

HINDLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Held at Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel on Wednesday 3rd September 2008

PRESENT: Debbie Birchall - DB, Sheila Woodward, Barbara Unsworth, Jeff Unsworth, Michael Walsh, Avis Shone, Alan Wright, Margaret Wright, Jim Burtonwood, Eric Dickens - ED, Ivy Dickens, John Vickers - JV, Maxine Armstrong - MA, Sue Wiggin, George Wiggin, Ray Byrne, Dorothy Byrne, Michael Topping, John Weeks, Denise Weeks, Pamela Lewis, Frank O'Shea, Laura O'Shea, Raymond Whittle, Cheryl Porter, Phil Cooksey, Cllr. Bob Brierley - BB, Eileen Brooks, S Lockwood, Lynn Collier, Kathleen Peoples, Tony Whiteside, James Cunliffe, Lynda Taylor, David Taylor, Jeff Baines, Julie Butler, Ron Shuttleworth, Frank Carmichael, DB Murray, N Topping, W Battersby, Malcolm Coe - MC, Zenno Vattev, Dawn Draper - DD

APOLOGIES: were received from Cllr. Barry Fagan - CBF, WPC Wendy Rowson, Barbara Lane, Steve Ashworth, Cllr. Louise Fagan - CLF, Mike Lynch and David Dodsworth

1. **MINUTES:** of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2008 (having been circulated) were Proposed by Ivy Dickens and Seconded by Sheila Woodward. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 6th August 2008 (again, having been circulated) were Proposed by Maxine Armstrong and Seconded by Dawn Draper, all in favour.

2. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i. **Constitution**

Amendment to paragraph 4a has now been amended and signed.

ii. **Planning Matters**

A list of all recent planning applications in Hindley Green was presented. This list is available on the Wigan Council Planning website, an updated list will be produced at all subsequent meetings. Advice on objections and support can be sought from the Committee.

A proposal to build two dwellings on the only open space of the Yew Tree Farm Development, ref: A/08/71696, is to go before the Planning Committee on 15th September for a decision due to the 20-30 objections received and to the intervention of Cllr. Brierley. Rob Shuttleworth and Mr Clark placed a preservation order on the trees for 6 months due to objections but must still follow the planning process. Belway, Manchester Division, will advise if land is for sale to residents.

Application No. A/08/71709 to install a 13.8m slimline column with 3 no. antennas is to be an 02 telephone mast.

iii. **Hindley Green Ward Boundaries**

Investigations continuing. Constitution amended to include all residents of Hindley Green ward and residents with a Hindley Green postal address. Marsh Brook running alongside Coupland Road is the Wigan/Bolton boundary line. MC advised current Police areas match the Township areas and are as near as possible to the ward boundaries. **Action 03 – BB**

iv. **Swan Lane Traffic/Traffic Calming Measures**

Numerous issues were raised with speeding on Coupland Road, Swan Lane, Green Lane, Crossdale Road and Weymouth Avenue. Particularly the number of accidents which have occurred on Leigh Road. MC to liaise with Engineer to attend a future meeting to discuss traffic calming measures. **Refer to ACTION 26**

The Environmental Services have confirmed the 20mph zone to be placed in Swan Lane will continue into Green Lane just beyond Westlake Grove.

It was suggested a delay be placed on the traffic lights at the junction of Atherton Road/Leigh Road, outside the Bethel, to allow people sufficient time to cross the road. Request to be raised at Township Form. **ACTION 33 - DB**

v. **Play Areas**

WLCT referred us back to the Township Forum and local Councillors regarding proposals and plans for Coupland Road play area. MC advised there is £90k available for capital expenditure for open space and play areas. It will be a long process and planning permission will need to be sought after consultation with local residents and HGRA, the adjacent land will be taken into consideration. Designs, plans and a works programme will require to be drawn up. WLCT currently have sufficient work until the end of the current financial year 03/09. We are looking at up to a period of 12 months before any progression can be made. £50k was set aside for maintenance of open space on the estate for a period of 13 years.

CBF advised that paperwork has now been completed with the builder and the Council over a strip of land. Report to follow. **Action 34 - CBF**

The Township Forum, Transport, Economy & Environment sub group, visited 20 parks/play areas within the Township area carrying out an audit/survey outlining how each operates, it's issues, improvements and costs involved. The sub group will produce a list together with cost indication. Monies for any improvements, etc. derives through developments, there currently being £10k in kitty. There is a new formula for every house and flat built, with the exception of one bed flats. The Township is currently unsure as to where funds will be spent although deprived areas will take priority. However, Residents groups can bid for external money, i.e. National Lottery. Bickershaw Residents Group having received funding totaling £65k, works to commence shortly.

We currently have two play areas, Westlake Park (Clayhole) and Bexhill Drive, this having one swing only. Various views were made at the meeting regarding additional play areas as youths seem to amalgamate. Ideally we need to talk to the youths and listen to what they have to say and what they want.

vi. Harley Avenue

Works are to be undertaken on 4 unadopted roads which are currently unknown. **ACTION 16 - BB**

vii. Clayhole

Night fishing continues to be a problem on the Clayhole, this may eliminate should a bailiff be found. DD advised her husband may be interested in taking on this role, contact details given. **ACTION 35 - DD**

ix. Donations and Fund Raising

Zenno Vattev, Funding Officer, of Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust, attended the meeting and advised on different types of funding available, what funding can be utilized for and the people funding can benefit, giving some examples. Land at the end of Thomas Street left in Trust for children as a recreation area not having a funding association the upkeep would be by WLCT. Funding from the National Lottery is currently low at £3billion increasing to £9billion in 4/5 years. Zenno is available for us to discuss funding raising for specific activities/events. HGRA to look at the possibility of obtaining, with funding and grants, a Community Centre.

The total sum of £380 has been received in donations and sponsorship. With a further sum of £1,000 being donated by Cllr. Brierley from his Brighter Borough Funds. Sincere thanks for all donations and sponsors and special thanks to Cllr. Brierley.

x. Boundary Signs

A Hindley Green sign requires designing. Suggestions were made, BB suggested a picture of a family but as we are a non-racist, non-political Association what type of family would be used?; An historic sign with a hind on a green? Designs open to suggestion, modern or historical.

xi. Police

Police surgeries are open to all residents on the last Wednesday of each month commencing 7.00 pm at the Bethel. No attendance at the last meeting. Residents advised that they have attended in the past receiving no positive response. All being well WPC Wendy Rowson will be attending the next HGRA meeting and giving a Homewatch Presentation, awaiting confirmation.

Problems continuing with youths particularly in Juniper Drive, Oak Avenue and also on the Clayhole. A number of problems were reported in the meeting of incidents reported receiving no response and also when calling telephones remain unanswered. JV requested residents having these problems please bring a list to the next meeting together with log numbers and we will pursue on their behalf. Incident line is 0161 872 5050.

xii. Township Forum

HGRA membership application is to be presented at the next Township Forum meeting on Monday 8th September, DB & MA to attend. Once application is approved this will enable HGRA nominated Committee members to attend sub groups. The Environment and Transport Economy sub groups have now merged.

xiii Friends of Hindley Station

The next Public Meeting will be held on Thursday 16th October at John's Church commencing 7.00 pm to discuss ongoing issues, including the footpath and to arrange a future clean up at the station. Also the closure of the line between Chorley and Preston, affecting a number of services on the Wigan/Bolton line.

ix. Promoting the Association

DB to contact WLCT What's On with regard to advertising our meetings. **ACTION 36 - DB**

A social sub-committee to be set up. To be discussed further at Committee meeting. We are currently looking at venues for a summer fair to be held next spring and to hold other future social events.

4. FINANCE

Currently the bank balance stands of £1,360.50. Income of £1,380 with outgoings of £19.50 for printing and supply of leaflets for recent distribution. The Treasurer proposed further expenditure of £80 for 4 sets of ink cartridges for use by

the Secretary and Webmaster and a portable hard drive for the Secretary. Secretary and Webmaster are utilizing their own PC equipment. All in favour of purchases.

ED advised according to a recent report in the Daily Telegraph the Government propose to impose a tax on fund raising, any problems should be directed to Andy Burnham.

5. COUNCILLOR ITEMS

i. Cllr. Barry Fagan

- Sign posts for Hindley Green signs to be jointly funded by CBF and CLF from their Brighter Borough Funds.
- The 620 bus service along Atherton Road is under threat with lots of complaints from parents regarding school children getting to school if they miss the school bus and from people as far as Ashton to Atherton. CBF has a GMPTA policy committee meeting next Friday when he will ensure this is on the agenda objecting to the cuts in service.
- Approximately 33 Christmas trees for shops are about to be ordered at a cost in the region of £4,500. No further suggestions were made for change.

A member advised that his son has previously supplied, fitted and removed trees including lights for Ashton and Platt Bridge at a cost of £60-£70 each. Further information requested. **ACTION 37 – DB**

- If larger displays of flowers are wanted next year both CBF and CLF will make a payment from their Brighter Borough Fund. Wigan looks great which is down to Martin Kimber keeping his promise and his department giving us the best display in Wigan.
- School plans in for road safety and will be up and running soon.
- New Special Needs School in Long Lane is on target . Trees to be planted and the playing field to be returned to its normal condition after completion.

ii. Cllr. Louise Fagan

An e-mail was received from Cllr. Louise Fagan advising that both CLF and CBF work together on all matters regarding HGRA.

iii. Cllr. Bob Brierley

- BB has donated a quantity of spring bulbs for planting, HGRA to get school children involved in planting.
- 6 new dog bins and 2 new sign posts have been ordered for the Clayhole.
- Requests made to relay roads and pavements in the area. Uneven footpaths outside the Bethel to be repaired in new financial year. Grass verges outside shops to be repaired and flags to be re-laid by shopkeepers.
- Surgeries 1st Tuesday of each Month at Bethel, 2nd Tuesday at Park High and 3rd Tuesday at Mornington Road.
- Den in woodlands on Oak Avenue has now been removed.
- Youth club every week at the Bethel 7.00 to 9.30 pm.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i. Website

JU has provided vast amount of information on the website. We have had numerous hits to the site from all around the world and favourable comments left by visitors.

ii. Atherton Road Gating

Investigate if there are any plans in the pipeline for gating to the rear of 753 Atherton Road. **ACTION 38 - DB**

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1st October 2008 commencing 7.00 pm at Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel.

A Committee meeting to be arranged for some time in September, all members will receive an invite.

Apologies for any errors and omissions.

Ref.	Date	Action	Owner	Comments
03	07/05/08	Confirm which ward Maxine Armstrong of 7 Bankhall Close, Hindley Green, WN2 resides	BB	Ongoing – investigations continuing
09	07/05/08	Liaise with Rodney Hill on grass cuttings being blown into gardens and drains in Blair Grove/Edinburgh Drive	BB	COMPLETE
10	07/05/08	Liaise with Highways Department regarding grass verges being churned up along Blair Grove	BB	COMPLETE
12	07/05/08	How does an area become a renewal/deprivation area?	BB	Ongoing
16	04/06/08	Harley Avenue update	BB	4 roads are to be adopted, unknown which
17	02/07/08	Formally invite all three Councillors to next meeting	DB	COMPLETE – Reminders sent every month
19	02/07/08	Formally invite Swan Lane/Green Lane residents to next meeting	DB	COMPLETE – Flyer sent to all residents
21	02/07/08	Formally invite PC Wendy Rowson to next meeting	DB	COMPLETE
23	02/07/08	Provide additional personal details	JV	Ongoing
24	06/08/08	Source Hindley Green map clearly identifying boundaries	JV	Ongoing
26	06/08/08	Formally write to Environment Services outlining issues and offer invite to next meeting	DB / BB / MC	Ongoing – Several requests made via various routes
27	06/08/08	What proposals are planned for Coupland Road play area by WLCT? Contact Debbie Freeman	DB	COMPLETE – Refer to Play Areas above for update
28	06/08/08	Invite Coupland Road residents to next meeting should a satisfactory response be received from WLCT	DB	COMPLETE – Flyer sent to all residents
29	06/08/08	Investigate how standards of play areas were achieved in Bolton	JV	Ongoing
30	06/08/08	Check guidelines for Hindley Green signage	DB	COMPLETE
31	06/08/08	Invite Councillors to attend monthly Police Surgery at Bamfurlong Police Station 1 st Tuesday of each month	DB	COMPLETE
33	03/09/08	Request delay on traffic lights at junction of Atherton Road/ Leigh Road at Township Forum	DB / MA	
34	03/09/08	Report to be submitted regarding Coupland Road	CBF	
35	03/09/08	Mr Draper to contact Trevor Smith regarding vacancy of Bailiff on the Clayhold	DD	
36	03/09/08	Contact WLCT What's On regarding advertising meetings	DB	Details forwarded 15/09
37	03/09/08	Obtain further costs and information regarding Christmas trees	DB	Details requested 13/09
38	03/09/08	Investigate plans for alley gating to the rear of 753 Atherton Road	DB	No current plans in place