

Minutes of The Reddings Residents' Association Committee Meeting

Time, date and venue: 19-30 hours, 15 August 2018 (small hall, Community Centre, North Road West).

Attendance:

Gary Fulford – Chairperson (GF)
Adrian Mckie - Secretary (AM)
Simon Willis (SWi)
Joanne Yates (JY)
Peter Smith (PSm)
Peter Swales(PSw)
Lorraine Fulford (LF)
Cllr Nigel Britter (NB)
Cllr Simon Wheeler (SWh)
Cllr Mike Collins (MC)
James Russell (JR)

Apologies:

Clemens Orth (CO)
Martin Zwart (MZ)

1. Previous minutes – agreed? Yes

2. Matters arising from previous minutes and update on actions.

Responses from councilors re:

a) Spoil heap (Grovefield Way site)

No progress. Officers have confirmed that they won't support moving it as it is on a separate site to BMW.

b) Rubbish bin

NB confirmed that a new bin has been installed at the end of the lane next to B&Q.

c) Tree removal (in the area at the rear of Asda)

It was confirmed that it hasn't been possible to identify the owners of the trees.

d) Speed sign and monitoring

SWh confirmed that he still hasn't been able to locate the VAS speed sign he has paid for. He said he had spoken to Rob Vale a number of times, but as he is off work at the moment, he is unable to make further progress. SWh confirmed he will chase Rob Vale's office. PSm said that speed radar "guns" are no longer permissible, so there is now no way of monitoring speed in such a way. GF said that in the traffic analysis from Cotswold View it was identified that 16 vehicles per day were doing in excess of 60mph along The Reddings and 23% of all vehicles were speeding each day and, as such, it is an issue that needs to be dealt with in the area.

PSm said that at the PCSO meeting he had spoken with an Echo reporter who asked if we would be interested in him writing an article about speed and parking in The Reddings. It was agreed that GF/LMF would send an email to residents about this and ask if anyone was interested in meeting with the reporter. SWi to also alert via Facebook and website. It was left that PSm would liaise between residents, councilors and the reporter. A general discussion ensued regarding the VAS and rad marker roundels where they should be sited in The Reddings and what was permissible. SWh to liaise with Rob Vale and Scot Tonkin at GCC. SWh confirmed that there is no more money in his budget now for more signs.

e) Local Plan

NB confirmed that the Local Plan will likely be submitted to the Inspector “as is”. GF had noted a CBC advert for a leader of the Local Plan team which said as much.

f) Park and Ride barriers

SWh said he had spoken to Phil Williams of the Mayor’s Office who confirmed this was out to procurement and the barriers were not expected to be in by Christmas. He said that it wasn’t confirmed yet whether enforcement on the site would be provided by barriers or wardens. He identified that the fact that there was currently no parking on the GCHQ site for its contractors which was aggravating the parking situation in the area, but that they were looking into providing this. Parking per se is an issue for GCHQ staff who are currently seeing queues of up to 30 minutes to leave the site, which is not satisfactory because of security issues. It was pointed out that the Local Plan doesn’t address parking issues and that local parking and traffic will worsen considerably with the ongoing development in the area and the implementation of the cyber park and the proposed doubling in size of the park and ride.

g) Air quality

GF said that the committee was “fed up” with waiting for CBC to monitor air quality in the area and that the committee would be embarking on its own regime, linking up with surrounding areas. GF asked if permission was needed to fix the tubes to lamp posts. It was decided, after general discussion, that it wasn’t necessary. JR said that he will contact local companies to ask for sponsorship for funding. In addition Swi said that he will be applying for a Community Pride grant whereby they match funding raised. It was believed that the cost of the tubes and laboratory analysis (from a company named Gradco) will be in the region of £300, so he will apply for £150. Application has to be in by 14 September 2018. Locations for placing the tubes were discussed and agreed at 2 on Grovefield Way, 2 on The Reddings/Reddings Road and 1 on Hatherley Lane.

h) Working relationship with CBC

GF asked the councilors the best way to work co-operatively with CBC and did councilors believe there was any point in meeting with CBC to discuss issues. MC said that it was important to not adopt an adversarial approach. It was concluded that given that past meets had proved frustrating and unproductive and that staff shortages in the department were so great, face-to-face meetings were probably not appropriate. Conversation then turned to frustration at recent near-identical planning applications being submitted. AM suggested there should be a process whereby applicants have to outline differences with their previous submissions. This would make it considerably easier for planners, the planning committee and other interested parties to concentrate on new elements of applications.

i) North Road West – surface and deterioration

Swi asked councilors who he needed to speak to regarding the surfacing to North Road West. He said that the surface has deteriorated to such an extent that Amey had to put sand on it during the heat as it was breaking up. He pointed out that it wasn't necessary to do this on most other roads in the county and was further proof that the surfacing was inadequate. SWi said that the fault lies with the "spoil heap" on the BMW site either with water running off it, or blocking of a natural spring and forcing the runoff water down the road. Alternatively, it is being caused by a drainage defect. Bearing in mind that the water has only just reappeared following rain, a drainage defect seems unlikely because the water runs even when not raining.

A general discussion followed and Swi asked why a thorough drain survey wasn't being carried out for the proposed Grovefield Way Costa/Aldi development, as was happening with the proposed development next to Asda, especially as both developments join the brook in a similar location. SWh said that he will make enquiry as to the future plans for the road's surfacing.

Members' reports

a) JR reported that the PCSO meeting had been very informative and productive. He said that he had discussed the issue of cycle speeding but had been told there is no mechanism to police this and as such, it isn't something TRRA can become involved in. SWi said that the addition of white lines on cycle paths is beneficial and that he believed that should have been the case with the new cycle path in Hatherley

b) JR said that he will be attending the Benhall meeting. He has also made contact with other associations and was awaiting responses.

c) Community Centre and event liaison – GF asked anyone would like to undertake the role. JR and JY said that as this was similar to their other roles, they would undertake this also.

d) Hayloft – PS said that there was no further update and that following scaffolding being put up again, all work seems to have stopped.

e) Parish Magazine – JR said he had made contact with them but had not received a response.

f) Local Plan – As the Plan was just being submitted "as is" it was thought there was no point in TRRA undertaking any more work on it at present until the public enquiry is scheduled.

g) North Road West – See i) above.

h) Local cycling – Swi said he had nothing to add and had been focused on other issues.

i) Brock Close – PSm said that the clearing of vegetation at the bottom of Brock Close was because the field had been sold and the new owner was undertaking the work as he was "fed up of the mess". As far as PSm knows there are no plans to develop it.

j) Chestnut Farm – No update.

k) Pollution – See Councilor item g) above.

l) Wildlife reporting – No update. General discussion about the process. LMF said she had reported sightings of wildlife, including bats, and that she had forwarded an email to GCER from a resident reporting sightings. SWi said that the website contained all the information needed to report sightings.

m) Media communications – Did anyone want to undertake the role. PSm volunteered.

n) Neighborhood Watch – SWi said that he will add information to the TRRA website on the Community Alert scheme, which was thought would prove very useful, especially as there seem to be quite a few car break-ins in the area.

o) Facebook – no update.

p) Activism – The move to start pollution monitoring means TRRA are also now an “action group”.

3. Update on Grovefield Appeal and Second Application

a) MC and NB confirmed that CBC are obtaining a second opinion on whether to consider the second Grovefield Way application ahead of the appeal for the first application.

b) Rule 6: Grovefield Appeal – No update. PSw asked if this would be involve a barrister and would this be self-funded. So far no decision on whether TRRA want to join as a Rule 6 party.

4. New offices near Pure Offices revised plans

No update. It is thought that the plans will probably just go through on delegated authority.

5. Planning applications decided: Reddings Park, Cotswold View and Blenheim Villa

GF will send out an email to residents letting them know about the latest Blenheim Villa application and encourage people to submit their comments. SWi to also do so via website and Facebook. It was thought that the “revised” application still didn’t address the fundamental issues with the site, predominantly safe road access. There was still insufficient turning space for lorries, so they will still have to leave in reverse, or reverse onto the site blocking Grovefield Way as they do so.

6. Pollution monitoring

See Councilor report g) above.

7. TRRA Facebook and WhatsApp update

No progress yet as CO currently unavailable. CO to also review current email arrangements.

8. Street wardens

No progress. On hold

9. Any other business

AM said that he had recently spoken with Tony Smith who has said that he would like to “step back” from the committee but still wishes to support TRRA in its endeavours. GF/LMF to email him to formalise this.

Ian Lander has also withdrawn from the committee due to time pressures.

Next meeting Wednesday 10 October 2018 - 7-30, Small Hall.

PSw offered his apologies for that meeting.