



ridley avenue
residents association &
neighbourhood watch

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RARA PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES Monday 26 July 2004 @ St Paul's Church Hall

Present

Rowena Perring, Amanda Savage, Maggie Christopher, Carolyn Figggett, Gordon Figggett, Nalen Anthoni, Liz Duncan, Jennifer Foolt, Geraldine Elliott, Marc Bishara, Antonio Dourado, Sue Rocha, Kirsty Lord, Graham Horner, Anne Ku, Inge Hobson, John Hobson, Philip Cantar, Jenny McBride.

Apologies

Philippa Bird, Andrew Wright, Asia & George Riding, Clare Cooper, Ruth Gibson, Nick Parry (Met Police - will attend the next meeting), Andy Dowell (Secretary - Rowena to take minutes in his absence).

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The 10 May 2004 Minutes were approved by the Meeting and signed by Rowena Perring.

Matters Arising

(a) Fielding Walk

Rowena reported that the Committee members were too busy to arrange the envisaged 'tidy-up' for July but will pursue this. The Council is "looking into" bench removal and Andy has chased them over this and will continue to do so. There are now two bins in the Walk and there has also been graffiti removal. Amanda has also contacted the Council over tree pruning. The Meeting requested the Committee to ask for regular grass-cutting as per policy.

(b) Fencing

Amanda reported that she had asked the Council to contact the owner of the land at the end of Ridley Avenue but they were unable to contact him and would not release his telephone number. The Committee has considered going to the Land Registry to find out who owns the land but as there is a cost attached Andy/Rowena are firstly going to research whether there is any other way of finding out (e.g. via Ealing Library) and also try to track down the company the owner used to work for. The helpful contact Amanda had at the Council has moved on but another possibility is to try the Health & Safety section.

(c) Gated Alleyways

Maggie reported that there has been no further issue with the alleyway that had had rubbish in it. Nalen reported that he had been advised that there is no actual right of way in the passageway behind Midhurst Road per the Land Registry although a 1912-1950 continuous use affidavit was signed. The land is apparently common land.

Crime Statistics

Rowena reported that Nick Parry of the Met Police had advised that there were no reported crimes in Ridley Ave and the immediate area (Northcroft Rd, Wyndham Rd, Belsize Ave, Cranmer Ave, Fulmer Way, Midhurst Rd) between 9 May and 21 July. The Meeting expressed surprise that the recent serious beating in Ridley Ave (attended by the police) was not in the statistics, nor the person seriously hurt a few weeks ago in Fielding Walk (also attended by the police). Rowena reported that Andy had already queried the omission of the Ridley Ave incident and Nick had replied that as the car chase that culminated in the beating had commenced in another road the incident might have been logged against that road.

The Meeting also discussed the repeated damage to a car over recent months subsequently reported to the police, re which Nick had said the police would soon be telephoning the owner.

Feedback from the Ealing Community & Police Consultative Group Meeting in May

Rowena reported back from the 13 May meeting at Ealing Town Hall, including the following matters:

- The Borough Commander, Ch Supt Martin Bridger gave a Borough policing report, including: (i) overall crime in the Borough was down 5.5% for the year ended 31 March (c.f. previous year), with street crime & robberies down 20%; (ii) the South Acton Estate Project has been successful in reducing crime over the last six months (although any displacement has not yet been assessed); (iii) an Antisocial Behaviour Team has been set up in the Borough, with a small number of dedicated officers, to liaise with the equivalent Team in the Council and to make use of ASB contracts & orders; (iv) recently priority crime & specialist crime (including terrorism) have been focussed on but communities & antisocial behaviour have received little focus so the Government has asked for more focus in this area and is providing additional funds for dedicated teams to work in individual London wards - this is starting as a pilot so the Government can check that these teams are not otherwise diverted (as happened in the 1980s) before full rollout. Ealing Borough's first teams are Dormers Wells (started 5 April), Ealing Broadway (from 5 July) & South

Acton (from 5 July). There is a 4 year project to roll out to all 23 wards in the Borough. Each team has a sergeant, two constables & three PCSOs permanently on the ward and their work will be intelligence-led, under the national model; and (v) the Borough is down only 4/5 beat officers on its full complement at the moment;

- there is significant concern that over the next 10 years a third of the current Met police will be retiring, 30 years on from the heavy recruitment under the Conservative government in the 1970s;
- a representative from the Specialist Crime Directorate explained the interaction between (i) the Directorate's 2600 pan-London detectives & 1300 support staff, who specialise in areas such as gun crime; (ii) the Security Operations anti-terrorism police & (iii) the 21000 territorial police within the Boroughs. Overall, there are 30000 police officers in London. The Crime Academy will be the first police academy in the world to run an anti-terrorism course for all officers & detectives

Any Other Business

Street Lighting

Amanda reported that several people have said that lighting is poor in the area, especially Belsize Ave where if one light is out the whole road is dark. The Meeting commented that the lights by 66 Ridley Ave & by the church keep breaking and asked the Committee to raise the issue of lighting with the council.

Church Bench

Rowena reported that John Dales, one of the churchwardens, thought that the situation should be monitored for a while and considered that it would be impractical to for benches to be moved in and out of the church. The Meeting commented that the bench closer to Cranmer Ave is a problem as well as the one on Ridley Ave, especially late on Saturday nights

Antisocial Behaviour

The Meeting observed that some new graffiti has arrived this week. Rowena advised that the graffiti reporting line is 8825 6000 (Monday - Friday, 8 am - 6pm). The Meeting discussed the teenagers congregating around the church benches and also Fielding Walk (as well as behind the church hall and in Fielding School grounds). Andy has notified Nick Parry (Met Police) re the situation around the benches and Nick had said if we advised times & number involved he would pass the information on to the antisocial behaviour team. The Meeting suggested that the committee could ask the police whether putting lights by benches deters or attracts people. Amanda also commented that she had been in touch with Mark Weston (Met Police) via Boston Manor Residents Association.

RARA

Rowena reported that a resident had commented that meeting attendance was declining and that Andy had checked the attendance record, which was:

- 24 March 2003 35 + 3 apologies
- 16 June 2003 27 + 4 apologies
- 15 Sept 2003 20 + 4 apologies
- 26 Jan 2004 18 + 4 apologies
- 10 May 2004 16 + 6 apologies

The Meeting suggested that residents should invite new residents personally as well as encouraging existing residents to come along. The Meeting also mooted trying another cheese & wine event or a cultural (art/poetry) evening.

Parking

Rowena reported that John Dales had advised that:

- he is planning to encourage the church congregation, via a more specific notice in the weekly notice sheet, to (in order of preference) (i) walk/cycle; (ii) car-share (which the church could help arrange); or (iii) only park directly outside houses as a last resort;
- the church now has an environmental & ethical (including travel) policy that has been adopted by the church council and which John plans to hand out in September. John has not done his planned survey of travel habits yet but still hopes to ask the congregation to do it as it gets people to engage;
- he plans to ask the church administrator to put an note in with the hall booking form asking bookers to pass on the message to event attendees and also to ask her also to talk to the big clubs;
- the church plans to have an environmental issues noticeboard in the church; and
- the church plans to install more cycle racks due to the number of people who cycle here

The Meeting asked the Committee to (i) ask the church to encourage more parking in Cranmer Ave & Northcroft Rd where there are no houses; (ii) raise again with the church the idea of borrowing Fielding School parking; and (iii) invite John / Mark Melluish (the vicar) to the next meeting (or possibly the January AGM).

Church Gate

A resident commented that on Saturday & Sunday mornings the gate to the nursery school gets banged a lot and asked the Committee to suggest to the church that sponge wedges be fitted to the gate.

The next RARA Public Meeting is planned for Monday 18 October 2004.

Minutes signed by: Acting Co-ordinator, RARA

Date: 15 November 2004