



Croxley Green Residents' Association

Committee Meeting -

Croxley Green Library, Barton Way

Monday, May 14th 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

UN-APPROVED Minutes

1) Apologies for absence

Rose Hanscomb sent her apologies

Present: Mary Mitchell (MM), David Neighbour (DN) Barry Grant (BG) Joan Zanelli (JZ) Tony Munroe (TM) Judith Turnbull (JT) Margaret Pomfret (MP) Mandy Grant (MG) Amanda Mackie (AM)

14 residents were also in attendance: Andrew Scarth, Geoff Ellis, Shirley Birch, Carol Barrett, Pat Foster, Liz Frow, Bernie McIntosh, Alison Wall, Steve Drury, Phil Brading, Nick King, June Emson, Roger Emson and Jan Rowley.

2) Minutes of 19th March 2012 (pre-circulated)

MM asked for two minor changes to the minutes (add an "e" to Munro on first line; change York House to York Road School)

The Minutes were then proposed by JT and seconded by MM. JZ proposed a vote of thanks to MG for taking the Minutes of the last meeting.

3) Media Sub committee (website and The Resident)

TM mentioned that *The Resident* has been printed and distribution is starting this week. Tried to get a better cross section of articles to interest a wider range of readers. TM has been updating the website with information such as the Parish meeting, Sun Printers Reunion. **ACTION TM & JZ – continue to update website as appropriate**

4) Croxley Green Community Plan and Parish Council Annual Meeting

BG thought it was good that such a large number of residents turned out for the meeting. Phil Brading (PB) mentioned that the meeting was NOT Parish Council AGM but a PARISH Annual Meeting; it was a meeting for all members of the Parish.

BG showed a video about a community in Hampshire that have started their own Community plan and then invited comments on the video.

DN suggested community market. Resident PF agreed. JT mentioned the French market at Chorleywood last weekend.

BG identified some groups of residents in Croxley, he'd like to show them the video and see what others think about it; is there a way forward for us?. JT mentioned showing the video at our stall at the Revels. **ACTION BG**

DN asked if we will have the questionnaire ready for the revels. BG thinks we ought to have the questionnaire ready for then. **ACTION BG**

Parish council are investigating the feasibility of community market. (PB)

Resident asked if Wendy Jordan is still driving the CGCP – yes (BG is meeting with WJ tomorrow)



5) Secondary school sites and LPF consultation

Still waiting for District Council to publish results of consultation. Was due at the end of April. PB – final draft of preferred site allocation document should come to next Executive Committee, then to Secretary of State and then will go to public investigation.

BG – TRDC recommending site at bottom of Baldwin's Lane. PB – Herts CC have said there must be two sites in Three Rivers, one of which must be in Croxley Green. IF this doesn't happen Three Rivers LPF will fail and will have to go to public consultation again.

Resident asked – why Croxley? PB says it must be east of Rickmansworth. Herts CC have said there must be 2 sites.

BG – wouldn't it be better to take site out as it's Green Belt? PB – might have weakened council's stand on Green Belt. Better that HCC have to justify their site. LU would like to put 60 houses AND school on that site.

BG – use Royal Mail site – PB – not evaluated by HCC because it was not known about at the time. But at just over 5ha it is not large enough. There needs to be a detached playing field available. PB feels that we need to let the preferred site go forward and then challenge it at public investigation.

Resident – we should be looking at Royal Mail site; plenty of space there. PB feels that this should be brought up when LPF is brought back to public investigation and questions asked about why HCC haven't looked further into the site. BG – conflict of LPF and Green Belt policy?

BG knows that Watford will be doing a consultation in the autumn and that the Royal Mail site may well be identified for housing at that point. MG thinks that this will mean there is no going back and that the school could never be sited there. Also in the current economic climate in 5 years time other sites could be available that are more suitable. PB replied that schools have to be in the LDF. If we don't have an approved site, many other sites may be much more at risk. TRDC have gone back to HCC and asked why we need two sites and have explained that TRDC are in a difficult situation.

DN says that a school at the bottom of Baldwin's Lane will end up with Watford pupils not Croxley Green pupils. Alison Wall asked about Langleybury School – it has been bought up by The Grove to be turned into a conference site.

June Emson asked what the point of the consultation was as it was felt that the result was likely to be very much against the school being sited at Baldwin's Lane.

Pat Foster has heard that Oxhey need a secondary school.

Question about free schools, academies. Also discussion about Reach Learning and sites in Mill End.

HCC are also in discussion with secondary schools to see if they can take extra pupils.

Andrew Scarth - Historically there was an even distribution of secondary schools. Decline of birth rate, meant schools were closed, dwindling roles etc. The rise in birth rate was not predicted; parental choice is also causing problems.



6) TFL and Herts CC public consultation re Croxley Link

We've received notification that there will be a public enquiry. Letter to Secretary of State from BG has had a response. Croxley Rail Link took it as a complaint, although it wasn't necessarily so. Answers to questions seem to bring up more questions. Originally the budget was £170million, now £120 million. BG had asked about how these figures have been obtained. BG asked how the shortfall might be covered – HCC. There will be an agreement between HCC and LU.

Trees around the railway will help with excessive noise. BG thinks a public enquiry is needed to uncover all the facts. Land swap – part of the park under the link has been proposed to be swapped for the smallholding site near the second village green.

Resident asked about why the land is being sold even though the project isn't going ahead. TRDC rejected the swap. Is it worth objecting to the sale of the land?

Croxley Rail link believe the land swap will be going ahead. RE asked if the information about the land being potentially contaminated and used as a play area has been mentioned.

BG also asked about changes at Moor Park Station; didn't get the answers he needed.

General discussion about the link; is there a need for it? How will it benefit people? Is it just about the hospital? It will not benefit Croxley? Hospital will have virtually no parking because of the rail link?

7) Croxley Green Road Safety Committee update

TM reported back about the first meeting under the new chair (Clr Janet Martin). A copy of the Minutes of the meeting is held in the file with CGRA Minutes.

Steve Drury suggested that all groups in Croxley should write to Herts CC to ask for upgrading of Barton Way as it is clear that the buses are causing problems and the road desperately needs upgrading. There is planning for improvements to the road due to flooding issues. **ACTION BG**

Also SD reported that signage for speed limits down The Green. Lots of general discussion about the crossing near the Shell garage on Watford Road; suggestions about how to improve it, right filter lane, also what will happen when (if) Tesco build on the site. PB asked Highways Dept at Herts CC for a site visit which it is anticipated that Road Safety Committee members can attend.



8) Neighbourhood Watch/OWL

Andrew Scarth, Deputy District Co-ordinator and Geoff Ellis, Area Co-ordinator; were asked to attend by Steve Jacob PCSO. Neighbourhood Watch want to work in partnership with CGRA to spread word. Area co-ordinators are difficult to come by, so now AS is asking for road co-ordinators. North Croxley is particularly difficult to engage with. AS also asked how many are logged on to OWL – large number of those present were. OWL spreads Police news about crimes and also allows residents to work together with safer neighbourhoods scheme to keep areas safe. AS mentioned smart water as well. JZ mentioned that OWL are good at replying to any concerns. DN mentioned that disabled residents can also get support to safeguard their property through OWL. **ACTION article in The Resident.**

AM to email AS and cc in BG with reference to an email that can be forwarded to the CGRA mailing list

TM to put a link on the website

Suggestion that AS could use My Croxley for a snippet.

JT asked if the lights being turned out at night had made any difference to crime; levels have actually gone down.

9) Projects:

a) Boundary walk and footpaths

BG reported back; there is some funding - PC are applying for this. Should be set up sooner rather than later. SD has also put in £200 from his County Councilor budget allocation. DN asked about a leaflet for the walk. MP has some leaflets from the past about walks on the Green and Common Moor. Suggestion that these could be put into The Resident and on the website so people can download. **ACTION TM & MP**

b) Jubilee and Olympic celebrations

Bank Holiday 4th June at Barton Way park 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Cllr Janet Martin has been organising it. Plea for band, such as a brass band. Would CGRA want a stall there? Keep Croxley Green group will be there. Any more ideas to be passed to Mandy Grant or to Janet Martin

c) Revels

Members of committee will discuss this amongst themselves. MM thinks we ought not to have a CGRA stall but maybe help out with Community Plan. **BG will speak with Wendy Jordan about this**

10) Finance

MM reported back; nothing much has happened since last meeting. £3700 in bank. We may want to continue to subscribe to CPRE. PB mentioned that the PC are members and we could use that. Annual membership is only £34 so it was decided we would resubscribe.

11) Any Other Business

The Croxley Green Residents' Association
Chairman: Barry Grant, 93 Frankland Road WD3 3AS
Tel. 01923 778660 mob. 07941367446
Secretary: Amanda Mackie: secretary.CGRA@mail.com
Email: croxleyresident@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.croxleyresidentsassociation.co.uk>



MP has downloaded the census forms from 1911 for Croxley and intends to put them for use in the library. We will publicise them on the website too. MP has been emailed by a resident to ask if we can get a group together as "Friends of Stone's Orchard" to purchase cherry trees to be planted in the orchard. A resident is offering £100 to start the project. Chorleywood Orchard has a scheme where people pay £35 to sponsor a tree (they are oversubscribed).

MG proposed a CGRA tree JT seconded. **ACTION AM to email mailing list with this suggestion.**

JT – Sun Clock tower – restoration. Stuart Taylor asked for planning permission to have it refurbished (2005 – Watford Council and HCC gave permission) but this is being held back due to the possible rail link. There is a petition to sign to try to enforce the permission.

JT – article from the Daily Mail - £25000 to be won. "Spring clean for the Queen" take photographs of litter, clean it up and then send off. Could the schools get involved? **ACTION – CGRA to email schools with this suggestion**

JT – a tribute walk, probably along the boundary, in memory of Keith. Probably 9th September 2012; raising money for mesothelioma. Fabian Hiscock will also be involved

DN – charity sacks that come through the door – be aware that if it is the hospice collecting them they will put a note through the door to thank you for your donation. JT also mentioned M&Co in Rickmansworth will take your unwanted clothing. There should be a charity number on the bag/leaflet.

Meeting closed at 10pm.

Date of next meeting:
July 2nd 2012 8:00 p.m. Croxley Green Library