



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

AGRA

Email: [info@allesleygreenresidentsassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@allesleygreenresidentsassociation.co.uk)

**Allesley Green Residents' Association**  
**Tuesday 26 November 2019**  
**Park Hill School – 7.00 pm**

**Apologies:**

James Davies	Mike & Katie Cruise
Mike & Carol Littlewood	Steven Cox
John & Lisa Payne	Diana & Keith Jackson
April Wickens	Peter & Debbie Roach
Peter Maddock	Pete & Sue Ward
David & Angela Satchwell	Robin Beasley
Tony Simons	Greg Smith
Betty Griffiths	

**Minutes:** Liliias Maddock

**Obituary:**

It was with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of one of our most supportive residents, Doug Griffiths, who passed away on 31 October and whose funeral took place on Monday 25 November. Doug and his wife Betty have always been great supporters of AGRA and regularly attended our residents' meetings. They have also supported opposing the Local Plan by attending council meetings, demonstrating on the steps of the council house, featuring in the Coventry Observer newspaper and attending greenbelt group meetings. Doug will be sadly missed and we would like to extend our condolences to Betty and her family.

**Attendance:** As per Attendance Register

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ann Smith welcomed residents, the three Ward Councillors and two representatives from Barclays Bank to the meeting.

## Minutes of the last meeting on 13 June 2019

Eric Golby proposed that the minutes were a true record of the last meeting and this was seconded by Ken Battersby

### Presentation: Scams & Fraud by Barclays Bank staff Fran & Pat

Fran gave a short presentation on the types of scams which are prevalent, which prompted a discussion with the members about scams that they had experienced. For example: BT, T V Licensing and HMRC

Booklets which provide telephone numbers for reporting different types of scams were left for residents.

Robin Baker advised that the police website WM Now was a useful community messaging system that delivers up to date information from police and partners by e mail. This includes crime updates, local news, appeals and safety advice.

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

Councillor Lepoidevin also advised that the regular Woodlands Ward Councillors e mails also highlight advice given by the Council's Trading Standards Department on scams and fraud.

If you wish to receive this letter you can do so by e mailing:

[news@woodlandsconservatives.org.uk](mailto:news@woodlandsconservatives.org.uk)

### Update on major developments

There are four major developments which are proposed for this area which are as follows:

#### ► FUL/2019/2219

Pickford Green Lane – 125 houses. This application was submitted by a land management company during October 2019, however it was subsequently withdrawn – no reason has been given for this withdrawal.

#### ► Hallam Land Management Application

This application was for 2,625 houses, industrial units and out of town shopping centre. Consultation on this application closed in December **2018** - however this application is still being reviewed by Coventry City Council who are expecting a revised application to be submitted.

➤ **Windmill Green (Golf Course site)**

This preliminary application was for 600 homes. Following community engagement in the early summer of 2019 a full application has yet to be submitted.

➤ **FUL/2019/2671 Grade Separated Junction – A45**

A full planning application has now been submitted for this junction. The closing date for commenting on this application is **5 December 2019**. **Members are reminded of the importance of expressing their views on this development as this junction will be key to the above planning applications being approved.**

Councillor Ridley expressed the view that the applications lacked community engagement and suggested that the Local Plan should be either repealed or reviewed.

Councillor Lepoidevin reiterated her view that Coventry City Council should undertake a Housing Needs Assessment to identify what types of housing are required, by whom and where they are required before planning applications are agreed.

Councillor Ridley also advised that as the planning application to build 3,000 houses in Keresley has now been agreed that it would provide a strong case for not developing the land at Eastern Green.

**Update on Application to register Juniper Park as a Village Green**

- Coventry City Council have now made their initial response to our application to have Juniper Park registered as a Village Green which was submitted in November 2018.
- This response came in the form of a legal document from the council's solicitors which required us to respond with further information and clarification of some points.
- According to this document Coventry City Council have been advised that this application should be considered at a public hearing with an independent assessor being appointed to provide recommendations to the registration authority (Coventry City Council) as to the decision to be made.
- All documentation in relation to the application has now been referred to Counsel (Inspector) for an independent assessment of the application.
- It would appear that further written expression of support and evidence for this application might be required and we will be seeking your assistance with this process. Any new submissions will be forwarded to the Inspector by CCC's Officer.
- Timescales for decision is unknown.

Any additional information which supports this application can still be submitted to the Planning Department, at this point there is no need to reiterate previously submitted witness statements. However, residents are encouraged to submit any new evidence that would support this application.

Lilias Maddock received an e mail from the Council Officer who is managing this application, on Tuesday 26 November confirming that all documentation pertaining to the application has now been sent to Counsel for an independent assessment.

Peter Heath advised that It should be possible to ask the Planning Department who the Inspector/Counsel is.

Ann Smith advised that the AGRA committee had been meeting more regularly to discuss this issue and that Peter Heath would be providing support and legal advice on this matter.

Peter Maddock has recently subscribed to the Open Spaces Society on behalf of AGRA. This society can allocate a caseworker to provide support and advice – however they would not be able to provide representation at any formal public hearings.

### **Update on Traffic Monitoring on Park Hill Drive**

Following concerns raised by a resident who lives on Park Hill Drive, Coventry City Council's Traffic Management Team are monitoring the speed, volume, weight and flow of traffic which travels along this road. 10 days x 24 hours a day.

Traffic Management have suggested that as part of the Eastern Green planning application consideration for funding from the Section 106 planning contributions could be used to provide measures or assist with traffic issues on Park Hill Drive.

Traffic Management also advised that they would not recommend installing speed visor/flashing signs as it is thought that they only have impact for a short period of time after installation and as users of the highway become used to them they often pay little or no attention to the signs.

The results of this monitoring will be requested from the Traffic Management Team and reported back to residents

### **Party in the Park 2019**

Ann Smith advised that this year's Party in the Park had made a loss, however this was offset by a grant for £1,800, which Greg Smith had accessed from Coventry Charities.

The 2020 Party in the Park event is likely to be held on Friday 8 May which is the V E Day anniversary. Ann Smith asked members if they were still likely to be able to attend this event with the change in day – or whether they would prefer the event to take place on a Saturday during the summer. The vote was inconclusive.

A meeting of the Party in the Park committee will be taking place on Monday 2 December.

### **AGRA Funds**

Ann Smith advised that there are still funds in the AGRA account and that a decision should be made on how to spend this on the community. Residents are requested to provide ideas to the committee.

## Crime Update – Woodlands Ward – Alan Nixon

Crime Statistics for the Wainbody, Whoberley & Woodlands Ward		
September & October 2019		
Vehicle Crime		8
Burglaries		19
Criminal Damage		20
Drug Offences		10
Robberies		2
Theft		8
Violent Crime		109
Sex Offences		4
Crimes reported in Allesley Green		
September & October 2019		
Burglary	New Ash Drive	
Burglary	Peregrine Drive	
Burglary	Polperro Close	
Burglary	Appledore Drive	
Burglary	Oakford Drive	
Burglary	Harpenden Drive	

### Councillors' Report and residents' questions

Councillor Ridley explained that during the build up to the General Election that their normal work within the community had slowed down somewhat. As there are currently no MPs the councillors are having to pick up some of their work.

The Woodlands Ward Councillors recently met with Councillor Hetherington, the Cabinet member for City Services to present her with concerns about accidents, pollution and noise that have been raised by residents in relation to the A45 junction at Broad Lane. Concerns have also been raised regarding HGVs using the road as a cut through when the M6 is closed. Councillor Ridley feels that city engineers are acknowledging these issues and concerns and will hopefully look at possible solutions.

Residents attending the meeting highlighted the fact that the A45 and local roads had become noisier and busier since the opening of the Amazon Warehouse in Allesley. Linda Jarvis pointed out that road noise is particularly heavy around 2.00 – 4.00 am.

Ken Battersby highlighted the lack of clear lane markings along the A45 which is particularly problematic during darkness and in wet weather. Councillor Ridley will raise this issue with Council Officer Colin Knight, as he is already aware of similar issues around Leamington Road, the Wing Wah roundabout and around the police station at Canley.

Paul Jarvis raised his concerns about confusing signage relating to 'no access to Lyons Park'. Councillor Ridley agreed to report this issue.

Councillor Ridley advised that he would be willing to accept any further issues relating to the A45 from residents by e mail: [Gary.Ridley@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Gary.Ridley@coventry.gov.uk)

Councillor Ridley has launched a campaign to name one of Britain's six new warships HMS Coventry. This request has received a positive response locally and is also being supported by a coalition of MPs. Should you wish to sign this petition, it can be found at:

<https://www.change.org/p/secretary-of-state-for-defence-name-new-royal-navy-frigate-hms-coventry>

Resident Nicky Blakemore asked Councillor Ridley whether a Conservative led council would reverse the decision to build on the greenbelt land at Eastern Green. Councillor Ridley advised that as the land had now been declassified from greenbelt status that any planning application would be treated in the same way as one on brownfield sites and that it was very likely that a developer would gain permission to build on this land at some point in time.

However, Councillor Ridley advised that a Conservative led council would adopt a brownfield approach first and would either change or review the Local Plan so that it would work for local people. He also reiterated the fact that growth figures are inaccurate and that it would be important to ensure that a Housing Needs Assessment was undertaken.

Currently 1,000 houses are built in Coventry each year and therefore there should not be a need to build on greenbelt land.

Colin Smith raised the issue that Holyhead Road has extremely high pollution emissions well in excess of air quality safety levels and asked for clarification as to how this is to be dealt with. Councillor Ridley stated that the government had advised that charges were to be made to limit traffic travelling towards the city centre with a requirement to create exclusion zones. Coventry City Council have suggested that a new road is opened on to the ring road from Hill Street to alleviate pressures on Holyhead Road. However, this proposal has not yet been agreed. Another proposal is that rail stations are opened in Coundon and Binley, in order to take pressure off the roads. Resident Lyn Toney advised that Bablake School currently arrange mini buses to take pupils from the railway station to the school.

Lyn Toney raised her concerns about HGVs parking on Coundon Wedge Road, causing potential safety issues and congestion. It is believed that the lorries are from the Amazon warehouse.

Lyn also requested that safety measures – for example rumble strip – on the slip road coming from the Birmingham direction. There have been several incidences of traffic travelling fast through red lights at this junction on the roundabout. Councillor Ridley will raise this with Council officers.

### **AGRA Events & Activities**

- Quiz evening – September 2019 at the Jaguar Sports & Social Club
- Pickford Brook Clean Up – July 2019

- Sunflower Challenge – August 2019
- Bulb Planting – October 2019

Ted Drayton raised the point that he had not been aware of the Sunflower Challenge until the winners were announced. Lilius Maddock explained that this competition was set at the Easter Egg Hunt when children attending the event had been presented with a free packet of sunflower seeds.

Residents were requested to let the committee have their ideas for other social events

Councillor Male will contact Council Rangers to request their support with cutting back shrubs around the area in early spring.

### **Carols in the Close 2019**

This year's Carols in the Close event will take place on Wednesday 18 December at 6.00 pm in Birch Close. The festive singing will once again be led by the Soulful Gospel Choir. Friends and family will all be very welcome to attend this event.

Local resident Marilyn Haddon, who was recently awarded with the British Empire Medal for the work that she has done for Cancer Research will be attending the event and will be accepting any donations made on the evening on behalf of this charity.

Colin Smith advised that he would need some volunteers to support him during the day on the 18 December to assist erecting marquees and Christmas lights.

### **City of Culture 2021**

It was agreed that so far there had been little interaction or communication with community groups such as AGRA by the City of Culture team. Councillor Ridley advised that a programme would be in place soon, but stressed the importance of the team acknowledging what currently goes on in the city.

Councillor Lepoidevin advised that a group from the Tile Hill area had recently been awarded a grant of £4,000 from the City of Culture funding.

### **AOB:**

### **CV Go**

Ann Smith advised residents of the CV Go initiative which is a free scheme for Coventry residents that gives free entry to venues such as The Wave, Coventry Transport Museum, Alan Higgs Centre and Xcel Leisure Centre, Canley. Membership cards can be obtained from any of these venues and can be registered on the following website: <https://go-cv.co.uk/about/>

### Removal of trees in Park Hill Lane

Resident Ted Drayton requested further information about the planning application for the removal of trees in Park Hill Lane. Councillor Ridley confirmed that an application to remove trees had been agreed by the planning department. However, a separate application to build 14 houses on this site was rejected on the grounds that the area was classified as being 'green space'.

Resident Julie Friend advised that the War Memorial Park are willing to take trees that need to be removed because of their size.

Resident Linda Jarvis raised her concerns at the loss of trees and asked how they can be protected. Jenny Battersby advised that the tree warden was aware of the removal of these trees.

### Coventry Museums

Colin Smith advised residents of the existence of the Watch Museum which is located in Spon Street. This museum is open to the public apart from the months of December – February. Coventry also has a Police Museum which is open to the public. Visits can be arranged by contacting: [tony.rose@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:tony.rose@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

Meeting closed: 8.55 pm

Date of next meeting: March 2020 – date to be confirmed