



ridley avenue
residents association &
neighbourhood watch

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

RARA PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES Monday 31 July 2006 @ St Paul's Church Hall

Present

Philippa Bird, Jim Duncan, Liz Duncan, Nalen Anthoni, John Hobson, Antonio Dourado, Marc Bishara, Claire Tulloch, Justin Edwards, Amanda Burns, Gordon Figgett, Carolyn Figgett, Diane & Mike, Sue Rocha, Andy Dowell, Amanda Savage, Maggie Christopher.

Apologies

David Fatscher, Andrew Wright.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 27th March 2006 were discussed, approved by the meeting and signed by Andy Dowell.

Matters Arising

Fencing

Amanda Savage reported that she had spoken to Bob Coombs at Ealing Council and advised him that the fencing was falling down and fly tipping was taking place.

Neighbourhood Watch Signs

Andy Dowell reported that there has been no further news of the signs to date.

Street Lighting

Andy Dowell reported that the street lights are to be changed soon, but no specific timescale has been given.

Crime Statistics

Andy Dowell reported that no new crime statistics were available for the meeting.

Safer Neighbourhoods

Andy Dowell reported that a new Safer Neighbourhoods initiative has been set up in this area. There is a dedicated team in place for Northfield Ward consisting of PS Cliff Elam and PC Stuart Hedley. The first meeting took place on 2 July 2006 and was attended by representatives from other Residents Associations in the area and a Park Ranger. Ealing Council were invited to send representatives, but did not do so. The main purpose was to identify and tackle residents' concerns, which were prioritised as:

1. Graffiti
2. Vehicle crime
3. Drug dealing
4. Youths

One more PC will be joining the team later in the year. Sergeant Elam has been seen around local streets. There are other Safer Neighbourhood teams in Acton and Hanwell. Amanda Savage commented that the Safer Neighbourhoods initiative seems promising and should give some stability. Safer Neighbourhoods will produce a monthly newsletter.

Andy Dowell told the meeting about some of the points raised at the first meeting. Police are going to display notices advising car owners about increased vehicle crime in hot weather and reminding people to leave nothing in their vehicles. Vehicle owners are advised to glue on their number plates to stop them from being stolen. Residents can register their electric/electronic equipment with <http://www.immobilise.com>. There has been an increase in burglary during the hot weather, with burglars gaining access via small downstairs windows at night. The Boston Manor area have experienced burglars gaining access at night through very small windows left open in hot weather at the front as well as the rear of houses. There have been local incidents of 'distraction burglary' when men disguised as policemen gain access by offering home security advice.

Any Other Business

- Linda Massey of Boston Manor Residents Association is lobbying for double yellow lines to be applied by the Harvester on the corner of Haslemere Avenue and Boston Road.
- Maggie Christopher reported that after the last meeting a telephone call was received from Bob Coombs at Ealing Council who advised that a joint site meeting was being arranged with the various council departments involved. Subsequently there appears to have been a 'clean up' operation at No 17. Rubbish has been removed from the front of the house and there has been some clearance at the rear. The owner placed refuse in the street, and for a period it was collected by a special clearance service on Tuesdays. A further telephone call from Bob Coombs is awaited.
- Andy Dowell reported considerable noise and shouting in the vicinity of the church in the evenings at around 5–7pm. Liz Duncan said that the overall problems had improved since the bench had been removed, but on Fridays and Sundays there were still problems with excessive noise from unsupervised children leaving the church. Jim Duncan had spoken to one church official, who was surprised at the extent of the noise and disruption he witnessed. Children bounce footballs off cars and parents do not try to prevent them. Andy Dowell reported groups of girls screaming and screeching on a number of Friday evenings before the youth club meeting. Liz Duncan reported a loud and noisy behaviour by a group gathering outside the church at 7.15am on one occasion. Sue Rocha reported regular disturbance by people trying to open/close the church gate at around 11.30pm. Claire Tulloch reported groups hanging around the church bench on the other side of the church at 10-12pm. Gordon Figgett commented on the church needing to protect the stained glass windows on the Cranmer Avenue side with Perspex. It appears that the disturbance connected with the bench has moved from Ridley Avenue to Cranmer Avenue, with the repositioning of the bench. Andy Dowell will write to the vicar bringing these matters to his attention.
- Amanda Savage commented on the end-of-term festivities at Fielding school. Noise from football, fete and jamboree starts at 7.30 a.m. and the karaoke was particularly bad. Noise from the school bounces around local streets magnifying the disturbance. Amanda Savage stated that the problem is not the events themselves, but the lack of courtesy to residents in not giving forewarning, as was the practice until two years ago.
- Liz Duncan raised the question of street cleaning. She has rung Ealing Council who said that the street should be cleaned every Tuesday after the Monday refuse collection. The street has not been cleaned in any way for a considerable number of weeks, and the situation is aggravated by litter from the church. Some residents periodically clean their part of the street themselves. Discussion followed on the dirty state of the street and also the fact that weeding has not been done and the weeds are extensive and growing taller. One resident has a tomato plant growing in her street gutter. Andy Dowell will write to Ealing Council requesting street cleaning and weeding.
- Green food waste recycling boxes were discussed. Residents had found them pungent in hot weather and prone to maggots.
- Gordon Figgett reported that some members of the refuse collection teams throw the black bags vigorously into one pile for collection, causing the bags to break open. The proposed introduction of wheelie bins was discussed.
- Andy Dowell reported that Ealing Council have made erroneous additional deductions from some people's bank accounts in respect of council tax, and have then credited them back to other people's bank accounts. Residents are advised to check their bank statements in respect of council tax carefully.
- Liz Duncan and Sue Rocha complained that church parking is again being concentrated in Ridley Avenue and that Cranmer Avenue is not being used. People driving to the church are also now parking at the far end of Ridley Avenue and Nalen Anthoni said that this has become a problem on Sunday mornings. People using the church facilities do not park where the safety rail has been erected, as it prevents children from getting out of the cars. Northcroft Avenue residents are also parking in the vicinity of the church because they cannot find space outside their own homes.
- Andy Dowell offered to contact our local police team on behalf residents, if they would like to let him know if they have any problems. He also offered to obtain Smartwater for anyone who wants it, and reminded people that they needed to return their forms to activate their participation in the scheme.

The next RARA Public Meeting is planned for Monday 20 November 2006.