



Ellesmere Park Residents' Association

www.epra.freeuk.com

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 25th.April 2007

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Terry McKnight, Audrey Brassloff, Claire Sinclair.

2) OPENING REMARKS

David Yates welcomed to the meeting around 70 local residents plus Councillor Sheehy, Stuart Wattam (Head of Eccles College), Steven Lee (City Council Head of Highways), Paul Ashton (Monton Village Community Assoc) Barry Wilde (SOSCA) and representatives from the Police (PCSO Tony Fletcher & PCSO Khalid Raza)

The meeting commenced with a short silence in memory of the Mayor of Salford, Councillor Bernard Murphy who recently died suddenly. Our condolences go to his widow, Jane Murphy, who is one of our three local councillors.

3) MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 21/11/06: MATTERS ARISING

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

4) POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

PCSO Tony Fletcher said that he will now be working with PCSO Khalid Raza in patrolling Ellesmere Park along with Monton & Eccles.

To speak to our Community Police Officer, Dave Gillin (PC 3453) or Police Community Support Officers, Khalid Raza or Tony Fletcher (PCSO 65180) for help and advice regarding crime prevention or any other community matter, please telephone 0161 856 5317 or email the team on salfordsouth.neighbourhood@gmp.police.uk. 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 six years and has last year 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) PLANNING APPLICATIONS UPDATE

Application has been made to build a block of 11 flats in the garden of 95 Monton Road. Such a 'garden infill' application is not in accordance with the Supplementary Planning Guidance published November 2006 and we have objected. The meeting agreed that the decision to object was the correct one. We had not been alerted to this application as we should have been and David Yates said that he would be contacting Council officers as to why the system had not worked on this occasion.

This subject threw up the question as to how decisions are taken on behalf of the Association. David explained how the association works and how we have built up a relationship with the council. Officers meetings are held every few 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. A suggestion was made that more use of group emails to alert residents about applications could be used. Roger Glew suggested that formal ground rules should be established.

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

11-15 Sandwich Road: We asked that the plans be amended to show the rear wall as brick and this request was completely ignored. Councillor Sheehy agreed to take the matter up with development control.

2 Victoria Road: The wall has been built partly on council land and cars regularly park on the remaining narrow pavement which means that pedestrians have to walk in the road to pass the property. The owner has been fined by Highways on 20/7/06 and ordered to remove the wall, but it is still there. Urban Vision has been alerted and the matter is currently with their legal team, who intend to take action.

7) ROADS AND PAVEMENTS IN ELLESMERE PARK

John Gill told the meeting that a code of practice governs the way the Highways Department works and follows national guidelines. There has been a lot of investment in capital works rather than repairs and the repairs that are done to potholes and roads are not efficient. Lack of resources is holding back some maintenance work.

The criteria for repairs is that potholes need to be 2 inches (50mm) deep on carriageways before being actioned for repair. In the case of dangerous situations, action will be taken within two hours.

In the case of danger of tripping on pavements, the criterion is 28mm and these must be actioned within 28 days. If a local resident makes a report, then inspectors must investigate within 2 days and action within 28 days.

John did his own comprehensive survey of potholes and uneven pavements and submitted the list to the council at the end of March.

Traffic calming is due to be installed on the top section of Cavendish Road, Welbeck Road and Bradford Road in mid summer.

If you want to report a pothole or uneven pavement, then ring 0161 909 6500 or email city.highways@salford.gov.uk and copy John Gill on john-lynn.gill@tiscali.co.uk

You can contact John on 789 2853.

Steven Lee told us that the Council is investing £22M over 5 years in highways. Every road is inspected two times per annum and given a classification of 1-4 (1 being the best and 4 the worst). £4.2M has been earmarked for spending on maintenance as opposed to capital projects, such as the recent resurfacing of Cavendish Road, and of that £4.2M, £1.1M will be spent repairing potholes/trip defects. In respect of dangerous defects, there is a 100% repair rate on the 2 hour and 24 hour criteria.

8) ECCLES COLLEGE AND THE COMMUNITY

Stuart Wattam told us that he took over as Head in August and was keen to see the Eccles College as part of the community. Most issues with local residents concerned parking and particularly off-road parking. Some success had been made in leafleting students and getting them onto buses and bicycles and some 'no-waiting' signs have gone up. Stuart says that the College is taking numbers of cars and building up a database.

A suggestion was made re installing yellow lines and Stuart said this should be referred to Highways. Chatsworth Road recently had a problem with an emergency vehicle not being able to make its way through.

Eddie Sheehy said that he would broker a meeting between GMPTA/Eccles College/ Highways/EPRA to discuss possible solutions including a shuttle bus and a green travel plan.

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

Bruce Thompson is our representative on Eccles Community Committee which meets bi-monthly in Eccles and every resident, tenant or voluntary group is entitled to attend. Bruce told us that Homewatch is to be revived using the PCSO's.

A new Open Space Strategy has been approved with sites identified as Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play. Nearest to us will be Ryder Playing Fields near to Quaker Bridge (creation of a new play area and informal kickabout area capital cost £100,000 and maintenance over ten years £40,000) and Narbonne Gardens off Portland Road. Section 106 monies will be available next year (£82,000 for Narbonne Gardens to include £38,000 for regular safety inspections and maintenance over a ten year period) and a small amount of play equipment will be installed (one of the rules is that no play equipment will be installed less than 30 metres from housing). £57,047 has been earmarked to upgrade and improve the environment of Monton Walkway. £6,791 is available to merge the remaining portion of the former school playing field with Three Sisters SBI (Site of Biological Importance) and this excludes the landscaping at the edge of the site which Miller Homes are contractually obliged to do.

Contact Bruce (707 2470) for further details about Community Committee.

Monton Village Community Association: There is a campaign for a Monton Park which has local authority support.

SOSCA: Barry Wilde told us that the steering committee of SOSCA and the Council had made an application to Swinton Community Committee and been awarded £7,500 to prepare a feasibility study on what Swinton Park would be used for. An application had been made for £80K to The People's Millions Fund (National Lottery) to develop the portion of the land next to Swinton Golf Course that is local authority owned. Barry asked for suggestions as to how the land can be used. Suggestions can be made via the link on our website or at www.swintonopenspace.co.uk

Barry said that this time next year we can expect some action in physical terms which will include improved pathways and some form of adventure playground.

10) THREE SISTERS' WATER LEVEL/RENOVATION

The water level has been very high and there has also been some recent vandalism. Environmental Department have been alerted and Julie Blagden, Neighbourhood Manager for Eccles has been involved. Section 106 monies may be available to get the paths improved and the former playing field area turned into a meadow. The overall aim is to make the environment appear to be cared for.

Eddie Sheehy was alerted to the fact that not all the Japanese Knotweed has been killed off (in particular there remains some behind the houses on Westminster Road) and he said that he would contact Greg Durkin at the council to deal with this.

11) SOCIAL PROGRAMME

A community festival is planned for Eccles College and EPRA will keep in touch with Stuart Wattam on this.

Roman Road: John Rabbitt told us that there may well be another opportunity to see the road at Chorlton Fold in the summer.

12) FRECCLES

Freccles (Friends Of Eccles Station): Advantages of using the station more are that it only takes 8 minutes to reach Victoria Station which is much faster than the tram. The objectives of Freccles are to promote public transport, community engagement/promote ownership/reduce vandalism and more use of our Tram/Bus/Train interchange.

Freccles wants better shelters and information systems, gardens, art work, more trains (three trains per hour pass through, but only one stops), more destinations, cycle storage and a proper ticket office. A grant of £5,000 has been given to fund a feasibility study.

One clean up has already taken place by volunteers and if you wish to join the next one and help, then turn up at the station on Sunday 13th.May at 10am.

Freccles plans to incorporate a rail trip to have a meal at Stalybridge Station as part of the forthcoming Salford Food Festival.

To keep up to date with Freccles, visit their website www.freccles.org.uk or email freccles@btinternet.com

13) TREASURER'S REPORT

John Rabbitt said that the current balance was £5,389.67. Income in 2006 was £2,032.63 and expenditure was £886.17. Subscriptions amounted to £781 and the additional income came from Community Committee grants in respect of the Roman Road and the SOS Fun Day.

A full set of accounts is on the website.

14) ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No need to elect new committee members as this was done at the previous open meeting only last November. However, David Yates did ask for people to think about who will replace him as Chairman as he plans to step down after the next open meeting which will probably be in six months time.

15) THEMES FOR NEXT OPEN MEETING

Light Pollution: Concern was raised that all night floodlighting around Wentworth House 8 Westminster Road (a unit for the treatment of alcohol problems run by the area psychiatric service) was causing severe problems to the environment of the five neighbouring houses. Eddie Sheehy and David Yates agreed to take this up and we may invite the local Environmental Officer to our next meeting.

Other items for the next agenda will be feedback on issues raised tonight and management of open space.

16) SEWERS ON STAFFORD ROAD

Balfour Beatty will commence work on Tuesday 1st.May which will aid flood prevention. This will involve some lopping of trees to get the diggers in.

17) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David Yates suggested that the road stewards approach the new Miller Homes development to invite them to the next open meeting..

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.