



ridley avenue
residents association &
neighbourhood watch

email: info@rara.org.uk web: www.rara.org.uk

RARA PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES Monday 25 April 2005 @ St Paul's Church Hall

Present

Ed Kaye, Wayne Newton, Antonio Dourado, Marc Bishara, Sarah Fotscher, Sue Rocha, John & Inge Hobson, John Mitchell, Nalen Anthoni, Andy Dowell, Rowena Perring, Maggie Christopher.

Apologies

Gordon & Carolyn Figgett, Amanda Savage, Andrew Wright.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 31st January 2005 were discussed and approved by the Meeting and signed by Andy Dowell.

Matters Arising

Fielding Walk

Amanda Savage has advised the Committee that Ealing Council's arboricultural team have trimmed the trees behind 62-66 Ridley Avenue and there is a consequent improvement in light coming into those houses. She has expressed thanks on behalf of RARA.

Fencing

Amanda Savage has emailed Ealing Council reminding them of the history of the maintenance of the site alongside 63 Ridley Avenue. She has advised them that the fencing panels are now coming off and the gate is in a state of collapse and requested that they contact the owner and oblige him to clean the area and make it safe.

Neighbourhood Watch Signs

Andy Dowell reported that he had been in touch with a representative from the National Neighbourhood Watch Association and is hopeful that some signs may be erected soon.

Street Lighting

Andy Dowell reported that all of Ealing's street lights are being replaced over the next few years.

Crime Statistics

Andy Dowell reported that responsibility for beat officers in Ealing Borough has just been taken over by Inspector Elbourne, who inherited nine vacancies. The Inspector reported that he had been able to recruit four new officers so far. We will probably have our own beat officer by the autumn. For the time being, our area is being looked after by the Elthorne beat officer. Andy reported that he will be dealing with PC Gary Walker for the time being.

Inspector Elbourne was advised that it is now 18 months since the last police attendance at our meetings. He apologised for being unable to attend this meeting but will endeavour to attend or send a representative to our next meeting.

Andy read out some of the crime statistics supplied by PC Walker for our area over the last twelve months. See Appendix 1 for full details.

Discussion ensued on a mugging that took place in Ridley Avenue on 26 March 2005. Inge Hobson reported that the victim had been advised by the police that no action was being taken against the perpetrators, presumably due to their age.

Any Other Business

- There are now three Anti-Social Behaviour Units in Ealing Borough and one is planned for each area.
- Andy Dowell highlighted extracts from Hazel Blears' statement on the Neighbourhood Watch movement. The full text is available as Appendix 3.
- Members of Neighbourhood Watch are able to avail themselves of a special offer for two long life lightbulbs designed for outside lights for £15. There are more details on the www.neighbourhoodwatch.net site.
- Andy Dowell reported that he is going to apply for free Public Liability Insurance on behalf of RARA to cover people while engaged on neighbourhood watch matters or events. The insurance is funded by the Home Office.
- The meeting discussed the problem of rubbish in the front garden of a property on the south side of Ridley Avenue. Andy Dowell reported that the council no longer has a general environmental health department. The Committee agreed to continue talking to the council to try and find out what procedures can be followed in order to get the garden of the property cleaned up.
- Andy Dowell reported that some residents had received questionnaires in respect of the alley gates. There are two types of questionnaire – one for households with the new gates and one for those without. Andy said he would provide copies of the questionnaires to any residents who did not receive one.
- Nalen Anthoni commented on the new Clean Neighbourhoods Act which has just become law, concerning such matters as untaxed vehicles, noise nuisance etc. Nalen has sent full details to the Committee. The new regulations are enforced by the local authority, rather than the police, and these extended powers provide for speedier and more extensive action. Ealing Council already have a Party Hotline on Fridays and Saturdays to deal with noisy parties. See Appendix 2 for more details.
- Andy Dowell reported that Walpole Park animal sanctuary is to re-open in the summer. It is being run by a charity and will be home to animals that are in the process of being rehabilitated.
- Local lime trees are being removed and replaced by smaller trees. The lime tree roots are causing a hazard by spreading under houses and pavements. The yellow liquid they produce makes the pavements slippery and dangerous (and soils cars). John Hobson suggested that smaller trees may be quickly vandalised.
- Sarah Fatscher brought along a wide selection of greeting cards and gift wrap which she sells from home. She also kindly provided the meeting with wine and snacks, for which many thanks. Andy Dowell will add details of her service on the RARA website.

The next RARA Public Meeting is planned for Monday 25 July 2005.

It was agreed that this date may be changed nearer the time if necessary to facilitate a police presence.

Minutes signed by: Acting Co-ordinator, RARA

Date: 21 November 2005

ALTENBURG AVENUE

BURGLARY DWELLING	1
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	2
OTHER THEFT	1
TOTAL	4

BELSIZE AVENUE

BURGLARY DWELLING	2
THEFT OF BICYCLE	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	1
TOTAL	4

BERNARD AVENUE

CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO MOTOR VEHICLE	2
THEFT OF BICYCLE	1
TOTAL	3

BURNHAM WAY

THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	3
BURGLARY DWELLING	2
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO MOTOR VEHICLE	1
THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	1
OTHER THEFT	1
TOTAL	8

CHALFONT WAY

THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	3
DOMESTIC	1
DECEPTION	1
MALICIOUS CALLS	1
TOTAL	6

CRANMER AVENUE

DOMESTIC	3
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	3
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	2
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO MOTOR VEHICLE	2
POSSESSION OF A FIREARM	1
MALICIOUS CALLS	1
THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	1
POSSESSION OF CANNABIS	1
OTHER THEFT	2
TOTAL	16

FULMER WAY

CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO MOTOR VEHICLE	2
DOMESTIC	1
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	1
BURGLARY DWELLING	1
TOTAL	16

GREEN AVENUE

THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	3
THEFT OF A BICYCLE	2
BURGLARY DWELLING	2
TAKING AND DRIVING AWAY	1
BURGLARY NON-DWELLING	1
G.B.H.	1
DOMESTIC	1
INDECENT EXPOSURE	1
THEFT SNATCH	1
TOTAL	13

HASLEMERE AVENUE

DOMESTIC	4
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	1
ROBBERY OF A PERSON	1
A.B.H.	1
THEFT OF MAIL	1
BURGLARY DWELLING	3
BURGLARY NON-DWELLING	1
INDECENT EXPOSURE	1
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	2
TAKING AND DRIVING AWAY	1
TOTAL	16

MIDHURST ROAD

TAKING AND DRIVING AWAY	5
BURGLARY NON-DWELLING	3
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO A MOTOR VEHICLE	1
THEFT OF A BICYCLE	2
ROBBERY OF A PERSON	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	2
SHOPLIFTING	2
BURGLARY DWELLING	1
THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	1
COMMON ASSAULT	2
POSSESSION OF CANNABIS	1
TOTAL	21

NORTHCROFT ROAD

DOMESTIC	4
TAKING AND DRIVING AWAY	4
A.B.H.	4
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	4
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	4
ROBBERY OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY	1
COMMON ASSAULT	2
THEFT OF A BICYCLE	1
THEFT SNATCH	1
POSSESSION OF CANNABIS	1
BURGLARY DWELLING	1
ROBBERY OF A PERSON	1
TOTAL	28

RIDLEY AVENUE

A.B.H.	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO MOTOR VEHICLE	2
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	2
THEFT OF A BICYCLE	1
THEFT OF MAIL	1
ROBBERY OF A PERSON	1
DOMESTIC	1
TOTAL	9

WYNDHAM ROAD

THEFT OF A BICYCLE	3
OTHER THEFT	3
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	3
BURGLARY DWELLING	2
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO MOTOR VEHICLE	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	1
TAKING AND DRIVING AWAY	2
TOTAL	15

APPENDIX 2

BILL TO CLEAN UP OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS BECOMES LAW

The Clean Neighbourhoods Act has become law after receiving Royal Assent.

The Act was fast-tracked through the remaining stages of the Parliamentary process ahead of the formal dissolution of Parliament before the general election.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act contains a range of measures to improve the quality of the local environment by giving Local Authorities and the Environment Agency additional powers to deal with:

- fly-tipped waste
- litter
- nuisance alleys
- fly-posting and graffiti
- abandoned and nuisance vehicles
- dogs
- noise,
- nuisance from artificial lighting and insect, and other issues affecting the local environment. It also puts the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) on a statutory basis.

The Act:

Crime and Disorder

- requires local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to take anti-social behaviour affecting the local environment into account in developing crime and disorder reduction strategies.
- gives local authorities new powers to deal with alleyways affected by anti-social behaviour.

Fixed Penalty Notices (Fines)

- makes greater use of fixed penalties as an alternative to prosecution, in most cases giving local authorities the flexibility to set their own rates;
- gives parish councils the power to issue fixed penalties for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences;

Nuisance and Abandoned Vehicles

- gives local authorities the power to remove abandoned cars from the streets immediately;
- creates two new offences to help local authorities deal with nuisance parking: offering for sale two or more vehicles, or repairing a vehicle on the road as part of a business.

Litter

- makes it an offence to drop litter anywhere, including private land and rivers, ponds and lakes;
- gives local authorities new powers (litter clearing notices) to require businesses and individuals to clear litter from their land;
- strengthens existing powers for local authorities to require local businesses to help clear up litter they generate (street litter control notices);
- enables local authorities to restrict the distribution of flyers, hand-outs and pamphlets that can end up as litter;
- confirms that cigarette butts and discarded chewing gum are litter.

Graffiti and fly-posting

- extends graffiti removal notices (as introduced by the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003) to include fly-posting;
- improves local authorities powers to tackle the sale of spray paints to children;
- strengthens the legislation to make it harder for beneficiaries of fly posting to evade prosecution;
- enables local authorities to recover the costs of removing illegal posters.

Waste

- amends provisions for dealing with fly-tipping by:
 - removing the defence of acting under employer's instructions
 - increasing the penalties
 - enabling local authorities and the Environment Agency to recover their investigation and clear-up costs
 - extending provisions on clear up to the landowner in the absence of the occupier.

- gives local authorities and the Environment Agency the power to issue fixed penalty notices (and, in the case of local authorities, to keep the receipts from such penalties):
 - to businesses that fail to produce waste transfer notes
 - to waste carriers that fail to produce their registration details or evidence they do not need to be registered
 - for waste left out on the streets (local authority only)
- introduces a more effective system for stop, search and seizure of vehicles used in illegal waste disposal; and enabling courts to require forfeiture of such vehicles
- introduces a new provision covering the waste duty of care and the registration of waste carriers
- introduces a new requirement for site waste management plans for construction and demolition projects
- repeals the divestment provisions for waste disposal functions to provide greater flexibility for local authorities to deliver waste management services in the most sustainable way
- reforms the recycling credits scheme to provide increased local flexibility to provide incentives for more sustainable waste management.

Dogs

- replaces dog byelaws with a new, simplified system which will enable local authorities and parish councils to deal with fouling by dogs, ban dogs from designated areas, require dogs to be kept on a lead and restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person.
- gives local authorities sole responsibility for stray dogs (previously this responsibility had been shared between local authorities and the police. The change will come into force only when the transfer of resource has been agreed).

Noise

- gives local authorities new powers to:
 - deal with burglar alarms
 - impose fixed penalty fines on licensed premises that ignore warnings to reduce excessive noise levels
- gives local authorities greater flexibility in dealing with noise nuisance.

Architecture and the Built Environment

- puts the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) on a statutory basis.

Miscellaneous

- enables local authorities to recover the costs of dealing with abandoned shopping trolleys from their owners
- extends the list of statutory nuisances to include light pollution and nuisance from insects
- amends the contaminated land appeals process.
- increases the penalty for various offences relating to pollution

APPENDIX 3: HAZEL BLEARS STATEMENT

March 2005 - Home Office Minister Hazel Blears wants Neighbourhood Watch to become one step on a “ladder of participation in Britain” that, one day, could lead all the way up to someone becoming a government minister.

Her vision of how best to involve people and tap into the energy and talent that can be found in all walks of life was spelt out to the 350 delegates who attended the Neighbourhood Watch National Conference in Nottingham.

The heavy workload of steering the new anti-terrorist legislation through Westminster meant that the minister had to pull out from attending the conference in person. It was left to Home Office senior civil servant Tyson Hepple to deliver her message on her behalf.

“The Minister wants me to say that the strength of the Neighbourhood Watch movement demonstrates that this country does have a strong community spirit,” said Mr Hepple.

He described how Hazel Blears wants to create “a ladder of participation in Britain with steps leading to higher levels of involvement and active citizenship.”

“Why shouldn’t Neighbourhood Watch be the training ground for the next generation of special constables, magistrates, councillors and even government ministers?” he asked.

Mr Hepple went on to praise the work of Neighbourhood Watch, the largest voluntary group in the UK.

“You have shown quite clearly that communities working together can improve the quality of life for individuals and neighbourhoods and make our homes, our streets, our public places, safer places we can go out in and our children can play and grown up in.

“Neighbourhood Watch makes an invaluable contribution to crime reduction and community safety and perhaps, most importantly, you are a great asset in reducing the fear of crime.

“There is a small minority who cause chaos, create misery, in our neighbourhoods. But there is a huge majority who are willing to take a stand for decency.”

Government valued the role of the Neighbourhood Watch movement and was working hard to support it, said Mr Hepple. Recent initiatives include setting up public liability insurance for all Neighbourhood Watch associations so groups have appropriate cover at no cost to themselves.

Work was continuing to set up a National Forum for all the various Watch organisations, Neighbourhood Watch, Business Watch, Farm Watch, Pub Watch and others. A Home Office steering group, including volunteers from the grassroots, have been given the task of creating the new Forum to provide an independent voice for the Watch movement.

Mr Hepple said that Ministers were keen to see an expansion of Neighbourhood Watch to every part of Britain and that included the “tough areas” and the inclusion of people from all backgrounds and jobs.