

Curzon Park Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting held at Chester Golf Club on Monday 18 May 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Geoff Brown
Chris Coxon
Helen Davey
John Davey
S J Davies
R A Downey
David Emmonds
E Fernandez
L Fernandez
John Flitcroft
Tracey Geary
Roger Greenway

Bryn Jones
John Hopkins
Pauline Hopkins
Colin Hughes
Christine Kemp
Colin Kemp
Derek Lawson
Margaret Lawson
Bill Macaulay
Adrian Neeves
Liz Neeves
Catherine Parkes

Simon Parrington
Chris Pilsbury
Tim Rosen
Keith Rothwell
Andrea Segrave
Barbara Shapton
Jim Shapton
Rita Shaw
N Trousdale
P Sa.....
Sonny Worthington

Apologies:

Peter Bingham
Bernard Fendt
June Kevan

C M Knight
Vivian & Anne Knight
Anne Lingard

Peter & Gwenda Rockcliff
Maurice Terry
Ray Williams

1. Chair's Report

Chris Pilsbury thanked members of the Management Committee for their hard work over the last 15 months and the Golf Club for allowing the Association to use their premises. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Golf Club. Chris reported on the work of the individual working groups:

(a) Community and Social Working Group

The primary aim of the group had been to try to instil some community spirit into Curzon Park. The first venture was a successful coach trip to Liverpool and Crosby last June despite poor weather. The August Bank Holiday Discovery Trail attracted about 100 residents, including a number of young families, who came together over tea and cakes at the end of their local expedition. It was planned to do a similar event for August Bank Holiday 2009.

The visit in October to the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester to see a Taste of Honey was enjoyed by those who went, but the relatively high cost kept numbers down, and a less expensive formula would be planned next time. Residents were asked to complete a questionnaire to show their preferences for such trips. The Curry and Quiz Night held at the Bear & Billet Pub in February proved a very popular initiative, with a number of requests being made for a repeat performance later in the year. The Curzon Park Walking Group, which had begun 6 weeks previously, had already undertaken two outings and attracted more residents. Plans for forthcoming walks would be in the next newsletter in June. The next 'coach' outing, was a day

trip on Sunday 7 June, to Pontcysyllte and Langollen. There were some tickets left, but residents were advised to contact Andrea Segrave as soon as possible.

The activities had raised over £400 for Association funds contributing substantially to the cost of the public liability insurance necessary for such events. With less likelihood of further Council grants, it was probable that it would be necessary to rely on the "profit" from these social activities in the future, and residents were encouraged to support them.

In addition to social activities, a booklet had been published in the Autumn for the benefit of new arrivals, giving information about the practicalities of living in the area. 90% of the cost had been funded by Chester City Council. Melody Reynolds had joined the Group as 'young families' coordinator', to ensure the Association took account of the interests and views of young families. Geoff and Shirley Brown had become members to take the lead in marshalling available help for those in the community who might need a helping hand with eg lifts to the doctor or minor tasks around the house.

Chris Pilsbury added that the Working Group had been a very active branch of the Association and become a significant part of its identity. He thanked them for their hard work and the many other residents who had assisted at the events.

(b) Highways and Open Spaces Working Group

The Working Group had had a busy year liaising with City and County Council officers over various issues including:

Advertising Signage 8 Curzon Park South - The Working Party had liaised with the Planning Department and Enforcement Officer (together with independent residents' letters) to ensure that planning was not granted for excessive advertising signage at 8 CPS. The hoarding was eventually removed and two further signs were erected. This was pursued again by the CPRA, resulting in a further sign being removed and the current one lowered. They had currently been granted advertising permission for one year but owing to the state of the market there was no point in pursuing this further at this stage.

Trees - One of the Group's priorities had been resolving the poor condition of some of the newly planted trees, damage caused by contractors mowing the verges, and the planting of inappropriate species over a period of time. The Group liaised with the Highways Supervisor and Tree Officer and to some extent the problems had been addressed. Two trees had been planted at the contractor's expense and spraying around the bases of trees throughout the area had taken place to avoid this happening again. Maintenance and replanting had also taken place throughout the Park.

Hogweed on CPN Riverbank - Owing to Hogweed encroaching into residents' gardens, the City Council had been approached and spraying had taken place. In order to limit infestation the Association asked if an annual spraying schedule could be established. However, access to residents' rear gardens was essential for this to take place. A list of residents' contact details detailing permission was sent to the

Council in February. Unfortunately, despite previous assurances on dates they were only just about to action the first spraying and had outsourced the work to a contractor for completion in May. The Working Party would be following this problem up with the new Council.

Mount Pleasant - The need for a garden waste collection scheme for Mount Pleasant residents was brought to the attention of the Council and the Association had been advised that a collection scheme would be in operation by April. A questionnaire relating to parking and traffic issues was delivered to residents in MP asking for their views. The consensus of a 20 mph limit, weight restriction and pavement parking were being progressed on behalf of residents. The public footpath by the substation on Mount Pleasant, which had been overgrown and in a poor state, had been cleared and an official sign erected.

Earlsway Flooding - Through liaison with the County Highways and Welsh Water a long standing problem of flooding in Earlsway had been resolved.

(c) Community Safety Working Group

Members of the Community Safety Working Group attended the Police Community Action meetings held at the Golf Club. 2008 had been a quiet year as regards crime with the majority of anti-social behaviour incidents happening during July, the one and only hot month of 2008, but there continued to be thefts from cars and even the theft of a car, and general anti-social behaviour.

Residents were advised by the Police to ensure their cars were locked at all times, with all valuables removed. If residents had gates, they were also advised to close them, particularly at night. Residents were asked to report all incidents to the Police, no matter how minor, but they were also asked to notify the Association, in order that warnings could be emailed to registered members. It also enabled the Association to pressurise the Police for more surveillance.

The Working Group would like to build up a 'Homewatch' picture of Curzon Park but despite a request in the newsletter for 'Homewatch' co-ordinators to contact Liz Neeves, the response had been very poor. Phone numbers and email addresses for the Police [non-emergency] were always included in newsletters. With the help of the CPRA network, it was hoped that crime in Curzon Park would remain low.

(d) Racecourse Issues

The noise nuisance issue had been resolved; meetings and events at the Racecourse had been much improved during 2008. There was currently an issue with the closure of the riverside footway alongside the river. CPRA were trying to get additional warning signs erected to avoid people walking 500 yds before reaching locked gates. The Association had also requested that the closure time be reduced.

(e) Newsletter & Website

Chris Pilsbury thanked Tracey Geary for her editorship of recent editions of the newsletter. Despite emails, it was regarded as an important vehicle for distributing news to all residents of Curzon Park. The volunteer distributors were also thanked for their help. There had been some problems with the website but these had now been resolved and it was hoped that the website would be updated and modified in the next few weeks.

2. Presentation of the Accounts of the Association from foundation to 31 March 2009

The Accounts [attached] were presented to the meeting for consideration and were unanimously accepted: Proposed - Simon Parrington; Seconded - Keith Rothwell

3. Amendment to the Constitution of the Association

In order to remove an inconsistency in the Constitution [paragraph 8 required accounts to be kept for periods ending 31st March each year, while paragraph 6.1(c) requested the Treasurer to report to the AGM on accounts for the preceding calendar year - ie to 31st December], it was proposed that paragraph 6.1(c) be amended to read 'A presentation by the Treasurer of accounts for the twelve month period ending on the most recent 31st March.'

The amendment was unanimously accepted: Proposed - Simon Parrington; Seconded: Glyn Jones

4. Election of Management Committee

Chair - Chris Pilsbury

Proposed - Simon Parrington; Seconded - Glyn Jones

Secretary - Liz Neeves

Proposed - Jim Shapton; Seconded - John Flitcroft

Treasurer – vacancy

Maurice Terry had offered to continue until a replacement could be found.

Ordinary Members – Tracey Geary, Andrea Segrave, Simon Parrington, Jim Shapton

Proposed - Andrew Downey; Seconded - Colin Kemp

The above Management Committee members were unanimously elected. It was agreed that the Management Committee would aim to fill the 3 vacancies by co-option for Constituency Rep No 3, U39 Member and the Treasurer.

5. Questions and comments from the floor

Bill Macaulay asked if a programme of events could be published. Jim Shapton replied that an outline of future events was being prepared and, in addition to the newly formed Walking Group, it was envisaged the general pattern would be:

Early Summer - Coach Trip; August BH Monday - Discovery Trail; Autumn - Quiz Night; Winter - Theatre/Concert Trip

Following the AGM a presentation on the work of the Countess of Chester Hospital Trust NHS Foundation Trust ,and the advantages of becoming a member of the Trust, was given by Mr Stephen Cross, Solicitor and Company Secretary, and Governors, Sue Elphick and Eleanor Hornsby.