course would provide both initial first aid training and also re-certification for those whose certification had lapsed.

AGRA Financial Report and Membership

Ann Smith advised that there were now 115 AGRA members and thanked Dave Ruff for his support in recruiting new members. Ann highlighted the fact that room hire which is currently £25.00 would be increasing to £45.00 in September. Ann provided an update on

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the current financial position which shows a positive balance of £849.22. The Treasurer's statement is outlined in the attached document.

Ann reiterated that the current membership fee for this year is now £5.00 per household and not £2.00 as in previous years.

Ward Councillors Report & Questions

Tony Simons requested an update on the closure of Woodlands School and what the plans would be for the site.

Councillor Lepoidevin confirmed that it would become a combined school from September 2017.

With regard to the status of the land, the councillors confirmed that the land had a covenant which stipulated that it must be used for educational facilities and that parts of the school were listed buildings. The land is currently owned by the Academy Trust but it is expected that it will revert back to Council ownership when it is closed completely in September 2017.

It is not anticipated that this land will be used for house building at present due to its covenant status. Councillor Ridley advised that the land might be retained for educational facilities in the future as pupil numbers are expected to rise in 5 years.

AGRA Newsletter

The June letter has now been delivered to all households in Allesley Green. Tony Simons thanked the following people for offering to support with delivery:

Janice Greatrex
April Wickens
Joy Beasley
Clive Murden

Debbie Roach
John Payne
Julie & Jeremy Friend
Theresa Mason

Skittles & Games Evening

Ann Smith advised that this joint event with St Andrew's Church had been a great success and that the facilities at the Jaguar Club, Browns Lane had been a good choice of venue. It has been suggested that more events be held at this venue, with the possibility that an AGRA meeting could be held here as costs for room hire would be minimal.

A Quiz Evening is being arranged for 4 November, however a quizmaster has yet to be identified.

Tony Simons thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date of Next meeting: Date to be advised (End of September/beginning of October dependent on room availability)

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Meeting Closed at 9.00 pm

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