

HINDLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Held at Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel on Wednesday 2nd September 2009

PRESENT: Debbie Birchall - DB, Jim Burtonwood, Mike Lynch, Mike Walsh - MW, John Vickers - JV, Jeff Unsworth - JU, Barbara Unsworth, Dawn Draper - DD, Lynn Collier, David Dodsworth, Margaret Wright, Alan Wright, Barbara Lane - BL, Julie Bradshaw, Ken Ellison, Cllr. Bob Brierley - CBB, Cllr. Barry Fagan - CBF

APOLOGIES: were received from Maxine Armstrong and Joan Blundell

1. **MINUTES:** of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th August were unavailable at the time of the meeting. Apologies were given by the Secretary.

2. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i. **Engineer's Fund/Bethel Proposed Works**

Two quotes have been obtained although we are now informed that it is normal practice for the Council to arrange a Contractor. CBF advised that this is sometimes best practice. Arguments were aired for and against. Awaiting confirm that the proposed contractor is acceptable to WMBC. **ACTION 142 – Malcolm Coe (MC)**

ii. **Sponsorship**

Assistance required to obtain funding from various sources.

iii. **Thomas Street One Way System**

No further developments. JU to contact Stephen Bell, WMBC. **ACTION 143 - JU**

iv. **HGRA Proposed Projects**

We were advised that funding is available from the Platt Bridge Forum. A proposal was to improve the footpath around the Clayhole Alternatives materials were discussed. Further suggestions are welcome. Apparently this area was never intended as a park but a scene. It is a nice area for young children but not teenagers. A fence would take away the open aspect, more swings will attract youths. Please give some thought to improvements or projects you would like to see happen around Hindley Green and let us have your thoughts and comments for discussion and hopefully to undertake. Harlea Avenue was suggested as a project.

v. **Traffic Issues**

We were advised by CBB that Coupland Road has not, as yet, been adopted with contracts still to be signed by both the Council and the Builders.

The signage directing traffic at the traffic lights of Atherton Road/Leigh Road is small and requires placing higher up. CBB has held a meeting with Stephen Bell in this regard.

Speeding motorbikes along Leigh Road seem to be on the increase.

CBB has requested yellow lines be places on Broadway, Atherton Road, Swan Lane and all major highways in Hindley Green.

We were informed that new crossing signs have been placed on Castle Hill Road and more on Atherton Road in an endeavour to slow traffic down.

Works outlined on the drawings as part of to the LPT Capital Project for Atherton Road/Leigh Road has not been carried out. **CBB/CBF to chase ACTION 47 refers**

Parking is still a big issue near Atherton Road hairdressers. Some residents want alley gating for which two rules apply (1) a lot a complaints or (2) inconvenience by residents who want them. The Council do not take responsibility, details to be given to CBB.

vi. **Planning Matters**

There are 6/7 planning applications on the website, all except one are residential developments for conservatories / extensions. The other is for the play area on Coupland Road.

3. FINANCE

The current bank balance stands at £967.41, with an income of £28.18 from the sale of refreshment and raffle at July's meeting. A cheque in the sum of £6.00 payable to Land Registry still remains uncleared and has now expired it's six month validity.

4. COUNCILLOR ITEMS

i. Cllr. Barry Fagan

- Save our Schools – The Government are making the education system boroughwide rather than local. Three motions have gone into the Council (CBF was unable to elaborate on this). There is a considerable amount of money available to Hindley Green of £6m.
- Hindley Green have not received any regeneration monies. £19.6m has been earmarked for Bickershaw. When challenged the response was that no Councillors had applied for funds.
- Hindley Green are also not to receive any Coalified Funds. We seem to be hitting brick walls. CBF has asked for figures.

ii. Cllr. Louise Fagan - No report received.

iii. Cllr. Bob Brierley

- New footpaths and lamp posts have been identified from the 2010/11 budget. Footpaths in Athol Crescent, Brecon Drive and Beaumaris Avenue to be considered in the near future.
- Flags have now been replaced out Kebab King and the Sunbed Centre. Flags purchase by CBB the shops employing their own contractors. Gating to the rear has also been completed together with the tidying up of the back alley.
- The Beat It Team were given a detailed list of areas to be cleaned up. Hindley Green is becoming a cleaner place to live.
- At the time of the meeting the roof was leaking, water dripping on to the Committee's table. CBB advised that he had requested a structural survey of the Bethel. The Church have recently replaced window, new battens around the building although CBB advised these have been placed over the top of rotten battens. CBB was of the view that the Church were being made scapegoats as the Council should be carrying out these works. CBB also advised that under the old lease the Church are responsible for the footpaths outside the building.
- The alleyway at the side and to the rear of the hairdressers on Atherton Road is to be cleared, money should be available in the next two weeks.
- Donated £250 to Brunswick Gala together with gazebos and non-perishable items.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i. Westlake/Clayhole

Problems still being encountered with youths amalgamating on the park, not necessarily from Hindley Green. Problems were encountered at 6.30 this morning with youths on the park rattling the swings. WLCT do not appear to be interested and advise residents to contact the Police. Please do contact the Police and ensure you receive a log number. Three calls in rapid succession would receive higher priority. PACT encourage residents to contact the Police to record incidents. Should problems not be reported then there is no record of the incident and goes unnoticed. Once fed in PACT about 50 people are contacted for feedback. The law must be broken before action can be taken, results from which are good. Unfortunately the swings cannot be locked up at night as cemeteries due to limited amount of income funding. Both Councillors present were asked to put pressure on WLCT. **ACTION CBF/CBB** HGRA have previously made enquiries for costs to place wrap around swing chains, DB to chase. **ACTION 144 - DB**. Residents are looking for more consideration i.e. no ball games, no horse riding and signage to the affect as previous signage has been removed. **ACTION 145 - CBF** to liaise with Rodney Hill.

Gun shots were heard at approximately 2.30am on Sunday morning 4 quick bursts and then another four.

ii. Councillors

Members do not feel Hindley Green is receiving support from it's Councillors. Prior to CBB being re-elected CBF attended meetings .

iii. Local Development Framework Core Strategy

JU has written a draft objection letter and one has already been sent in to WMBC. Place on website and bring copies to next meeting. **ACTION 146 -JU**

iv. Buses

South Lancs Travel have given notice of withdrawal of the 652 bus service to Leigh via Westhoughton. Children attending Westleigh High School will now have to leave home earlier to either walk or to change buses. Parents should complain to the School, the more complaints received the more chance of something being done. South Lancs Travel we understand is the worst bus company in the area. The Council retains their own budget controlled by Lord Peter Smith. CBF will liaise with GMPTA. **ACTION 147 – CBF**

v. Harlea Avenue

It seems unlikely that the adoption of Harlea Avenue will not take in place in the foreseeable future. Twelve roads have been adopted in Abram which do not form part of the generation project. There are currently 80/90 unadopted roads in the Borough with up to three per year being adopted due to costs. CBB to investigate the pecking order as Harlea Avenue have been near the top of the list for the past 24 years. **ACTION 148 – CBB.** Properties on unadopted roads are cheaper as standards of the road are not met.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th October 2009 commencing 7.00 pm at Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel.

Apologies for any errors and omissions.

Ref	Date	Action	Owner	Comments
2008 ACTIONS				
47	05/11/08	Request further footprint be carried out at Atherton Road/ Leigh Road junction from Wigan MBC	CBB/CBF	E-mail sent to CBB 28/11/08 – awaiting response from WMBC – Chased CBB 20/01/09 & 02/02/09 02/09 CBF/CBB to chase
2009 ACTIONS				
104	07/01/09	Contact Wigan MBC regarding inadequate lighting on Ludlow Avenue	DB	Ongoing - E-mail sent 21/01
114	04/02/09	Investigate proposals for bale hostels	JV	Ongoing - No further information available at present
119	04/03/09	Obtain information regarding the PACT Process from Township Forum	JV	Ongoing - Not at last meeting
120	04/03/09	Raise at Township Forum problems with vehicles parking on grass verge Blair Avenue	JV	Ongoing – Greenspaces investigating
121	01/04/09	How do Highways consult with residents regarding proposed projects/plans?	CBB	
122	01/04/09	What can we do to encourage our local Councillors to support us?	JV	Currently in hand
124	01/04/09	Who owns the land on Leigh Road, the old railway gap	DB	
126	01/04/09	Add waste collection details to website	JU	
130	03/06/09	What proposals do Cllr. Barry and Louise Fagan have in the pipeline for their Brighter Borough Funds	DB	COMPLETE – Have projects lined up but like to keep a sum set aside
131	01/07/09	Chase 5 th boundary sign at Westhoughton boundary	DB	E-mail sent to Malcolm Coe
132	01/07/09	Arrange for shrubbery to be cut back to the rear of the land adjacent the Bethel	CBB	
135	01/07/09	Put forward traffic issues to TE&E Sub Group	DB	E-mail to M Coe & Traffic Dept
136	01/07/09	Who is responsible for Bexley Street?	DB	E-mail sent to D Jenkinson
137	01/07/09	Add Local Development Framework to website	JU	COMPLETE
138	01/07/09	Provide list of sources available for funding	JV	
139	05/08/09	Add details to website regarding development framework consultation	JU	COMPLETE
140	05/08/09	Collate further information regarding the development framework consultation	JV	
141	05/08/09	Visit shop owners requesting consideration be given to residents regarding parking	MA	
142	02/09/09	Confirmation awaited that proposed Contractor for Bethel works is acceptable to WMBC	MC	
143	02/09/09	Liaise with Stephen Bell, WMBC regarding Thomas Street one way system	JU	
144	02/09/09	Chase WLCT for costings to place wraps on swing chains, clayhole	DB	E-mail sent to Debbie Freeman
145	02/09/09	Liaise with Rodney Hill regarding signage around Westlake	CBF	
146	02/09/09	Upload Local Development Framework Core Strategy objection letter and bring copies to next meeting	JU	COMPLETE
147	02/09/09	Liaise with GMPTA regarding bus services and the withdrawal of the 652 service	CBF	
148	02/09/09	Investigate pecking order for adoption of roads	CBB	

