



www.allesleygreenresidentsassociation.co.uk

AGRA

Email: info@allesleygreenresidentsassociation.co.uk

Allesley Green Residents' Association AGM Meeting
Wednesday 27 March 2019
Park Hill School – 7.00 pm

Apologies:

John Payne
Mike & Carol Littlewood
James Davies
Aurik & Guro Singh Khatkar

Mike & Katie Cruise
Moyra Gibbs
Diana & Keith Jackson

Attendance: As per Attendance Register

Minutes: Liliias Maddock

Welcome and Introductions

Ann Smith welcomed residents and Councillors Lepoidevin, Male and Ridley to the meeting. Ann also extended a warm welcome to Ann Wilson, Tree Warden

Minutes of the last meeting on 5 June 2018

April Wickens proposed that the minutes were a true record of the last meeting and this was seconded by Dave Ruff.

Presentation by Ann Wilson – Coventry Tree Warden Network

Ann provided the meeting with a background to her role as tree warden and advised that Jenny & Ken Battersby, two of the AGRA members, were also tree wardens. Ann recently led a walk around the Allesley Green area highlighting the importance of protecting ancient trees from being affected by development of the land.

The presentation covered the following areas:

- ≥ Background to the tree warden network
- ≥ Training opportunities
- ≥ Monitoring the monetary value of trees
- ≥ Identifying the age of trees
- ≥ Highlighting that where trees are removed for the purposes of development that these assets should be compensated by the council.

Ann advised that the AGM of the Coventry Tree Warden Network will be taking place on 9 April 2019 – Room 2, Council House at 7.00 pm. The guest speaker will be a trainer – Ian McDermott, who is experienced in all aspects of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry. AGRA members will be made welcome if they wish to attend this meeting. Further details about the role of Coventry Tree Wardens can be found at the following link. <http://ctwn.org.uk/>

Ann advised that any individual can request a tree protection order and this can be done by contacting Coventry City Council's Tree Protection Officer - Robert Penlington: robert.penlington@coventry.gov.uk

Update on Proposed Developments and Consultation Responses – Ann Smith

Ann Smith provided a brief update on the current status of planning applications.

- ≥ Following a consultation period on Hallam Land Management's proposed development application – Hallam have been advised by Coventry City Council to undertake a significant amount of additional work as a result of consultation responses from UHCW, Highways England and the Environment Agency which raised serious concerns.
- ≥ Concerned local residents have also raised their concerns through the consultation process. However, it should be noted that these are not published on the council website.
- ≥ A Scoping Opinion Report has been submitted by Frampton Town Planning Limited on behalf of Bracebridge Holdings for the proposed development on the Golf Course – named Windmill Green. This includes an EIA (Environmental Impact) Scoping Report.

Important Objections to Development Proposals – Peter Maddock

Peter Maddock shared a power point presentation which he had delivered to a group of residents from Allesley Green, Keresley and Coundon Wedge recently. This included the following key points:

- ≥ Consultation responses highlighting the impact of increased traffic.
- ≥ Concerns that the number of new homes planned has increased significantly from the numbers agreed by the Local Plan Inspector – now estimated at around 3,400 homes.
- ≥ Air quality/pollution – highlighting that the Holyhead Road is the most polluted road in the West Midlands
- ≥ The impact on our local NHS. Coventry City Council have been advised by UHCW of the impact on service provision if the number of homes in the city is increased as predicted. However, Peter highlighted the fact that other NHS services such as G P provision,

Ambulance Service and Mental Health/Community Services were not consulted on the recent planning proposals. These areas would also be impacted adversely by any increases in population.

- ≥ Coventry City Council's population growth predictions have been formally challenged by Merle Gering and have been validated by two University Professors of Demography. These statistics highlight significant inaccuracies in the assumptions made by Coventry City Council/ONS figures. A copy of this presentation is attached.

Councillor Lepoidevin advised that Coventry City Council had not undertaken a Housing Needs Assessment prior to the Local Plan being approved/accepted. This assessment (particularly at ward level) would provide key information that would inform how many homes/what type of housing is required.

Councillor Ridley advised of the importance of making use of the housing that we already have in the city – for example family homes that have been vacated by students who have now moved into purpose built accommodation. Councillor Ridley also suggested that 'a brownfield sites first approach' should be followed advising that the city currently has around 5 years of reserves.

Councillor Ridley's view is that given the increase in the number of homes planned that the Local Plan should now be reviewed. Councillor Ridley also suggested that in the lead up to local elections that it would be an appropriate time to engage with prospective candidates to ascertain their view on whether greenbelt land should be protected.

It was agreed that the impact of building so many more houses would impact on the whole of the city – and not just on the localities where homes are planned.

Update on application to register Juniper Park as a Village Green – Liliias Maddock

Ann Smith requested that Liliias & Peter Maddock be thanked formally for their hard work in preparing this submission.

Liliias Maddock thanked residents for a very proactive response to the request for support to this application in the form of written statements as to how they valued Juniper Park. The number of responses highlighted the strength of feeling that residents wanted to have a focus point for bringing the community together. The responses were all varied in content and highlighted some very important points.

- ≥ The application was submitted at the end of November 2018 which included 41 petition signatories; 43 supportive written statements.
- ≥ The Planning Officer has confirmed that the application has been examined by CCC's legal department and that it is a valid application.
- ≥ The application has also been examined by the Land Registry and no issues were raised.
- ≥ This application is currently out for consultation – closing date 25 April 2019. (Note the date on the website is incorrectly stated as 13 March – Coventry City Council have been asked to amend this, but not yet been actioned).

- ≥ It is likely that the final decision on this application will be made by a Planning Officer rather than the Planning Committee, however this has not yet been confirmed.
- ≥ Residents can inform the Authority that they support **or object to** the Planning Application - or that their comments are **neutral**. Previous comments from statements can also be pasted into the automated box.
<http://planning.coventry.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet> Ref Number: **VG/2018/3366**

Steven Cox suggested that some additional work be undertaken to enlist more support for this application by asking neighbours to comment during the consultation period. Lillas advised that should the application be unsuccessful that the decision could be challenged through the Ombudsman.

Update on A45/Parkhill Roundabout

The work on this roundabout was originally expected to be completed by the end of November 2018 – however work is still ongoing for the following reasons:

- ≥ There was an issue with the provider for the electrical connections which created a delay in December 2018 – this is still an ongoing problem.
- ≥ A vehicle collision during January 2019 on the entry slip road, near the motor home garage damaged a newly installed traffic signal pole. This is a nonstandard type pole that has had to be ordered.
- ≥ Coventry City Council are waiting for confirmation from Traffic Management staff as to when these traffic signals will become fully operational.

A resident advised that at a consultation meeting last year that Coventry City Council Officers had advised that dense foliage in the centre of the roundabout would be cut back to provide better visibility. This work has not been undertaken. Councillors were asked to follow this up with officers.

Councillor Male advised that he was going to raise this issue with the local press so that there would be no further delays. Councillor Male also advised that the new traffic light system would be controlled by sensors which will monitor the traffic flow.

Another resident again raised the issue of HGVs using Park Hill Drive, despite the fact that signs are clearly evident at each end of the Drive. He also suggested that a ripple surface be placed on the roundabout to control the speed of traffic around this area.

Following an incident where an HGV was unable to turn around in Ridge Court, Council Officers have agreed to erect a 'No Through Road' sign at the bottom of Woodridge Avenue.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Liaise with press to highlight delays with completing work on the roundabout	Councillor Male	As soon as possible
Contact council officers to request that foliage be cut back on roundabout	Councillor Male	As soon as possible
'No Through Road' sign to be placed at bottom of Woodridge Avenue	Council Officers	As soon as possible

Councillor's Report

Councillor Male briefed the meeting on the following points:

≥ **Hockley Lane/Eastern Green Lane Junction**

Councillor Male has been proactive in campaigning for traffic calming measures to be installed at the Hockley Lane/Eastern Green Lane junction and has negotiated solutions with council officers. This will include a raised platform at four key points on the road which will make it safer for children to cross. There will also be 2/3 crossing junctions along Hockley Lane which will provide refuge areas. This work is likely to take up to five weeks to complete.

≥ **Community Infrastructure Levy**

Councillor Male advised that it had been reported that Coventry City Council had failed to take advantage of funding which would have been available through the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge for local authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. Failure to claim this charge particularly in relation to student accommodation sites has resulted in the loss of around £2million points for the city. Retrospective claims cannot be made for this levy. It is unclear whether they plan to implement this process in respect of the two main Strategic Urban Extensions of Eastern Green and Keresley.

≥ **City of Culture**

Councillor Male expressed his concern about the lack of progress with this initiative given that we are now 2/5th through the period. However, he was able to confirm that the first amount of monies was due to be distributed soon. Recruitment to the City of Culture Team is still taking place and each council ward will have a designated representative.

Greg Smith advised that he had recently met with Martin Sutherland, Chief Executive of the City of Culture team who confirmed that the work of the team will focus across the city and not just on the city centre areas. He advised that there would be four Producers for the whole of the city and Greg stressed the importance of AGRA engaging with the team.

≥ **ANPR Cars**

Councillor Male provided an update on the initiative to discourage parking on yellow lines at the One Stop shop. Coventry City Council have purchased an ANPR car which can park in any area of the city to monitor parking infringements. Evidence gained by this method can officially be used as evidence, whereas photographic evidence cannot. Councillor Male will request that this area is visited as a monitoring exercise.

A resident suggested that a sign be placed on a redundant post which is already erected outside the One Stop shop advising that ANPR is in operation. Councillor Male will make a request to see if this is possible.

Action	Action By	Date Action Required
Request ANPR warning sign to be erected outside One Stop Shop	Councillor Male	As soon as possible

Crime Update - Peter Heath

Peter Heath provided crime statistics for the months of December/January which were received at a local police meeting.

- ≥ Burglary - 7
- ≥ Criminal Damage - 13
- ≥ Robbery with Violence - 0
- ≥ Vehicle Crime - 7
- ≥ Home Invasion - 1 - This is defined as burglary carried out when residents are in the house.

Following discussions with the police Peter was able to clarify that it is not necessary to place a notice advising that 'CCTV is in operation' before it can be accepted as evidence. However such evidence is required to be clear and of good quality.

Local Police are aware that residents are anxious about the spate of shootings in the city recently, however they advised that the victims are usually known to the perpetrator and that it is rare for this not to be the case.

There had also been some concerns about police presence at UHCW in recent months, however local police advised that this was as a result of having to gain evidence from a victim of crime.

A resident raised his concerns that the above figures might not be a true reflection of crimes and queried whether all crimes are reported to the police. Councillor Male advised that crimes can now be reported on line as well as by telephone - this method generates a crime reference number.

AGRA Newsletter

Ann Smith thanked residents who had recently helped to deliver the March AGRA Newsletter. Ann also advised the meeting that this would be the last regular newsletter that will be delivered to all households in Allesley Green. In future, electronic copies of the newsletter will be sent by e mail to AGRA members three times a year (ie once per school term). An annual newsletter will be sent to all Allesley Green residents once a year in future, in line with when membership fees are due.

AGRA Events and Activities

Ann Smith provided an update on all of the events and activities which had taken place since the last residents' meeting:

- ≥ Carols in the Close – held on 19 December. This event raised £175.00 - £50.00 was donated to the Air Ambulance and £125.00 to The Haven, Coventry
- ≥ Fish 'n' Chip Quiz Evening – held on 1 March. This event was attended by around 140 people and raised almost £900.00, which was split between St Andrew's Church and AGRA.
- ≥ Spring Bulbs Display. The results of the bulb plating event in October last year are now providing a spring like feel around the area,
- ≥ Nesting Boxes. The Coventry Diocese kindly donated 3 bird boxes and a bat box to Allesley Green. These have been erected by council rangers around Juniper Park.
- ≥ Easter Egg Hunt. This event is planned for 18 April – 2.00 pm at Juniper Park play area.
- ≥ Ideas for other social events – eg coach trip, community walks have been suggested so far.

Party in the Park

This event will be taking place on Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May in Juniper Park. Volunteers to help in any way would be very welcome and were advised to contact a committee member. Support is required with: Erecting marquees, litter picking, managing children's activities, helping on stalls, supporting with funding, donating raffle prizes. Ann advised that storage space for marquees is required should any resident have spare space in their garage.

Resignations from the Committee

Ann Smith advised that Alan Nixon who is currently a co-opted committee member will be proposed as a member of the committee at the next residents' meeting which will be held in June.

It is expected that there will be either 1 or 2 resignations at the next meeting. Ann Smith highlighted how successful AGRA has been as a Residents' Association and how important it is that it continues. Ann suggested that anyone who is interested in joining the committee would be made very welcome if they wished to attend and observe a meeting.

AOB

A resident requested an update on Coventry City Council's proposals for Woodlands School. Councillor Male advised that it was currently being considered as a site for children who have special educational needs, whose current schools in Hawthorn Lane and Stoneleigh Road are at capacity. The two sites are currently being valued as part of a feasibility study.

An alternative proposal for this site if insufficient money is raised from the sale of these two plots, is to sell part of the site for housing, however it is hoped that the former proposal is successful.

Ann Smith asked for suggestions as to how AGRA funds should be spent and advised that any fencing or benches would have to conform to Coventry City Council specifications.

Meeting Closed: 20:54

Next meeting: To be confirmed – this will be the AGM meeting