



ridley avenue
residents association &
neighbourhood watch

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RARA PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES **Monday 20 November 2006 @ St Paul's Church Hall**

Present

PC Hedley, PCSO Williams, Nalen Anthoni, Mike Eccleson, Diane Cuthbe, Antonio Dourado, John Mitchell, Carolyn Figgett, Gordon Figgett, Liz Duncan, Jim Duncan, Andy Dowell, David Fatscher, Amanda Savage, Maggie Christopher.

Apologies

John Hobson, Inge Hobson.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the public Meeting held on 31 July 2006 were discussed, approved by the meeting and signed by Andy Dowell.

Safer Neighbourhoods Team

It was agreed to vary the order of the Agenda to allow the Northfields Safer Neighbourhoods Team to address the meeting first.

PC Hedley advised the meeting that the dedicated Northfields Safer Neighbourhoods Team had been in place since April 2006. The team now consists of PS Elam, PC Hedley and PCSO Williams, and further recruitment is planned. The team can come out during the evenings as well as daytime. The team's four main targets are graffiti, drugs, motor vehicle crime and criminal damage. The team are covering the area on foot, and also use bicycles to enable them to cover a larger area more quickly and frequently. The team handed out maps of the Ealing area showing the breakdown of reported crime for approximately the last twelve months. The maps show that the Northfields area is relatively quiet in respect of reported crime. There has been an outbreak of graffiti in the Northfields area since Halloween, and a trail of tags led to the home of the culprits. The team advised that graffiti culprits are normally aged 11 – 17, and asked that the public supply descriptions of the culprits if they see them in action.

- The team are distributing leaflets to houses in the area during the run-up to Christmas, reminding people to secure their property. People are advised to make sure their houses and vehicles are locked and no valuables are left in vehicles. If possible the glove box should be emptied and left open, to show potential thieves that there is no satnav or radio front piece in it, and vehicle alarms, if available, should be set.
- Diane Cuthbe raised the matter of speeding vehicles playing loud thumping music in the road. The Police asked residents to supply vehicle registration numbers and dates and times of the incidents.
- Gordon Figgett and Liz Duncan raised the matter of parking problems in the vicinity of the Church, particularly on Sundays. The Police said that they can intervene if the problem constitutes a safety issue.
- Andy Dowell stated that Ealing Council are looking into the whole question of traffic management at present.
- PC Hedley will raise the parking and traffic issues with the Police's contact at Ealing Council, and report any feedback.
- Gordon Figgett raised the question of poor street lighting and recent muggings as a safety issue. The Police said they will make a representation to the Council, but said that the present crime statistics do not show it to be a major problem.
- The meeting asked whether CCTV might be installed in our area. The Police said that Ealing Council would probably target the areas of highest need. They advised that crime tends to concentrate around tube stations, and there is relatively low crime in our part of the Borough.
- The Safer Neighbourhoods Team asked residents to help with distribution of property security leaflets. The meeting were happy to do so, and the police left a box of leaflets for distribution.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Team then left the meeting.

Matters Arising

Fencing

Amanda Savage reported that she had sent a number of emails to Ealing Council. The Envirocrime representative had visited the site. The Council erected a 31 day notice requiring the land to be cleared and fencing repaired, failing which the Council would do so and a £50,000 fine would be payable. The owner of the adjacent property in Fulmer Way cleared his rubbish from the land and secured the fence. The notice disappeared, but the council had photographed it in position, so that it remains effective. The Council have not succeeded in locating the owner of the land, and conclude that he has disappeared without trace.

Neighbourhood Watch Signs

Andy Dowell reported that the signs have still not been erected, and he is continuing to chase them up.

Safer Neighbourhoods

- Andy Dowell reported that representatives from the Committee attended the Safer Neighbourhoods meeting in September.
- Graffiti had been prioritised, and in consequence four people had been arrested. It was estimated that those arrested had been responsible for 150 offences. It was reported that Sue Rocha at No. 1 had graffiti daubed on the church-side of her house, and the Council attended very quickly to remove it when it was reported to them. It is a good idea for people affected by graffiti to take photographs of it, if possible.
- Ealing Council had suggested putting a mini-roundabout at every road junction, but are now reconsidering their suggestion
- Renovation work is being carried out at the library by Bramley Road. Residents are asked for their ideas for the park area there.

Any Other Business

- Maggie Christopher reported that Bob Coombs of Ealing Council advised that the Council had removed a quantity of items from the front and rear of No 17 in the summer, and arranged special weekly collections of additional refuse. Environmental Health had stated that the interior was not excessively bad – they had seen much worse. Ealing Council have now closed their file, but continue to monitor the area.
- Andy Dowell reported that he has spoken to the Vicar about the various disturbances caused by young people in the vicinity of the Church. The Vicar is making periodic checks on the area. The church recognise that the degree of disturbance associated with a recent concert in aid of Oxfam was not acceptable.
- Street Cleaning was discussed. Members present at the meeting agreed that there had been one good clean since the last meeting, but no other noticeable action. Andy Dowell undertook to write to the Council.
- Gordon Figgett reported that on a garden refuse collection day the refuse collectors had also taken a quantity of personal property from around their house which had not been put out for the refuse collection. He and other members of the meeting agreed that the refuse collectors are inconsistent in what they collect, where from, and when. Maggie Christopher reported that on the previous three consecutive garden refuse collection days her pink bags had not been collected. On each occasion they were collected the next day, following a call to the recycling centre.
- Andy Dowell raised the Survey which Ealing Council are conducting in connection with refuse collection, and encouraged members to complete and return their questionnaires. A general discussion on all aspects of refuse collection ensued. Members were of the view that wheelie bins would be inappropriate.
- Street Parking was discussed and the meeting noted that the situation was getting worse as more people were bringing their cars to the street due to bad weather.
- The newsletter Ridley Avenue Newslines was much appreciated by those present, and the items contained in it were discussed. Andy Dowell explained the Immobilise database and pointed out that stolen items such as mobile phones are now immobilised almost immediately. Suggestions were invited as to how to celebrate the centenary of the street in 2007. Liz Duncan mentioned that their bay window style house was built in 1903. It is believed that the first builder went bankrupt, and that the development was continued by another builder, who built the flat fronted style houses completed around 1907.

The next RARA Public Meeting is planned for Monday 26 March 2007.

Minutes signed by: Acting Co-ordinator, RARA
Date: 26 March 2007