



Ellesmere Park Residents' Association

www.epra.freeuk.com

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 30th.October 2008

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Terry McKnight, Richard & Pat Howarth, Ian Edwards, Mr & Mrs Allsop, Mr & Mrs Gill, Mr & Mrs Moyle, Jill (Rangers Team).

2) OPENING REMARKS

Bruce Thompson welcomed to the meeting around 70 local residents plus Annie Surtees and Andrew Meadows from the Eccles Town Centre management team and Ian Worsley (City Council Project Manager-Environmental Strategy & Development).

3) MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 7/11/07: MATTERS ARISING

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

4) THE THREE SISTERS PROJECT

Annie Surtees advised us that funding for this project had come from Miller Homes and also from Section 106 monies. Salford Rangers Team would be supervising and they manage countryside sites across the city with emphasis on biodiversity and education about wildlife sites. She said that The Three Sisters was a real gem and is one of just 33 Sites of Biological Interest across Salford.

Contractors have taken up the concrete from the former school and the old fence at the end of the former playing field. They have cleared vegetation around the ponds to maintain open water and this provides a great environment for dragonfly and newts amongst others.

The plan is to improve access routes and install interpretation boards at the two key access points to make entering the site more welcoming. The former playing field will be returned to open meadow. This work will be in Spring 2009.

More links with schools and local groups will be made in order to develop environmental activities such as bat walks etc. Local people will be urged to get actively involved with a series of project days. EPRA will work with the Ranger Group to establish volunteer groups across Spring/Summer 2009.

Delivery of a schools programme will be made by summer 2009.

5) OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL AREAS

Ian Worsley gave us an update:

Contractors are on-site re-surfacing Monton Walkway and work is well underway.

Narbonne Gardens, looking at installing a play area for younger children (the original planning application was rejected in favour of continuing informal use as a football pitch).

Ryder playing fields play area, 16 objections were received and the formal play area for this site will not now proceed. The nearest play area will be at Shackleton Street and work will start early 2009 (the funds for this came from Miller Homes).

A multi use play area will be going in just off Somerset Road.

There was a call for an increase in the number of bins on footpaths and Andrew in the Management Team will progress this.

Stafford Road roundabout: there are currently two proposals. It will either be removed entirely or reduced in size.

6) ROMAN ROAD PROJECT 27/6/05 TO 11/07/05

John Rabbitt gave us a pleasant and informative talk on the road, which runs through the Three Sisters and was successfully located by John and his team of volunteers in 2005. The road originally ran from Manchester (a fort for 2000 soldiers at Castlefield) to Wigan, via Regent Road and Eccles.

The earliest account was recorded in 1733 with a sighting in 1845 across what is now Wentworth School. John involved six school groups ages 8 to 10 (190 children in all) and was able to accurately plot the road to within a few centimetres.

£3,000 was raised via the support of local companies and the local authority.

The road was built approx 200AD, is just 30 centimetres below the surface and is 6.9 metres across.

We have in excess of 100 metres of the road running through the Three Sisters and this absolutely unique.

7) TREASURER'S REPORT

John Rabbitt said that the current balance was a very healthy £5,684.80. This was an increase on the balance as at the end of Dec 2007 which was £5,004.80.

The major purchases have been the PA system (this belongs to the membership and any member can borrow it).

In the absence of a current Chairman, it was agreed that the bank mandate be amended to allow any two of Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer to sign.

A full set of accounts is on the website.

8) PRESENTATION TO DAVID YATES

The meeting unanimously thanked David for his long service as Chairman and a presentation of a large electric saw was made by way of a gift.

David is continuing his hard work in the local community with Freccles (Friends of Eccles Station). **To keep up to date with Freccles, visit their website www.freccles.org.uk or email freccles@btinternet.com**

9) SOCIAL EVENTS

Claire Sinclair has arranged a wine tasting evening at Blacksticks in Monton for 5th.December. The cost of £10 per head will be subsidised down to £5 for EPRA members.

10) ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

An invitation to stand as Chairman received no offers from the floor. The committee will continue for the present with Bruce Thompson as Vice-Chair, Bob Berry as Secretary and John Rabbitt as Treasurer.

11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

____ Parking at the end of Cavendish Road: Bruce will refer to council.

State of roads: Bruce will chase up Steven Lee in Highways Department re an update on the programme of reconstruction.

Speeding on Westminster Road/speed bumps: again to be referred to Steven Lee.

Bruce thanked everyone for attending and thanked in particular the staff at Monton Sports Club.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

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