

Wilford Community Group

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 16th November 2009 at Wilford Social and Bowls Club

Present: Stephanie Taylor (ST) Chair
Roger Steel (RS) Vice Chair
Sheila Atherton (SA) Treasurer
Josie Foster (JF)
Brian Hardy (BH)
Bill Roughton (BR)
Frank Wakelin (FW)
Daniel Atherton (DA)

Elaine Stenson (ES) Neighbourhood Action Officer

Residents: Peter Stiles, Ian Bennett, Hilary Searle, Tim and Pat Lister, Alan Foster

Invited Guests: Laura Marano – Link NHS; John Lee – Public Rights of Way; Martin Harris – Parks and Open Spaces; Tony Walker – Secretary, Wilford Bowls and Social Club

Action

1 Apologies

Dave Boulton and Chris Allsop

- 2 ST welcomed guests and visitors and opened the meeting by inviting **Laura Marano to speak first about LINK NHS**. LINK initials stand for Local Involvement Network and has been set up to give communities a stronger voice in how their health and social care services are planned and delivered. It is an independent network of local individuals, groups and organisations that work together to raise community concerns about all publicly funded health and social care services. It is not a complaints service but will investigate issues, propose improvements and use their powers to hold service providers to account but do not refer matters to the relevant complaints agencies when issues fall outside of the LINKs activities.

LINK works with all people including individual, carers, community groups and local organisations to find out what issues matter to them and offer a way to influence change. Issues can range from improving existing services like GP's surgeries, dentists and hospitals, all the way through to looking at bus services to help people access care services. No matter what the problem, the LINK will help local people to influence and improve local services.

It is a completely independent body and they have the power to enter Care Homes, Hospitals and public facilities with 3 days notice. It can deal with discharge from hospital, pharmacy, and transition of health care when leaving hospital.

ST mentioned that the 63 bus service had been withdrawn and rerouted away from Queens Medial Centre; it was difficult, without independent transport, for some residents to access GP surgeries and hospitals'. Laura Marano said she had not been aware of this difficulty and would investigate.

Any issue raised is taken to a panel within 5 working days and will respond in 20 working days.

Would the WCG consider a membership to LINK as a group? The panel meets once a month for between 2/4 hours. The highest level is a Board of Directors.

BH

On behalf of the group BH volunteered to have emails sent to him about LINK

- 3 Martin Harris – Park Development Officer** – responsibility for Areas 7, 8 and 9. In this area, he covers Ruddington Lane, Iremongers Pond, Allotments, Victoria Embankment and Clifton Parks. He has no responsibility for schools.

A lot of investment has been in Clifton with Government funding to schools, children and families and most playgrounds have been improved with just one more to finish. Area 9, section 106 money, has made available £270,000 from Lark Hill. He will make an application for funding in 2010/11 to develop Ruddington Lane Park and deal with it as a blank canvas, but it is up to us, as residents to say what we require.

There is an Open Space Meeting on November 25th and Martin Harris will try to move scheme forward and work with WCG. Wilford is now virtually land locked but any suggestions for Open Space will be welcome. RS thought a suggestion from our previous meeting that the Park on Queens Drive be copied was a good one. BR suggested a triangular area at Iremongers Pond could be utilised even it was only to use planters to make it more attractive. MH said he would investigate these suggestions.

There will be a further opportunity to enter the Community in Bloom and BR said he would be dealing with the forms when they were available. RS suggested railing planters at the crossroads, but road safety may be an issue, however, the verges could be planted up. At Ruddington Lane Park the play equipment should be for all age groups.

The next phase will be a consultation and it was considered best to leave this until February/March next year. It was suggested that the school children be asked for their ideas. Martin Harris informed us that there would be 4/5 years in which to spend the money in this area. Referring to Bader Road, complaints have been received about an area called "The Square" being an eyesore. ES said it was too costly to remove paving and tarmac or grass. Martin Harris suggested raised planters; Andrew Price has suggested a community orchard. These have all been rejected.

Martin Harris said he would be available to attend any of our future meetings.

- 4 John Lee – Public Rights of Way** – The Public Meeting on Tuesday 4th November at the Rugby Club, Wilford Village to discuss a cycle route through Bader Road, ended in the rejection of the three options by residents in that area, John Lee proposed that improvements should be made to the footpath at the rear of Vernon Avenue along the public right of way, using the money that would not now be spent on the Bader Road cycle route. A questionnaire has been sent to 16 properties on Vernon Avenue that overlook this path. Mr Foster and BH requested that they would like to have one of these letters, as their properties would also be affected. To date there have been 8 responses as follows:

87% are in favour of an improved footpath

1% NO to any improvement

75% NO to black tarmac

63% prefer a natural surface colour

75% NO to any lighting

Holly Avenue will also be affected by lighting and BH does not see it as a problem, more of a safety issue. Automatic lighting has been suggested ie lighting to be switched off at 11.00 pm. John Lee said this could lead to a Health and Safety issue with liability falling to the Council, if, for instance, someone were injured or attacked after the switch off.

Will the people who have not replied be approached again – John Lee said it would be pursued. Mr Bennett said the reason given for not wanting lighting was to keep it more rural, there was street lighting at the front and did not want this to happen at the back of his property. RS said the safety issue of children was not really an issue as they could use the lit path from school, using Coronation Avenue and Vernon Avenue. Mr Foster preferred the path without lights saying he

Action

felt it would deter break-ins. BH felt that lighting deterred break-ins and it was safer. In conclusion John Lee said that in 10/12 years the path would be far worse and it would be far better to improve it now. The tarmac would be black in the first instance and in a few weeks they would return and lay a decorative finish, leaving the verges free for a wildlife corridor. There would not be a public meeting and he, John Lee, would be making the final decision. Questions were asked about the railway bridge and the pigeon problem. As the bridge is in the County the City Council have no responsibility for dealing with this problem.

Cycling on 'B' Bank – the removal of the barriers, signs stating 'No Cycling' and painting 'No Cycling' on the pavement has made no difference to cyclists coming off the 'B' bank, at speed, past the homes of 85 and 87 Main Road. It was stated that with the siting of these notices police might now take action. Mr Lister asked if, on leaving their home they were injured, how do they stop them and who do they sue? The 'B' Bank is not a cycle path, it is designated a 'quiet route'. Mr Lister disagreed with this statement as most of the time it is a speed route. John Lee agreed to place staggered and knee-high barriers on the bank as soon as possible.

- 5 Tony Walker, Bowls Secretary** – thanked the WCG for their help in overcoming the financial crisis at the Social and Bowls Club and finances are now improving. There will be a Bowls Open Day on May 23rd that they hope to repeat on a monthly basis throughout the bowling season in 2010. ES mentioned that the Ward Councillors are keen not to lose this facility in Wilford and grant aid may be available via the WCG.
- 6 Minutes of the October Meeting - Amendments:**
ES asked for an alteration to Item 8 a statement by Ian Bretton regarding the wall on the toll bridge be amended to read "it was considered to be a High Risk" instead of "not a problem" and ES to convene a meeting with Angela Mills NOT ES together with Angela Mills. Finally Item 4 RS asked for an amendment re the issue of the kerb at the post office should read "the bend was flattened or re-shaped" NOT the kerb.
ST made the alterations to the Minutes and these were then agreed and signed.
- 7 Matters Arising/Outstanding Actions** – Item 4 ES has asked the Ward Councillors if they would contribute towards the £3 000 required for a Traffic Regulation Order in order to remove the lay-by. At this moment they have decided against any funding in this direction. It has also been decided not to remove the lay-by or yellow lines. RS said the owners were entitled to have a fence and garden around their property.
Item 8 – the wall on the Toll Bridge has been boarded up twice; the abutment on the Rugby Club entrance previously had red engineering bricks and could be done now. It needs to be made safe. ES had contacted Ian Bretton and the brickwork will be done before Spring.
A meeting of Youth Workers will be held on Monday 23rd November. SA
Item 3 – Community in Bloom - Photographs and Merit Award still not on the Notice Board. If no photographs are available the Merit Award should be posted. BR
- 8 Crime Update** – no update has been received from PC Brown.
BH has received an Email re Neighbourhood Watch to be aware of a water scam that is currently taking place in the area.
- 9 Library** – An improved library and a Post Office pilot scheme being considered and ST, BH, Councillors Ian Malcolm and Andrew Price and Jonathon Shewell-Cooper are attending a meeting on the 8th December. ST/BH
- 10 Area 9** – Iremongers Pond was praised for receiving an award for Outstanding Achievement in the Community Bloom awards and has been recommended for a ST/BR

Action

National Award at the Awards Ceremony in Birmingham. Gilly Walker has also recommended the Iremongers Pond Committee try for a Green Pennant Award. BH, on behalf of the WCG, thanked Bill Roughton and his committee for all their hard work and committment. It was suggested that we write to Diane Moore to thank her for starting us off. ST said she would write on our behalf.

ST

11 Any Other Business –

(a) Mr Stiles had attended the Public Meeting about the proposed cycle path on Bader Road, had read the report of the meeting on the web site and felt it was an insult to call it "improvements to Bader Road". He also asked WCG to guarantee that no development of any kind would ever be suggested in the future for the Bader Road area. ST said that this was an impossible request and far beyond the influence of the group.

(b) Hilary Searle a resident from Wilford Lane had a complaint about school children dropping rubbish in and around her home and would like a waste bin in an appropriate location. ES would inform the relevant people. There is an education video that teaches pupils to take responsibility for litter at school.

ES

(c) RS would like the removal of double yellow lines outside BR's home.

JF

(d) Committee Members agreed the Annual Christmas celebration meal should be on 23rd January 2010 at the Country Cottage on Easthorpe Street, Ruddington. JF agreed to make the arrangements.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Date of Next Meeting Monday 14 December 2009 at Wilford Social and Bowls Club