



ridley avenue
residents association &
neighbourhood watch

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

RARA PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES Monday 17 March 2008 @ St Paul's Church Hall

Present

Huw Williams, Diane Cuthbe, Mike Eccleson, A Hopper, Claire Tulloch, Antonio Dourado, Nalen Anthoni, Sue Rocha, Liz Duncan, Jim Duncan, John Butler, Tori, John Mitchell, John Hobson, Inge Hobson, Naresh Shah, David Fatscher, Andy Dowell, Maggie Christopher

Apologies

Gordon Figgett, Carolyn Figgett, Jo Machin

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Public Meeting on Monday 24 September 2007 were discussed and approved by the Meeting and signed by Andy Dowell.

Matters Arising

Neighbourhood Watch Signs

Andy Dowell reported that the council have 20 Neighbourhood Watch signs and he has asked that Ridley Avenue should be the first road to receive them.

2006 Traffic Plan Survey

Following a request for information at the last meeting, Andy Dowell reported that the council had advised him that the majority of residents who responded to the 2006 Traffic Survey were in favour of the 20mph zone and all other proposals, with the exception of road humps. The traffic control proposals were a complete package and could not be implemented unless the whole set of the proposals were adopted. Because the majority of people didn't want traffic humps, the initiative was therefore dropped.

Election of Officers

Following the discussion on a possible change to the role and remit of RARA, the Election of Officers was postponed until the start of the next meeting.

Northfields Safer Neighbourhoods Panel Meeting & Crime Statistics

Copies of the 'London Gets Safer' newsletter were distributed to residents at the meeting.

Andy Dowell advised that he had attended the Safer Neighbourhoods Panel Meeting on 22 March 2008. Crime Statistics for the area were supplied and copies were circulated during the residents' meeting. Statistics showed two reported incidents of motor vehicle crime in Ridley Avenue over the same short period of time in February and Andy Dowell reported that someone had been arrested in connection with them.

Sgt Cliff Elam has led our Safer Neighbourhoods team since it was formed and has announced that he will be leaving shortly. His replacement, Greg Fox, will start in the next few weeks. There has been an increase in burglary over the last few months. Police recognised the method of entry through very small openings and followed the suspect from his home, catching him 'red handed'. A Controlled Parking Zone has been introduced in the Boston Manor area. The team are observing levels of domestic security and a free domestic security survey is available. The team are now working in 'plain clothes' and are on patrol on some days until 2am or 4am.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Team recently took part in a Partnership Day which brought a lot of government agencies and council departments together. Linda Massey from the Boston Manor group toured the area with officials and identified alleyways that could be gated. The Council have funding for new alley gating initiatives, but not for maintenance of existing gates.

One day each month since September 2007, Ealing Police has been stopping vehicles for road tax and licence checks. There are currently 1800 cars in the Ealing pound. Arrests have been made for underage cannabis use. There have been a number of incidents of shop lifting in the Boston Manor area and Threshers is particularly targeted. Priorities for the Safer Neighbourhoods Team for the next period are Burglary and Motor Vehicle Crime.

Any Other Business

Role of RARA

John Butler expressed dissatisfaction at the limits of RARA's involvement with (i) car parking, (ii) No 17, (iii) the church hall extension. Liz Duncan agreed. Sue Rocha expressed dissatisfaction over the level of support she had received in opposing the church hall planning application. Andy Dowell and Maggie Christopher reminded the group of the work which had been done about the issues raised by John Butler. John Butler asked why RARA had become involved with rats, but not the church hall extension. Andy Dowell reminded residents that the group was initially set up by the police as a new style 'neighbourhood watch' group and that when the constitution was originally drawn up it deliberately precluded campaigning or lobbying on specific issues. It was agreed that the name 'residents' association' could give a misleading impression, and Andy Dowell confirmed that the name could easily be changed to something less ambiguous if residents wished. He also said that the constitution could be amended to include campaigning on specific issues if residents wished. However, Andy said that should this course was adopted he would not want to continue his involvement.

Church Hall Extension

Sue Rocha said that it was most hurtful that the vicar had attended a RARA meeting in September but said nothing about his planned extension. She believed that the fact that the church had given residents absolutely no information about the proposed extension led to bad feeling. She said that RARA should have held a meeting. David Fatscher asked what would have been different if RARA had held a meeting. Sue felt there was a big information gap as only a few residents had been included in the planning department consultation and that a lot of planning knowledge was needed to oppose the application. Andy Dowell commented that the planning application had been lodged on Christmas Eve, with the hearing scheduled just before Easter. Tori expressed her dissatisfaction that RARA had not held a meeting and pointed out that the proposed extension is the width of four houses. John Butler expressed dissatisfaction with the church's lack of communication with residents, particularly in holding a firework display behind the church hall, next to the back of his house, without warning or consultation. John Butler said he had complained to the vicar about the Besom van being regularly parked outside his house. As a consequence the Besom van is now parked outside the church premises in Cranmer Avenue or on Northcroft Road. John Butler asked if any of those present were in favour of the proposed church hall extension. John Mitchell said that he did not know much about it, and nobody claimed to be in favour of it. Nalen Anthoni expressed the view that the vicar does not take residents seriously because he allows RARA to use a meeting room without charge, and that in consequence the effectiveness of representations from residents is undermined and residents are compromised. Maggie Christopher said that one of the church administrative staff have asked that residents send emails telling them of any incidents of noise nuisance caused at the church or hall. Maggie Christopher also reminded residents again that if they wished to comment on or raise any issued with RARA they should follow the standing advice and put their issues in writing to no. 39.

Andy Dowell invited Sue Rocha to report on the planning committee meeting. Sue gave a summary of the objections she had raised. She complained of the attitude of the planning committee chairman, and that she felt she was ignored by the committee. John Butler said that the aesthetics of the proposed extension were damaging. The existing building fits in with the street scene and the parking is a problem. Liz Duncan asked that RARA find out what the future CPZ arrangements will be. She also said that the vicar promised various things, including bicycles, when he and residents met in the street after the planning meeting. John Butler said that he had been refused planning permission for a two storey extension on the grounds that it was not in keeping with the area, whereas permission for a similar extension for the church hall next door had been granted.

Andy Dowell was asked to write to the vicar inviting him to attend a future residents' meeting to discuss the 'green traffic plan' when it has been drawn up. John Butler will find out how green traffic plans work. He suggested that the vicar should also be invited to a meeting to discuss the problems that residents experience. Mike Eccleson said that his car had been damaged in Ridley Avenue at about mid-day on Sunday. He had only just got it back from repair after a similar incident. Maggie Christopher also experienced a contretemps in the road due to inadequate passing space at about the same time.

Liz Duncan stated that the church's activities are not co-ordinated. Church staff did not know why a section of the road had been coned off, although it had been done by those using the hall for the regular Saturday evening elderly persons' activities.

A general discussion between residents followed. Andy Dowell was asked to contact the Northfields Community Centre to try to obtain use of a room in a few weeks' time for residents to meet to discuss the future of RARA and decide what role the association should have.

Heathrow Flight Paths

John Mitchell advised the group that the proposal to move the take-off flight path further south will increase noise levels in Ridley Avenue. John provided maps of the plans for residents to view.

The date of the next RARA Public Meeting to be announced.

Minutes signed by: Acting Co-ordinator, RARA