



Ellesmere Park Residents' Association

www.epra.freeuk.com

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 8th.JUNE 2005

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Barry Wild (SOSCA), Jack & Kath Judge, Claire Sinclair, Mr. & Mrs. Nield, Margaret & Dennis McCullough.

2) OPENING REMARKS

David Yates welcomed to the meeting around 70 local residents plus Councillor Sheehy and representatives from Miller Homes, Eccles College and the Police.

3) MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 21/9/04: MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were accepted as a true record. Matters arising were the continued poor state of the roads and the problems with parking. These issues were to be discussed further down the agenda.

4) HOMEWATCH SCHEME (COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER PC DAVE GILLIN)

Ethel Glew introduced Fiona James from Greater Manchester Police and our new community police officer PC Dave Gillin together with police community support officer PCSO Khalid Raza.

Fiona told us that Homewatch, when done enthusiastically, does work and that home security was everyone's responsibility. Most crimes involving property are undertaken by opportunists, the sneak thief. Funding is available to help Homewatch schemes. Homewatch helps considerably in improving communication with the police. Fiona registers co-ordinators on a database and will leave news with them by way of a quarterly newsletter and via recorded telephone messages. Fiona asked us to report anything and everything as this was the only way the police can identify problems and allocate resources to stop the problem. Contents insurance premiums are invariably reduced for members of Homewatch schemes. Fiona can organise visits to the police control room at Trafford, the police museum and to see the helicopter.

Dave Gillin said that he was glad to be involved with such a proactive community.

Khalid said that he was one of three support officers allocated to the Eccles area and that he would specifically be patrolling Ellesmere Park.

To speak to our Community Police Officer or Police Community Support Officer, for help and advice regarding crime prevention or any other community matter, please telephone 0161 856 5328. Should an incident occur where you live, and a Police Officer needs to attend, please telephone 0161 872 5050. If you have information about a crime, please telephone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 (you do not have to give your name and you may receive a reward). Dave Gillin's email address is dave.gillin@gmp.police.uk

Ethel said that her aim was to make everyone more alert, not only to their own property, but also to their neighbours. What we needed was to revive the Homewatch scheme and to find co-ordinators who are the main pivot of the scheme and liaison with the police. John Rabbitt has designed a map showing 14 zones to cover the whole of Ellesmere Park and we are looking for volunteers.

5) GREENWOOD SITE (MILLER HOMES, JOHN GILMAN, JOHN BARNES, NIGEL WARD)

Miller Homes have been granted outline planning permission and we were pleased to see three of their senior managers John Gilman (Land Manager), John Barnes (Technical Manager) and Nigel (Design Manager).

John said that they intend to build 37 detached houses and he clarified the confusion as to which set of plans were to be considered by the planners. Local residents had been advised of a revised set of plans, but these plans had been submitted by Miller Homes purely for discussion purposes and a covering letter had made that plain. The original plans as submitted still stood. If a modified plan is in due course submitted, then anyone who has objected will have a further opportunity to speak.

Provision for a large on-site car park has been made for the estimated two year construction period and Miller Homes were contractually obliged under the purchase contract to repair any pavements which may be damaged. The design brief included a housing density at the absolute minimum required and EPRA, along with Eddie Sheehy, battled to achieve this.

The representatives from Miller Homes stayed during the interval to answer individual questions about the plans.

A question from the floor raised concern about the fact that a council officer had said that EPRA had supported the McDermott Homes project by the side of Eccles College. David clarified that the association had been consistent in firmly opposing the project and had various copy correspondence to confirm this.

6) ARTS FESTIVAL

June Redhead unfortunately could not make the meeting, but had supplied copies of the programme of events which would run across 15th to 29th June.

7) ECCLES COLLEGE (STEWART JOSEPH, JEFF MILNER, IAN BOARDMAN)

We were pleased to welcome Stewart Joseph (Director of Students), Jeff Milner (Director of Premises) and Ian Boardman (Governor) who had come along to answer criticism about their transport policy and how they planned to reduce the parking on local roads by students.

Jeff told us that the temporary buildings will all be gone by the end of July and the temporary entrance at the bottom of Cavendish will be closed by the end of the summer holidays. The building work had necessitated the temporary removal of one car park and by September 40 spaces will be available for students. There are 140 spaces in total (100 staff and 40 students). Their green travel plan was to encourage staff to share cars although this was not always possible, for example one member of staff travels in from Chester. Students are encouraged to walk or cycle in and they have to have a permit to park. Permits are allocated to students with disabilities firstly and then on the basis of how far students have to travel.

Police are invited into the college to advise students on how and where they should park. Khalid will look at parking and litter issues.

David said that this was the biggest single issue for local residents and not enough was being done to promote a green travel policy.

8) ROMAN ROAD

John Rabbitt told us that the road ran from Manchester to Wigan and passed through the Three Sisters, Wentworth playing field, through the corner of the Monton Sports Club cricket pitch and down to Monton Green primary school.

The dig will involve various ecologists, seven local schools and colleges, Manchester University and Wigan Archaeological Group who have undertaken a geophys survey. 200 children will take part along with 15 local families. The project has been well supported by various companies and Channel 4 have accepted the dig as an affiliate to their Time Team programme.

Thanks to Eddie Sheehy who has been instrumental in opening a few doors. The dig will commence Monday 27th for around two weeks in the evenings.

9) NEWS FROM NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS (SOSCA OPEN DAY SUNDAY 17TH JULY)

Bruce Thompson told us that Swinton Open Space was one of the biggest local issues in recent years and showed what a pressure group could achieve. A full report from the inspector was due in August. If successful, SOS will be putting together a plan to improve the open space for the community. David Yates told us that the inspector had congratulated the SOS team for putting together a really excellent presentation.

SOS will be holding their second open day on Sunday 17th July.

Maxine Coyle (Monton Residents Assoc) asked that we have a joint venture to improve/adopt the pathway from Quaker Bridge to Monton Road. The meeting approved this.

EPRA has been involved in commenting on the proposed traffic calming proposals for Monton Road. David said that the problem is not so much in the middle of Monton, but further down towards Clarendon Road. Following this and other constructive comments, such as the possibility of a mini roundabout at Albert Road, the planners have decided to go back to the drawing board. Eddie Sheehy said that he will be at a meeting discussing this on Tuesday.

A group of residents around Clarendon Road were concerned that this road had become a rat run.

10) BIKE WEEK (PEDALLING PICNIC)

We are supporting the National Bike Week initiative and have organised a pedalling picnic on Sunday 19th June with two routes ending up at Roe Green.

11) SUMMARY OF RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

38A Victoria Cres: application to demolish two wooden garages and build a small detached house.

53 Cavendish: application to demolish the garage and build a detached house in the garden has been refused.

2 Victoria Rd: wall built without planning permission.

11-15 Sandwich Road: the faced retention scheme is underway and comment was made that the developers are to be congratulated on creating parking for constructor's vehicles behind the property.

Worsley Golf Course: erection of 1.83m high rigid mesh panel perimeter fencing has been withdrawn.

Former Rover Garage Wellington Road: planning application as been submitted for a block of flats.

Area at the bottom of Stafford Road needs improving and next to what was at one time the gatehouse, we are trying to have a new gateway installed. We have approached the Arts Department for funding and have also spoken to a sculptor, Noah Rose. A site meeting is scheduled shortly.

To keep up to date with planning applications, visit our website www.epra.freeuk.com and follow the link.

Terry McKnight told the meeting that he had revised the website and the new design made navigating easier. Now comments could be made via the email address on the site. Terry also asked for any old photographs of Ellesmere Park.

12) TREASURER'S REPORT

John Rabbitt said that the current balance was £2,515.47 and that he had secured funding of £1,600 to cover the cost of the Roman Road dig. Last year the subs were increased to £5 per year and the vast majority of members had completed the new standing order forms.

13) ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Yates (Chairman), Bruce Thompson (Vice-Chairman), John Rabbitt (Treasurer) and Bob Berry (Secretary) were re-elected. Thanks were given from the floor for the hard work put in by the officers on behalf of the community.

14) FRIENDS OF ECCLES STATION (FRECCLES)

Interest was shown in supporting a station adoption scheme with the aim of increasing the number of trains that stop at Eccles increased from one to three per hour. At present trains to Liverpool and North Wales are through trains. On 23rd June, there is a Community Rail Partnership national meeting to be held in Manchester and station adoption is on the agenda. David Yates will attend and the meeting supported this and also the establishment of pressure group FRECCLES.

15) CONSIDERATE CONSTRUCTORS' GUIDELINES

Bruce Thompson told us that there were already schemes run by various local authorities and that we are pressing our council to support a considerate constructors' policy. This would cover deliveries to site, damage to roads, timings of work, noise, floodlighting at night etc. Bruce is drafting a suggested policy document which will then be sent to other community groups throughout the city with the aim of getting it agreed as a Salford wide policy. Eddie Sheehy said that guidance on sub-contractors is an enormous problem and that Salford was leading the way on this issue following our experiences with Nynex.

16) MOBILE PHONE MAST

No formal plans as yet, but a lot of rumour of a mast on the edge of the cricket pitch. T Mobile submitted plans for a mast which the sports club rejected. No further or amended plans have been submitted.

17) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cycle Route: City council wants a route from Eccles toward Preston and one proposal is across the 'glass bridge', up Clarendon Road and then down Ellesmere Road. This is still a long way off and what might help move things on would be to adopt and improve the two ends of Ellesmere Road.

Speed humps: On the cards for Rutland and Westminster Roads following the Greenwood development. Eddie Sheehy confirmed that Cavendish Road will be re-surfaced once the Eccles College and McDermott Homes work has ended.

Local Development Scheme: EPRA has been asked by chief planner Chris Findley to submit ideas on a new Local Development Scheme which will replace the Development Control Policy contained within the outgoing Unitary Development Plan. We have held one meeting with Chris and have since formulated a document covering boundaries, green space policy, local design, crime prevention, traffic, criteria for demolition, tree preservation orders, footpaths etc. The overriding aim is to preserve the character of the area and keep it a pleasant place in which to live.

Open Garden Scheme: A suggestion was made for a once a year event to open their gardens to the community. Anyone interested in taking part can contact us via the website.

Eddie Sheehy thanked EPRA for leading the way in showing how consultation between the council and the community could be made effective. Eddie told us that in total 60 of the Police Community Support Officers will be working in Salford and that Government covers the whole of the cost in the first year and 50% in the second year of the three year programme.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.