



Ellesmere Park Residents' Association

www.epra.freeuk.com

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 21st.November 2006

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Bruce Thompson, Mr.& Mrs. Moyle, Mr.& Mrs. Hingston, Mr.& Mrs.Price.

2) OPENING REMARKS

David Yates welcomed to the meeting around 80 local residents plus Councillor Sheehy, Bill Taylor (Director of Urban Vision), Anthony Stevenson (Group Leader Development Control Salford City Council), Martin Hodgson (Associate Director Planning Department) and representatives from the Police (PC Gillin, PC Barlow, PCSO Raza & Fiona James)

3) MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 8/6/05: MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising which were not further down today's agenda.

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

Fiona James from Greater Manchester Police and our community police officer PC Dave Gillin together with police community support officer PCSO Khalid Raza were thanked for always turning up to our meetings and providing useful advice.

Fiona told us that three local residents had registered as co-ordinators and the only outstanding issue was receipt and installation of the Homewatch signs. Site visits for installation of the signs are underway and fitting is expected within 6-8 weeks. In the run up to Christmas, domestic burglaries always increase and Fiona advised us to leave lights on, leave the radio on a talk station and be particularly vigilant about satellite navigation systems left in cars. Don't load up cars and then return shopping as thieves monitor car parks in shopping centres.

The recent Homewatch conference at Buile Hill was very successful with 220 people attending.

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 answered questions. Parking on footpaths: contact the police who will issue fixed penalty fees if the problem persists. Traffic wardens: there are two types, local authority and GMP (GMP wardens have powers in respect of vehicles causing obstruction) and we are advised to note down vehicle numbers, time and dates in respect of regular offenders. Problem on Bradford Road and the linear walkway re off-road bikes: the police have an off-road unit which has been in our area and has been prosecuting offenders and getting results. Dave will book this off-road unit whenever he can.

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

To speak to our Community Police Officer, Dave Gillin or Police Community Support Officer, Khalid Raza for help and advice regarding crime prevention or any other community matter, please telephone 0161 856 5317. 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

If anyone is interested in volunteering as a Homewatch co-ordinator, then please contact Ethel Glew via the email address on our website.

5) EPRA WEBSITE www.epra.freeuk.com

Terry McKnight runs the website which has been in existence for five years and has recently been re-designed with clearer links to amongst other sites, the Salford City Council website where you can report matters of concern eg: potholes. There is lots of information and all the EPRA minutes are available.

6) STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

All local authorities have been instructed by government to formulate a policy whereby consultation with local residents on planning and design issues can be expanded and improved upon. Salford is currently in the consultation phase and will submit the final SCI for government approval in August 2007. Several members of EPRA attended a public meeting at Monton House Hotel and put forward a number of suggestions for inclusion in the plan.

If you want to have your say, then you can fill in a questionnaire by Thursday 14th.December 2006 at www.salford.gov.uk/salfordsci

All completed questionnaires will go into a prize draw to win a £30 voucher for a restaurant of your choice in Salford.

7) OVERVIEW OF URBAN VISION

Bill Taylor told us why Urban Vision was formed four years ago due to the many challenges which the City Council faced including ten years of budget cuts with consequent loss of staff and capacity issues being a major concern. The highways budget was previously being diverted to fund projects helping the neediest in the city. The private sector was given the task of improving services for footways and roads with the payback being reduced tripping claims which were uninsured. The dilemma in reducing claims was aesthetics as opposed to safety.

The council is investing an additional £22M over four years on pavements and roads. Within the first twelve months of Urban Vision, claims have reduced significantly and bogus claims are also being defended in court.

Urban Vision covers architecture, manages land and property assets including disposals and Compulsory Purchase Orders. Urban Vision now employs 472 people.

The Monton Road speed reduction scheme starts in January 2007. The footpaths in Cavendish Road have been reconstructed and the resurfacing of the carriageway has been brought forward to tie in with imminent gas board repairs.

Re-lighting in Stafford Road is due for March 2007.

Considerate constructors' guidelines are now being built into planning approval consents.

Local resident, David McLean commented that tripping claims in Ellesmere Park had only amounted to eight claims over the past ten years at a total cost of £20,000 and that the safety/cost issue was not therefore a problem. He said that local residents had been consulted, all preferred flags to bitmac and that tarmac pavements looked cheap and reduced the value of our properties. Comment was also made that the council's black and white policy of having bitmac everywhere except for conservation areas left Urban Vision with no discretion in these matters.

Bill Taylor said that Urban Vision has inherited a legacy of poor quality pavements, much of this caused by cowboy sub-contractors used by Nynex some years ago when carte blanche was given to them in the 1980's by Mrs. Thatcher's government.

Bill said that a condition survey had been undertaken on all roads in the city and the budget had been prioritised. He was asked to produce a list of which roads in Ellesmere Park which are to be addressed in the next three years and asked if he would look at the problems of unadopted roads.

Eddie Sheehy listened to various issues raised and he kindly agreed to try to resolve the following:

- 1) Chatsworth Road, numerous problems with work on Chatsworth as workers have gone across side roads. Students from Eccles College were dropping chewing gum on the newly formed pavement making it unsightly. Street sweepers or specialist cleaning to be requested.
- 2) Bradford Road, the state of the road is now a real problem. Eddie will ask if the road surface can be repaired whilst contractors are still on site for Cavendish Road. Footpaths are in a dangerous state following recent installation of new lights. The McDermott homes development on Bradford Road is not included in the new Supplementary Planning Document and it should be.
- 3) Supplementary Planning Document, EPRA asked for feedback as to why some of the things campaigned about were not to be included in the SPD (Martin Hodgson said that this would be forthcoming).
- 4) Continuing danger at the Half Edge Lane/Victoria Road junction was highlighted. Pedestrian safety will be improved if pavement is returned to its former width (see item 6 below). Inappropriate parking near the junction of Ellesmere Road with Sandwich Road. Request made to apply yellow line here.
- 5) Victoria Road down to the junction with Westminster Road, in need of repair.
- 6) Section from Victoria Road to the junction of Stafford Road, unadopted and the old Eccles Council has promised to adopt it in the past but this has not happened. Dr. Gilhani offered to provide documents to support the case of EPRA to have the road adopted.
- 7) Lodge at Victoria Road, wall built that protrudes onto the highway, position to be clarified re demolition order.
- 8) The removal of gate at the end of Victoria Road is enabling motorcycles etc to gain access to Victoria Road at the Stafford road end. Can this gate be replaced? Public art at junction of Stafford Road and Victoria Road, are section 106 monies available to fund this? Also can the roundabout be removed and the area re-modelled to enlarge the grassed area? Some people may be against this, some consultation may be necessary.
- 9) Can more weight be added if EPRA objects to a planning application on behalf of the residents as a whole. At present this counts as only one objection toward the required number of 5 before an application has to go before planning committee. This was recently relevant in the case of the garden infill at 53 Cavendish Road where only seven households plus EPRA were written to.
- 10) Homewatch signs ordered 18 months ago and still awaited.

David Yates suggested that as there was a lot of concern by members about roads, footpaths and parking, then a good way forward would be to form a roads and footpaths sub-group (also to include car parking). John Gill offered to get involved in this.

8) SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Anthony Stevenson told us that the document sought to protect the special character of Ellesmere Park. Planning for the document had started in summer 2005 and a total of 165 people attended the two consultation events at Monton House Hotel. This is an important document in the consideration of planning applications and the area covered has been expanded to the east and south to include sections across Monton Road.

There are eleven design policies included in the SPD which is available on the council's website. These include design policies, layout and scale of new developments, building details and materials, highways, boundaries and front gardens, provision of private amenity space, car parking, trees and landscaping, bin storage.

Considerate constructors' policies including rules on parking should be incorporated in planning consents, but Anthony said that these must be reasonable and enforceable.

The area designated within the SPD as a conservation area is under consideration and may be expanded or indeed contracted in the future. Joe Martin (Council's Conservation Officer), is presently looking citywide at all conservation area boundaries.

EPRA still feels that the requirements before demolition is granted are still not robust enough and that garden infill legislation remains of insufficient strength. It was overwhelmingly agreed that the new development on Bradford Road should be included both in the SPD and also in EPRA.

As to whether the new areas included in the SPD should also be included in EPRA, it was felt that they were already well represented by Clarendon Road group, Monton Avenue group and Monton Village Community Association. However, it was agreed that a more formal link should be developed between these four residents' groups.

9) NEWS FROM NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS (SOSCA, MONTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION & ECCLES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE)

Bruce Thompson left a handout regarding Eccles Community Committee's activities. Meets bi-monthly in Eccles and every resident, tenant or voluntary group is entitled to attend. Bruce attends and represents EPRA. A recent development has been the allocation of £100,000 of devolved highway budget to be used on capital projects identified by the Community Committee. The first phase of this money has been partially allocated to 'Childrens Road Safety' enhancement around St.Andrews School. A similar scheme for Monton Green School has been

earmarked for the next financial year plus traffic calming measures on Liverpool Road towards the Peel Green roundabout. A feasibility study for improvements at Eccles Station has also been proposed. Contact Bruce (707 2470) for further details about Community Committee.

Monton Village Community Association: Christmas lights switch on is 25th.November. More CCTV cameras have been introduced. There is a plan for houses to be built on the old Mitchell Shackleton site.

SOSCA: Barry Wild told us that SOSCA, EPRA and others presented the case at the public enquiry to save the fields from development. The enquiry inspector agreed that there was no need for additional housing or a feeder road but was unable at the time to give a recreational designation because the council had not completed its open greenspace survey. This survey, which has statutory status, has since been completed and identifies the site as meeting the deficiency in recreation and greenspace standards. The document greatly supports SOSCA's case, but it cannot make the land use allocation itself. This will be the role of the Local Development Framework which will be produced in the next two to three years. The long term aim is to use all the land as a country park and this vision is being pursued by a Steering Committee of Swinton Community Committee and has the support of several lead council members. Plans can only be started on the council owned land as United Utilities still own the central portion, an issue that will have to be addressed in due course.

A wider consultation process is now being started and EPRA are invited to attend a meeting in the New Year so as to have some input in the final outcome. A grant of £1,000 has been received from Swinton Community Committee and SOSCA wish us to consider approaching Worsley & Boothstown Community Committee for a similar amount. Barry thanked us for all our support and help with the recent funday.

10) GATEWAYS TO ELLESMERE PARK

The various points regarding the gateways have been referred to above under Section 7 (items which Councillor Sheehy is chasing up).

The stopping up order at the end Ellesmere Road/ Victoria Crescent will be the subject of a court hearing shortly. The footpath will remain open and our stance is that application should be made to formalise the current situation ensuring that there is continued pedestrian access and that this is wide enough to accommodate the proposed route 55 of the National Cycle Route.

11) SUMMARY OF RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

53 Cavendish: application to demolish the garage and build a detached house in the garden. Initial application last year was refused but a new owner has amended the plans which have been accepted. The requisite number of five letters of objection were not received in order to have the application put before the planning panel.

Westminster House: we would welcome the sale as a private dwelling. The meeting was unanimously in favour of rejecting any possible application for demolition.

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

12) TREASURER'S REPORT

John Rabbitt said that the current balance was £4,783. Income in 2005 was £3,391.61 and expenditure was £2,131.03. Numbers were boosted by the Roman Road project. John is to place a portion of the funds into a higher rate account.

Suggestion was made that EPRA should support the development of a heritage group. Steve Rowland agreed to get involved with this.

John Rabbitt is giving a talk on the Roman Road (Three Sisters and Chorlton Fold sites) in Eccles on Wednesday 14th.February 2007 at Alexandra House, 395 Liverpool Road, Peel Green, Eccles, M30 7HB 7.30pm to 9.00pm. All welcome to attend.

13) ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Yates (Chairman), Bruce Thompson (Vice-Chairman), John Rabbitt (Treasurer) and Bob Berry (Secretary) offered to stand down if there were any willing to take up office. There were no volunteers and so they were re-elected. David gave notice that he wished to stand down across the next year.

David explained how the association works and how we have built up a relationship with the council. Officers meetings are held every couple of months and a judgement is made on what may be of contention. The aim is to be as democratic as possible and large issues are dealt with by formation of sub-groups eg: Greenwood, with larger numbers of residents making decisions.

Members felt that general meetings every 18 months was too long a period and it was agreed that regular meetings every 6 months dealing with a shorter agenda would be better. It was agreed to set the next open meeting for after Easter, but not at half-term. A call was made for road stewards to distribute leaflets and Roger Glew agreed to act for Cavendish Road.

14) OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Bruce left a handout saying that the City Council had adopted a strategy for all open spaces in Salford, identifying existing resource and outlining plans to upgrade/improve and provide new spaces.

The aim is that everyone should be within reasonable walking distance of open space provision (wild park areas, parks, playgrounds, playing fields).

In our area we have Priority Sports Pitch (PSP) Ellesmere Park Fields, Eccles College, Monton Sports Hall, Branwood School. Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP) Narbonne Aveue (new), Ellesmere Park Fields, Ellesmere Road Field (new). Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP) Ellesmere Park Fields. Neighbourhood Park (NP) Eccles Recreation Ground. District Park (DP) Eccles Recreation Ground. Local Semi-Natural Greenspace (LG) Three Sisters, Monton Walkway. Strategic Semi-Natural Greenspace (SG) Swinton Fields.

The inclusion of Three Sisters & Swinton Fields indicates a high level of protection for the future. All the plans are subject to funding and will take years to complete.

15) SOCIAL EVENTS

Eddie Sheehy told us that Eccles College had a new principal and he was keen to get involved with the local community and work with us on social events. Claire Sinclair will pursue.

16) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.