



RARA MEETING MINUTES

Monday 24 March 2003 @ St Paul's Church Hall

Introduction

Rowena Perring, Acting Co-ordinator, opened the meeting by welcoming residents and explained the role of RARA. The Committee introduced themselves to the meeting.

Volunteers

Rowena explained the work of the Committee and told the meeting that more volunteers were needed to help with Committee and other Association work.

Debbie Jackson, Ealing Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association

Debbie introduced herself to the meeting. Debbie informed residents of two telephone scams to watch out for and talked about the Neighbourhood Watch National Conference. She explained that forms were available for residents to nominate people for Neighbourhood Watch awards. Debbie praised the RARA Committee for their work and the preparations for the meeting.

Mark Weston, Metropolitan Police

Mark talked about the important role that Neighbourhood Watch groups play and was pleased to see so many residents attending the meeting. Mark explained the work of the Homebeat Officers – there should be a total of four in Ealing although there are only three at the moment. Unfortunately, there isn't a Homebeat officer specifically covering the Ridley Avenue area and the Ealing Homebeat officers are currently helping with Central London policing during the Iraq War.

Mark told the meeting he would pass on some police contact details to Andy Dowell after the meeting. These were as follows:-

- Mark Weston and his staff – 0208 246 9466 / 0208 246 9501
- Ealing Police Station Control Room – 0208 246 9421
- Telephone Reporting Unit (for minor offences) – 0208 246 1034
- Residents should always call 999 if a crime is actually happening and the suspect could be arrested.

Mark informed the meeting of the latest crime statistics for Ridley Avenue and the surrounding area. In Ridley Avenue, there had been one incidence of theft from a car and one burglary that took place on 20th March. The front door had been forced open and passports stolen. Mark explained that in 15% of burglaries, no force is used to gain entry.

In the wider Northfields area (west of Northfield Avenue) there had been no other burglaries but some vehicle crime.

Mark was asked why Ridley Avenue appeared to be so safe but said there was no real answer to that. Mark was also asked about Fielding Walk, the seating area and lighting etc. Mark suggested that the Association contacted Ealing Council with any problems and said that there would be extra patrols in Fielding Walk during the summer months.

Constitution

Rowena read through the draft RARA Constitution and invited residents to comment. A resident raised a query about the wording of the clause concerning membership of the association for residents of neighbouring roads (i.e. what the criteria would be). After a short discussion, the meeting agreed to change the membership clause to include the phrase "based on proximity". This would not exclude people living immediately adjacent to Ridley Avenue from joining RARA. Ridley Avenue residents would be treated as members by attending the meetings or by invitation.

Rowena proposed that the meeting accept the revised Constitution. Debbie seconded. The proposal was passed unanimously.

Questionnaire Results

Andy explained the reasons behind the questionnaire and presented the results to the meeting. He commented on the two top issues raised (parking and the corner plot) and mentioned the others. A resident asked about who owned Fielding Walk. In accordance with the results of question 4 regarding the Crime Prevention Talk, Andy said that the Committee would organise for a Crime Prevention officer to attend the next public meeting. The officer could give a general talk with follow-up reviews of individual properties at the request of residents.

Andy told the meeting the reason behind question 5 about whether residents would welcome a Church representative at the meetings. The Committee will invite a representative to the next public meeting.

Any Other Business

Parking Problems relating to St Paul's Church

The meeting discussed the parking problems associated with activities at St Paul's Church and the Church Hall. The main points raised were as follows:-

- The Church promised residents that there would be no increase in traffic as a result of the New Wine offices and hall extension being built;
- There is a parking problem on both Sundays (which some people regard as to be expected, at least in the morning) and on weekday evenings (which may include non-church users of the hall);
- On Sunday nights, drivers sometimes refuse to reverse along the road to let people down and at least one argument over parking / passing has been seen;
- The church could encourage people to walk more or park more in Cranmer Avenue and Northcroft Road as there is less pressure there;
- A car park could be made out of some of the church grass on Cranmer;
- The CPZ could be extended to include Sundays (although this is abnormal for CPZs);
- We could try and get the vacant corner plot at the other end of Ridley Avenue converted into a car park (this might kill two birds with one stone);
- The council could be asked to convert the bollards at the end of Fielding Walk into collapsible bollards and give the church a key to these so the area could be used for church parking.

The Committee said they would contact church representatives about the parking concerns.

The Plot on the corner of Ridley Avenue and Midhurst Road

The meeting discussed the plot on the corner of Ridley and Midhurst. The fencing has been pulled down and the area is being used as a general dumping ground. The main points raised were as follows:-

- The site is privately owned;
- The site has an electricity supply and running water;
- There are lots of perishable goods dumped on the site and these encourage rats;
- The state of the site makes adjoining properties more vulnerable;
- A resident said there was asbestos on the site and this was a health hazard;
- People are gaining access to the site because parts of the fencing have been pulled down;
- The state of the site encourages people to trespass;
- Mark Weston suggested the Committee could contact one of the local councillors about the site.

The Committee agreed to approach Ealing Council regarding the site to see if the owner can be contacted and whether the Council can do anything about the state of the area.

Other Issues Raised

Andy explained that the Committee was collecting email addresses so that agendas, minutes and other RARA material could be sent to residents more easily. Andy also explained that the RARA website was under construction.

The next RARA Meeting will be held on Monday 16 June 2003.

Minutes signed by: Acting Co-ordinator, RARA
Date: 16 June 2003