



Ellesmere Park Residents' Association

www.epra.freeuk.com

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 24th.February 2010

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Jill Tyson (Rangers Team).

2) OPENING REMARKS

Bruce Thompson welcomed to the meeting around 70 local residents plus Howard Lawrenson (Community Development Worker Eccles), Chris Marsh (Director of Community Regeneration) and Paul Gill (Project Manager, Salford Sustainable Regeneration Directorate).

3) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ECCLES

Howard Lawrenson introduced himself and said that if anyone wanted to contact him about community development then his direct line was 0161 603 4293 or email howard.lawrenson@salford.gov.uk

4) THE THREE SISTERS PROJECT

Jill Tyson had prepared a very comprehensive report about the work she and the ranger team had done and their plans for the future of The Three Sisters. The report was outlined by John Rabbitt and his PowerPoint presentation will be available in full on our website www.epra.freeuk.com

Jill has been busy organising:

Litter clean-ups: several litter picks have taken place with volunteers and school children. Publicity of an anti-litter campaign. Two new litter bins on the path between Cavendish and Stafford.

Bridge repairs and boardwalks: The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and Eccles College have repaired the bridge and built several new sections of boardwalk.

Habitat improvement: Woodland management, a new habitat pile, slopes lowered on overspill ditch, new trees and native woodland plants planted.

Education: Bat event and bat walk, mapping session, bird & bat box building, pond dipping and nature trail with Wentworth High. Dragonfly event, pond dipping and willow weaving.

Future Plans: Three notice boards/site welcome signs will be installed shortly. The edges of the site & pathways have been and will continue to be mown.

Starting from May, there will be a public activity each month: Dragonfly event Sunday 23rd.May.

Volunteer litter pick Friday 11th.June.

Scavenger hunt/Nature trail for kids Sunday 18th.July.

Bert Cresswell asked if in addition to the bat and bird boxes whether consideration had been given to building boxes for the owls on the site. This was subsequently relayed to Jill and she will investigate whether this can be added to the education programme involving children building the boxes.

John said that The Three Sisters was a unique resource as in 2,000 years it had never been built on or even ploughed. The Manchester to Wigan Roman road runs through it for 120 metres and is unspoilt. There is, we think, no other continuous stretch of Roman road of this length surviving in the North West.

If anyone has any suggestions or enquiries please contact Jill Tyson, the site's ranger, on 0787 2808003 email rangers@salford.gov.uk

We would like to ask local residents to use their garden waste bin rather than tipping garden waste onto the site, this will also help towards keeping up the appearance of the site. Dumping garden waste is classed as fly tipping.

5) MEDIA CITY

Chris Marsh gave an impressive and enthusiastic report about the benefits that Media City will shortly be bringing to our area. Media City is a fantastic opportunity and economically significant bringing the best equipped studio block in the whole of Europe. There will be high quality public space including a new piazza, twice the size of Trafalgar Square, big enough for public events for up to 5,000 people and incorporating a huge media wall.

It will be the home of the BBC Philharmonic. The main building will house Five Live and by January 2011 all the BBC buildings will be functioning across 5 departments employing 2,500 personnel. The new link road off the M602 will be open Summer 2010 and there will be a tram stop right outside.

A new, very impressive bridge has been built and will shortly be floated into position linking Media City with Imperial War Museum North.

The University of Salford will have a new campus on site and there will be a 218 bed Holiday Inn Hotel, restaurants, bars, shops, a health centre, dentist and a Booths supermarket.

A car park will offer 2,200 car spaces and much emphasis has been placed on encouraging people to walk and cycle to Media City.

Chris told us that efforts are being made worldwide and interest is coming from the west coast of America and China. Disney and Google have been mentioned as having been contacted.

Over 1,500 Salford residents have worked on the site and 50% of the workforce has come from Manchester & Salford. To date, over £240M has gone into Manchester firms.

Chris told us that we should rightly be immensely proud of the development and asked us to be advocates for the project.

6) BRIDGEWATER CANAL CORRIDOR REGENERATION

Paul Gill told us that this was a 15/20 year development plan in total, although in the next 2/3 years work would get underway if a £5M application (now being prepared for submission in 6 months) to the Heritage Lottery Fund is approved.

The aim is to improve our industrial heritage and enhance the access to the canal as a commuter network.

Once improvements have done, the whole towpath will be open to cyclists and walkers. The towpath at its widest will be 3 metres.

Ambitious plans are in hand for a new marina at Boothstow and also at Broadoak Park which would include a country park.

7) TREASURER'S REPORT

John Rabbitt said that the balance as at 31/12/09 was a very healthy £5,903.80. This was an increase of £448.63 on the balance as at the end of Dec 2008 which was £5,455.17

Subscriptions across 2009 were £661 and main expenditure was on the wine tasting social event.

Latest expenditure in 2010 includes a digital projector and John said that any fully paid up member was welcome to borrow any of the equipment which we have.

A full set of accounts is on the website.

8) AOB

Information was handed out by the Say No To Green Lane Incinerator representatives. Anyone wanted to support the campaign can visit www.greenlaneecodump.org The meeting was unanimous in its support for the campaign.

Notice was given that a resident on Chatsworth Road, via a local councillor, had asked for a survey to be commissioned looking at ways to ameliorate the traffic problems on Chatsworth. This request will be discussed at committee on Friday 26th.Feb. Bruce will email to say that at this stage we don't support any particular proposal and EPRA wants to be involved if the matter progresses.

State of roads: Westminster Road resident Clare Moody is keen to spearhead a pressure group to get the roads improved. Four other people at the meeting volunteered to help Claire. The volunteers are Janine McDonald, Joan Eldi, Carolyn Stanton and Bert Cresswell.

Maxine Coyle of the Monton Village Community Association invited anyone to attend their meetings at Monton House Hotel, 1st. Thursday of every month 7pm (April onwards).

9) 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.

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

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

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