

Croxley Green Residents' Association

Committee Meeting - Croxley Green Library, Barton Way
Monday, 4th February 2013

Present: Barry Grant (chairman), Tony Munroe (vice chair), Mary Mitchell, Joan Zanelli, Rose Hanscomb, David Neighbour, Mandy Grant, Margaret Pomfret, Judith Turnbull

1) Apologies for Absence

received from Amanda Mackie, Pat Foster, Cllr. Wynn-Jones

2) Minutes of 12th November meeting (pre-circulated)

Minutes were proposed by MG and seconded by RH and signed

3) Media-Sub-committee (website and The Resident)

TM commended Ross Humphries on upgraded website – all agreed. The Boundary Walk map needs photos and GPS markers. Photos are required of the committee. BG agreed to look at action points. Next Media meeting Fri 8th Feb to review next edition of The Resident.

4) Finance

MM reported back. Most advertisers have paid up. Annual accounts to be presented at the AGM

5) Croxley Green Community Plan

BG reported back

Over 1,500 questionnaire completed. 5,000 had been delivered to households in Croxley. All agreed this was a very high return rate. BG asked for volunteers to assist with data entry.

5) Planning Matters

Tesco - *As expected Tesco has renewed its application*

Applegarth (just off The Green). – *Application for 2 new gated properties and removal of hedge unanimously refused by Planning Committee. Kebble homes have 6 months to appeal. Alison Wall expressed concern that Kebble Homes had already demolished existing buildings leaving an eyesore in a conservation area*

ACTION – BG will write letter to TRDC asking why, in a conservation area, Kebble had been allowed to demolish and not re-develop.

New School To clarify the lead article in the January edition of the Lib Dem "Croxley Views" BG spoke to Hertfordshire County Council. The Baldwins Lane site remains firmly as its preferred choice for a site for a school but the current implications in respect of land acquisition have led the Council to remove the site from its forward plan for acquisition).

New plans for the expansion of existing schools together with the above mentioned land acquisition problems will mean that it is unlikely that HCC will be submitting a planning application for a school for a few years. However, TfI (which owns the site) may submit plans for new housing (with space allocated for a school) in the near future. This is odd as National Planning guidelines preclude such development on Green Belt. In fact, the Secretary of State has recently rejected an appeal for the building of a new secondary school in East Herts on the basis that it would be "inappropriate development in the Green Belt".

Yorke Road school building update

RH had no new information

6) TRDC Local Development Framework Independent Examination

BG has agreed to represent the views of the Association at the examination on 12th March 2013 at 2pm. Residents invited to attend in support. BG to liaise with CPRE about presentations.

7) All Saints Church chimes

The hearing will be held at 10am on 26th February 2013 at Watford Magistrates Court, Clarendon Road. Nik Bennett explained the importance of local residents showing their support by attending the hearing. JT suggested putting posters up to advertise the hearing.

ACTION – BG to liaise with Miriam. RA to then produce and distribute posters.

8) Stones Orchard

MG expressed concern that any money available would be wasted by TRDC producing yet another management plan, leaving no resources left for action in the Orchard.

David Curry, of The Herts Orchard Initiative attended the last Local Area Forum and gave an excellent presentation on community orchards.

9) Wassailing

Dudley Edmonds reported on the first Croxley Green Wassail. It was well attended and a great success. The event was run on good will with no cost to the Parish Council. £138 was raised for the Parish Council Charities. Everyone agreed it was a great evening and should become an annual tradition. Thanks were given to the Croxley Mummers and Phoenix Morris Dancers.

10) Croxley Green Road Safety Committee – update

TM reported in detail on the last meeting – see attached notes. TM asked residents to please let Cllr. Steve Drury know where, in Croxley, the pavements are in need of repair.

11) Projects:

a) Boundary Walk

An impromptu, but inaugural fun run around the Boundary Walk by about 30 runners took place on the morning of New Years Day and it is hoped that, with the assistance of Watford Runners, a formally organised, and much larger, running event can be organised for New Years Day 2014. A formal BW opening is to be planned in Springtime and an annual weekend summer's day walk is to be planned in conjunction with the Parish Council.

b) Local history project

A meeting to discuss progress will take place on for 5/2/13. MP advised residents about the Paper Trail Museum project and meetings she had attended with Herts University Heritage Hub who are keen to collaborate with the RA.

12) Sea Cadets

Fabian Hiscock reported that he is pursuing a Sports England Grant on behalf of the Sea Cadets to develop boating facilities and establish basic watersports facilities for rowing, sailing and kayaking including a new boatshed and changing rooms. He is very keen that any improvements would be made available to other community members. He intends to write to the RA asking for our support in his bid. All agreed this was a very positive project.

13) Public Tennis Courts

This item to be moved to the next meeting.

Any Other Business

A resident expressed concern about works being done by TfL off Lavrock Lane in Croxley Hall Woods.

ACTION – BG to investigate further.

Meeting closed at 9:40 p.m.

**Dates of next meetings:
March 11th 2013 with AGM**