



www.allesleygreenresidentsassociation.co.uk

AGRA

Email: info@allesleygreenresidentsassociation.co.uk

Allesley Green Residents' Association Meeting
Tuesday 27 February 2018
Park Hill Primary School 7.00pm

Apologies:

Guro & Aurik Khatkar
Paul & Linda Jarvis
T/PS Amy Wright – Woodlands, Wainbody & Westwood Neighbourhood
Police Team

Attendance: As per Attendance Register

Minutes: Liliias Maddock

Welcome and Introductions:

Tony Simons welcomed residents, Councillor Male, Councillor Ridley and Councillor Lepoidevin to the meeting. Tony Simons advised that Chris Kealey, from Coventry University would not be attending the meeting as planned.

Review of the Minutes of the last meeting on 10 October 2017

The following outstanding actions were discussed:

- **Proposed Speed watch in Park Hill Drive.** This proposal has recently been discussed with local police and will be discussed further in this meeting.
- **Clarification as to whether there should have been four sets of traffic lights at Park Hill roundabout.** Councillor Lepoidevin advised that she was unable to confirm this but would provide an update on this area further in this meeting.
- **Contact with CENTRO regarding number 81 and X1 bus routes.** To be discussed further in this meeting

- **Virgin Media - outstanding issues.** Councillor Lepoidevin advised that she was not aware of any outstanding issues. Peter Maddock advised that pavements were still ingrained despite the fact the Virgin had been round undertaking snagging work. Councillor Lepoidevin and Peter Maddock will walk around the area highlighting remaining problems to Virgin Media. Tony Simons advised that some of Virgin Media's markings remain on pavements and notices on lamp posts have not been removed.
- **Juniper Park – Phase 2.** Tony Simons advised that Juniper Park is currently very muddy which highlights the need for better pathways. Residents are looking forward to seeing the appearance of bulbs which they planted last October.

It is proposed that a noticeboard will be purchased which will be required to comply with Coventry City Council standards – this could cost around £800.00. Councillor Male advised that he would try to seek some financial support with this from Coventry City Council. It is also hoped that some benches can be also purchased for the area.

- **Future of Woodlands School.** Councillor Lepoidevin advised that it is likely that Coventry City Council will retain the site for use as educational and sports facilities. Councillor Ridley advised that the council had made monies available to keep the sports facilities going.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2017 were approved as a correct record – Ken Battersby & Doug Griffiths proposed and seconded acceptance of the minutes.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Inspect pavements around Allesley Green to determine outstanding issues	Councillor Lepoidevin, a Virgin Media representative & Peter Maddock	As soon as possible
Noticeboard to be purchased for Juniper Park. Coventry City Council to be approached to assist with funding	AGRA Committee and Councillor Male	As soon as possible

Police Report

Tony Simons advised that a new Police Sergeant, Amy Wright had been appointed to the Woodlands, Wainbody & Westwood Neighbourhood Police Team. Resident, Mike Cruise attended the latest neighbourhood police meeting with Tony Simons and Colin Smith.

The latest crime figures for December and January were shared which highlighted 4 burglaries in the Allesley Green area.

Information on how to create a local neighbourhood watch network was circulated. Residents who are interested in supporting this should advise the AGRA committee at the following e mail address: info@allesleygreenresidentsassociation.co.uk

A resident advised that he had gathered useful information on reputable CCTV equipment and was willing to share this information with residents. This information can be requested

using the above email address. Colin Smith made the suggestion that residents should share the fact that they have CCTV with local police. This will be discussed at the next police meeting.

A resident stressed the importance of neighbours investigating when house alarms go off – ‘do not assume that all is OK’!

Greg Smith advised that there tends to be clusters of incidents whereby perpetrators observe particular areas and then break in when they notice homes are empty – this often lasts for a 2 – 3 week period. Therefore if a neighbour is broken into – be vigilant. A resident advised that recent break ins had occurred during the night and that it was important to activate burglar alarms.

A resident asked what the impact would be on the likely closure of Canley Police Station. Tony Simons explained that this station has had low staffing levels for some time – mainly PCOs and around 7 officers to cover Woodlands, Westwood and Wainbody areas. He also advised that communities need to feedback their concerns about the closure to the police.

Another resident asked whether the outcome of the recent police Operation Lavant was known – as no information has yet been made available Tony Simons will discuss at the next police meeting.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Volunteers who wish to be involved in Neighbourhood Watch initiative to contact committee members	Residents	As required
Sharing recommendations of CCTV equipment	Mike Cruise	As and when requested
Discuss with police – sharing of CCTV locations	Colin Smith	At next police meeting
Discuss Outcome of Operation Lavant	Tony Simons and Colin Smith	At next police meeting

Local Plan Update

Tony Simons gave a presentation on the latest update on the Local Plan (presentation attached).

- £12 million has been made available to build a new junction on the A45. This work is likely to take around 12 – 18 months and will be up and running by 2021.
- The 250 homes which can be built before this junction is completed will be outlined in a master plan by Hallam Land Management by September of this year. Once the plans are approved the developers will promote the site to builders who will produce the detailed plans.

- Two new roads will be built to provide access from Pickford Green Lane. There will also be three further entrances for pedestrians and cyclist from Upper Eastern Green Lane.
- It is anticipated that the site is earmarked for high end development which will in turn attract higher council tax bandings.
- Coventry City Council Planners have produced a Draft Urban Extension Design Guide which they have presented to cabinet last month. This guide sets out the style of homes to be built, which in the case of the Eastern Green site will need to comply with the Ancient Arden protocols.
- The AGRA committee have met with Mark Andrews, Coventry City Council's Planning & Housing Policy Manager, who is willing to attend a future AGRA meeting.
- Tony Simons explained that a group of representatives from other areas of the city have come together to form a group called 'Keep Our Greenbelt Green' which is proactive in campaigning against the Local Plans in Coventry & Warwickshire and are maintaining their campaign to ensure that green belt areas are protected as much as possible. There are representatives from Cromwell Lane, Burton Green, Keresley, Finham, Westwood Heath and Allesley Green in this group. The group are proposing to field candidates for election at the next Coventry City Council elections in May.
- A resident asked for clarification as to whether AGRA were providing financial assistance to these Independent Councillors. Tony Simons was able to confirm that AGRA's constitution does not allow any political affiliation and is therefore not providing funding to the group.
- Tony Simons advised that the Residents' Association can influence the proposed development by being involved in the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and highlighted the fact that the majority of the Eastern Green greenbelt area is in the Allesley Parish. The Parish have commenced work on creating their Plan and as an adjacent community this enables Allesley Green residents to become part of the planning committee. Tony Simons presented a map of Allesley Parish which showed the Allesley Parish boundary which extends as far as Tamworth Road.

Councillor Ridley advised the meeting that the Conservative group had proposed in the Council Chamber that brownfield sites should be developed before green belt land but were voted down. He also advised that the Woodlands Ward councillors shared the concerns of local residents that ONS (Office of National Statistics) figures were flawed and that the population growth predicted in the Local Plan was erroneous. He also advised of their concerns of the inevitable impact of Brexit on population figures.

Councillor Ridley advised that 15,000 (80% of the 25,000 forecast) of the houses required could be built on brownfield sites and had put this argument to the Government Inspector, who chose to ignore this fact.

Planning permission has already been approved to build homes in the Cromwell Lane area and work on the Keresley Link Road is apparently moving on at pace. Councillor Ridley therefore expressed the view that AGRA and local residents, along with the Woodlands Ward Councillors must work for the best possible outcome for the area and its residents. This work should endeavour to ensure that the development does not include factories or warehouses which are not in keeping with the area.

A resident suggested that given that Coventry has been chosen as the City of Culture for 2021 that more emphasis should be placed on regenerating city centre sites rather than building on green belt land.

Tony Simons reassured the residents that AGRA is perceived to be an ‘interested party’ by the developers and would therefore be kept updated on planning activity, which would in turn be shared with residents.

Tony Simons advised that AGRA committee members had recently been advised that the developers for the Windmill Golf Course area were the Redbourne Group. It is not yet known whether this group are involved in commercial or house development, however negotiations have only recently been started with this group and they are therefore further behind in their planning than the Hallam Developers. Development on this area will be dependent on the construction of the grade separated junction. A barn, which is a listed building and situated on the site of the Windmill Golf Course will remain and it is hoped that the lake will also be retained.

Tony Simons advised that some of the land on the golf course contains contaminated soil where the greens have been built up and that there is chemical debris around the 9th tee, making this area lower grade land.

A resident asked for clarification as to whether any analysis has been made on vacant student properties now that more customised accommodation had been built for them. Councillor Male advised that student numbers are still increasing in the city but that this would level out in due course.

A resident asked whether there would be any improvements to the shops in the city centre if business rates were adjusted to encourage a better variety of shops. Councillor Ridley advised that £1 billion has been approved for the development of the south area of the city centre, which will also include the railway station and it is hoped that this development will regenerate the city centre and attract anchor tenants.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Provide update on Hallam Land Management’s Master Plan.	AGRA Committee Members	When information is received
Provide updates on Neighbourhood Plan	AGRA Committee Members	At next quarterly meeting
Invitation to be extended to Mark Andrews, Planning & Housing Policy Manager, Coventry City Council to attend next AGRA meeting	Tony Simons	May 2018 – date still to be confirmed

Ward Meetings

Councillor Lepoidevin advised that the Woodlands Ward councillors had recently sought funding and permission to reinstate local Ward meetings. This request was rejected at the full council meeting on Tuesday 20 February 2018.

Coventry to Solihull Bus Service No 82

Tony Simons advised that Diamond Travel the bus company who are subsidised by Centro are not prepared to reinstate the 82 Bus Service. The bus company's contract is due for renewal in June of this year at which point further discussions will take place. Councillor Male advised that it would be important to be sure that the wider community required reinstatement of this service. He also advised that a minimum of 50 signatures would be required to be acceptable as a petition.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Centro Bus Service 82 – follow up action.	Councillor Male and Tony Simons	June 2018 – when contract is due for renewal

Councillors' Report & Questions

- A resident suggested that it would be more appropriate to promote larger homes on the development site rather than affordable homes. Councillor Male stated that it would be important to be closely involved in planning applications to ensure the most suitable balance.
- A resident advised that the coating applied to pavements almost three years ago was not wearing well and that damage was still evident from Virgin Media work. Councillor Lepoidevin advised that snags which she had been made aware of had now been addressed, but accepted that there were still outstanding issues. Councillor Lepoidevin agreed to meet with a Virgin Media representative and resident Peter Maddock to inspect any areas where there were still issues.
- A resident expressed her concerns at the speed of traffic on the Park Hill roundabout. Councillor Lepoidevin advised that she was working with Liliias Maddock and Coventry City Council Officers by requesting information on the planned remodelling of the roundabout. It has been suggested that there is likely to be traffic lights to allow safer crossing to Allesley Park, which is part of a scheme to possibly introduce traffic lights at Park Hill Drive as well. Councillor Lepoidevin will keep residents updated.

Councillor Lepoidevin advised that the planned work to remove the Meriden Bridge across the A45 has been delayed for at least 9 months.

- Another resident raised his concerns that HGV traffic which is over the prescribed weight limit is still using Park Hill Drive. Tony Simons will discuss this with local police.

It was confirmed that there are now enough volunteers to undertake a Speed Watch in this area.

- A resident advised that they had been having problems with garden waste bin collection and recommended that residents report missed bin collections on the City Council website (link below) as this is used to generate statistics about the performance of the service.

http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/69/rubbish_and_recycling/1827/missed_bin_collections

- A resident enquired as to whether any traffic counts had taken place since the Broad Lane roundabout had been installed, so that a comparison could be made about the impact of excessive traffic using Park Hill Drive as an alternative route. Councillor Lepoidevin advised that she would follow this up. Mike Cruise advised that he could supply figures relating to the period before the new roundabout was completed. Councillor Male confirmed that it had been the council's intention to review figures. Councillor Lepoidevin also advised of their concerns around speeding in the area, particularly in Broad Lane.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Updates on remodelling of Park Hill roundabout	Councillor Lepoidevin	As information becomes available
Discussion re: HGV Vehicles using Park Hill Drive	Tony Simons	At next police meeting in March 2018
Arrange a Speed Watch in Park Hill Drive area	Tony Simons, local police, Councillors & Residents	During March/April 2018
Traffic count figures to be reviewed re: installation of Broad Lane roundabout	Tony Simons, Councillors, Mike Cruise.	As soon as possible

Quiz & Chips

The quiz and chips evening will take place on Friday 2 March 2018 at Massey Ferguson Club.

Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt will take place again this year on Saturday 31 March 2.00 pm at Juniper Park. Residents were advised to let the AGRA committee know if they would be attending so that they could estimate numbers.

Party in the Park

This event will take place on Monday 7 May 2018. Volunteers are required to support with setting up the event and helping on stalls. AGRA will be running a bottle stall – all donations will be welcome as will unwanted gifts and raffle prizes.

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 Wickens
Theresa Mason
Julie & Jeremy Friend
Janice Greatrex
Alan Nixon
John Walsh

Eric Golby
Debbie Roach
Stephen Turner
John Payne
Paul & Linda Jarvis

Meeting Closed: 21.05

Next Quarterly meeting: May 2018 - To be confirmed