



Ellesmere Park Residents' Association

www.ellesmerepark.org.uk

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING 22nd.March 2012

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from, Councillor Judith Tope, Councillor Michael Wheeler, Alan Garnett, Nick Aylmer-Brewin, George & Lynne Meakin, Hilary Price.

2) OPENING REMARKS

Bruce Thompson welcomed to the meeting a good turnout of around 70 local residents plus Kate Foster & Lyndsey Lloyd (Wentworth House), Gale Blackburn & Jo Regan (Salford Ranger Team), PCSO Tony Fletcher, Maxine Coyle (Monton Village Community Association), Councillor Lisa Stone, Jan Phelan (Say No To Incinerator Campaign).

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST OPEN MEETING 24/3/11

There were no matters arising which were not listed further down the agenda.

4) THE THREE SISTERS SBI

John Rabbitt showed some pictures of the new stone seating and how they were installed by a team from Palmer Demolition using a 35 ton digger which was needed to lift the main 5 ton seat into position. Thanks were made to Jonathan Seddon, Ken Palmer and Bob Berry. The seats commemorate the excavation of the Roman Road by EPRA in 2005 and are now regularly used and enjoyed.

Gale Blackburn of the Salford Ranger Team has managed the Three Sisters for several years. Gale told us that the 4.5 hectare site has the safety of Site of Biological Interest status, is owned by the local authority Children's Services Department and current funding for the Rangers to manage the site ends on 31st.March.

Changes over the last twelve months have seen new paths, new boardwalks with a non-slip surface, two new ponds and the original ditch cleared out. Seed and bulb planting in the woodlands has been carried out along with woodland management, repairing existing boardwalks, creating a new path from Chatsworth Road to the pond

areas. The Rangers have written an education leaflet about the Three Sisters which will shortly go out to local schools and a new interpretation board is ready for installation. Over the past year, Gale has co-ordinated 19 volunteering sessions and had 12 Ranger led events including bat walks, pond dipping and creative events which in total attracted the involvement of 367 local people.

Gale thanked the committee of EPRA for support in trying to secure ongoing finance. Bruce Thompson has applied for grants of £5,000 each from Eccles Community Committee and a Waste Management Fund. The aim is create a Friends of the Three Sisters group to carry on with work, with the Rangers offering ongoing advice and expertise.

Amongst the more commonly seen birdlife, the site attracts Heron, Moorhens, Willow Warblers, Blackcaps, Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Long Tailed Tits. Gale is interested in hearing from you if you spot any unusual species on the site. Her contact email is gale.blackburn@salford.gov.uk

Gale's aims for the site are threefold:

- 1) To enhance the habitat, increase the diversity of the site and protected status.
- 2) To increase the potential for educational and recreational opportunities.
- 3) Protect its heritage, in particular the Roman Road.

The Three Sisters is a unique resource as in 2,000 years it has 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 Gale Blackburn, the site's ranger, on 07968 314747 email gale.blackburn@salford.gov.uk or the ranger team 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. Apart from being illegal, this will help towards keeping up the appearance of the Three Sisters and prevent the spread of knotweed. Dumping garden waste is classed as fly tipping.

If you see anyone fly tipping or dumping their garden waste on the site, then we encourage you to report this to the Environmental Call Centre on 0161 909 6500. If you see anyone starting fires on the site, then report this immediately to the Police by telephoning 101.

Bruce thanked Gale and her Ranger Team Manager Jo for their enthusiasm all their hard work on the site and asked for anyone willing to volunteer to join the Friends group to contact us. Around seven people volunteered on the night.

5) EPRA INVOLVEMENT IN THE THREE SISTERS

We await news regarding our applications for grant monies and will form a new group Friends of the Three Sisters to continue the good work undertaken by the Salford Ranger Team.

6) SAY NO TO GREEN LANE INCINERATOR

Spokesperson Jan Phelan said that we had two choices, either see the Bridgewater Canal project succeed and the area flourish, or move back to the industrial age with an extra 150 twenty ton lorries each day in the area and problems of emissions from the proposed gasification and incinerator plants causing problems over a ten mile radius. We fear the threat of dioxin levels, eight times over the EU limit, being emitted and these pollutants are non-soluble and will not wash away. In addition there will be nitrous oxides and dust particles. House prices in the area will undoubtedly be affected. The planning appeal starting 9th.May will be definitive as the only recourse for either side after the appeal would be a judicial review which can only address points of law missed by the Inspector.

Last week's event at Worsley Golf Club raised £2,200 and there will be a further fund raiser on 19th.April at Blacksticks. All funds raised go towards printing costs and paying for a barrister to press our concerns at the forthcoming twelve day inquiry.

It really does make a difference how many local residents attend planning hearings. The inquiry starts at 10am on Wednesday 9th.May at The Monton House Hotel. Please don't leave it to others to attend and do your best to turn up for at least the first and last days of the hearing. The potential threat to our area from this incineration plant is immense.

7) TREASURER'S REPORT

John Rabbitt said that the balance as at 31/12/11 was a healthy £2,546.21. This was a decrease of £3,334.09 on the balance as at the end of Dec 2010 of £5,880.30, mainly due to the expenditure on the seating, although the bulk of that expenditure came from the residue from grants regarding the Roman Road excavation.

Subscriptions across 2011 were £739 (an increase of £58 over the previous year). We have all the equipment we need for meetings (PA system, screen, digital projector), these items are owned by the members and any paid up member who wishes to borrow them can contact John.

There are currently around 136 paid up members. Subscription income so far this year has taken the combined bank balances to £3,099.21.

A full set of accounts is on the website.

8) WENTWORTH HOUSE

Kate Foster (Ward Manager) and Lyndsey Lloyd (Team Leader) told us of the work done at Wentworth House since, six months ago, it became a home for ten women previously hospitalised as in-patients. The women have been referred from hospitals across Salford, Trafford and Bolton and their stay at Wentworth House is expected to last between three to five years as they receive psychological and social skills care with the goal of being re-introduced to society. There are between four and six staff per shift and the home is staffed twenty four hours per day.

9) HOME WATCH

PCSO Tony Fletcher has recently returned after sick leave caused by an accident. He told us that for the past six years, he has organised a regular Wednesday night kick around and football coaching session on Eccles Sixth Form Centre Astroturf pitch. Around 45 local youths attend and he never has any trouble. Thanks to the centre for making this resource available. This initiative has been instrumental in severely reducing the incidence of anti-social behaviour and the young people have formed a team now playing as Ellesmere Park in a North West league. Funding has recently been found for 200 new Home Watch signs across Salford and Tony expects our share of these shortly.

Tony runs a surgery between 5pm and 6pm at Eccles College where he is available to discuss any local policing matters. Local Home Watch co-ordinators do a great job and he is currently working to increase further his Ellesmere Park GMP email database as a quick method of relaying information to us. All email addresses will be treated with the upmost confidentiality and not used for any other purpose. **If you would like to go onto the database, then please email him on tony.fletcher@gmp.police.uk**

He has 250 on the database at present and he asks everyone to each recruit two more households onto the mailings. A newsletter will come out once a month detailing policing issues around Ellesmere Park, Eccles and Winton. Crime is thankfully low around our area. Bruce thanked Tony for all his hard work on our behalf. A questioner thanked Tony for relaying information regarding crimes, but asked if more good news could be included in the mailings so as to make us feel secure in our homes. Tony said that he would take this on board and again mentioned the football initiative which has been so successful. Bruce said that statistics should soon be available as to how crime levels have reduced over time and Tony will distribute these when they are available.

10) EPRA WEBSITE

Our website address is www.ellesmerepark.org.uk

The site has been re-built over the last three months by Terry McKnight who tells us that the ongoing registration costs are a bargain £7.90 for two years. There are various useful links from our website, all the minutes from the Open Meetings and information about our area. Please save it in your favourites and visit the site often.

11) FRECCLES

Freccles (Friends of Eccles Station) are arranging a fundraiser by having an open garden event on Sunday 15th. July at numbers 11 and 17 Westminster Road. Simply turn up on the day, meet other local residents and hopefully purchase a tombola ticket. Freccles are always looking for volunteers to help in their aims of improving services at the station, so please visit their website www.freccles.org.uk

12) MONTON CAR PARK

John Rabbitt showed us some photographs of the car park proving that our predictions that it would be largely deserted following the imposition of charges have sadly been proved correct. Maxine Coyle advised that with effect from 1st.April, the first 30 minutes will be free, but that is insufficient to do more than a very quick shopping trip. Trade has been decimated because of the charges and Monton Village Community Association is canvassing traders for evidence of this and is seeking the support of Mayoral candidates. Maxine said that it is Government policy not to allow car parking charges to be used as a revenue stream, but in Salford that rule is being ignored. We await revenue details soon to provide further ammunition to press our case to have the charges severely reduced or cancelled altogether.

In the meanwhile, we encourage you to please walk into Monton and continue to support local businesses.

MVCA's website is www.montonvillage.org.uk

13) ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were no offers from the floor from anyone volunteering to stand and it was therefore agreed that Bruce Thompson continue as Chair and the office of Vice-Chair remain unfilled. In the absence of any other nominations Bob Berry agreed to continue as Secretary and John Rabbitt agreed to continue as Treasurer.

There was a vote of thanks for the officers for their continued work on behalf of the Association.

13) AOB

Road surfacing, John Rabbitt told us about the road surface currently being applied on Ellesmere Road, using a new technique and materials developed in Germany. He also recounted the incredibly fast action repairing potholes on Sandwich Road after John had made a report to John Horrocks of Urban Vision. John advised that to be legally actionable as priority, potholes need to be at least 5cm deep. If you see any that qualify, take a photograph and report it via email to john.horrocks@urbanvision.org.uk

To celebrate the forthcoming Royal Diamond Jubilee, a party is being arranged at Monton Sports Club on Bank Holiday Monday 4th June including six live bands, bouncy castles and a curry tent (gates open at 11am and the party starts at noon). Tickets are available from the club at £10 per head, £5 for children under 12. EPRA canvassed the suggestion of holding a street party, but there was insufficient support. We are therefore instead sponsoring the Monton Sports Club by paying for a brass band to perform at their event.

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

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

To keep up to date with planning applications, visit our website www.ellesmerepark.org.uk and follow the link.