

Croxley Green Residents' Association
Committee Meeting -
Croxley Green Library, Barton Way
Monday, July 2nd July 2012 at 8:00 p.m.
Minutes

1) Apologies for absence

Amanda Mackie (AM) Secretary.

Present: Barry Grant (BG), Chairman; Tony Munroe (TM) Vice Chair; Mary Mitchell (MM) Treasurer; David Neighbour (DN) Joan Zanelli (JZ) Judith Turnbull (JT) Margaret Pomfret (MP) Mandy Grant (MG) Rose Hanscomb (RH)

(TM was co-opted by BG to take notes in the absence of AM)

2) Minutes of 14th May 2012 (pre-circulated)

The Minutes were proposed by JZ and seconded by MG and signed by the Chair.

3) Media Group (CGRA website and The Resident)

TM stated that Agenda and (unapproved) Minutes are now posted on the website. Details of the OWL organisation are shown on the website homepage along with the publicity flyer that was in circulation giving details of the proposed new Morrison supermarket on the old Post Office depot site on Ascot Road in Watford.

Resident Ross Humphries asked about inclusion of a Facebook page or blog on to the CGRA website to engage with residents who didn't attend meetings. Ross offered to help out with this service for the association. JZ proposed that Ross be co-opted on to the media committee, seconded by BG.

4) Croxley Community Plan (CP)

BG gave a report of his presentation on the progression of the CP questionnaire at the last Area Forum meeting held at the Baptist church on 27th June. A list of questions has been draw up and the intention is to liaise with local groups and organisations to gain feedback so that a final version of the questionnaire can be produced. The intention is for the printed version of the questionnaire to be ready for distribution with the Resident magazine in October/November. There will be an online version available as an alternative for residents to complete. There is also the intention to offer prizes as an incentive to residents to fill in the questionnaire.

DN raised his concerns about how effective the means of collecting completed questionnaires from residents will be? He felt that there will be the likelihood that many completed questionnaires will not be sent or handed in? DN put forwarded the idea that residents be asked to volunteer to be collectors of the questionnaire for each of their roads in Croxley and that extra printed copies of the questionnaire should be available to be handed out to residents who missed the copy sent out with the Resident magazine.

BG agreed that careful planning was needed to make sure this side of the operation went smoothly.

5) Secondary school sites and LPF consultation

BG, along with other Croxley residents, attended the meeting held at TRDC on Monday 25th June to raise concerns about the allocation of Green Belt land for a proposed new secondary school site in Croxley as part TRDC local planning framework. At the meeting the Chair, Councillor Ann Shaw, announced that a decision had been taken (at very short notice) to defer a decision on school site allocation until the next meeting (3rd September). BG and other residents from Croxley wanted to voice their concerns on these issues particularly the legality of the policy and TRDC's definition of the meaning "very special circumstances" regarding building on Green Belt land. The Chair did not permit BG to complete his presentation within the allotted 3 minutes, was rather rude and hostile in addressing BG. Furthermore, the Chair did not allocate time to hear from the Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council and Parish Cllr Dudley Edmunds, both of whom had clearly indicated their wish to comment on the Agenda item.

BG wrote to the Chief Executive of TRDC (e-mail) seeking clarification of the TRDC proposal to include a policy statement within the Local Plan that appeared contrary to National Planning Policy and received a reply that supported the behaviour of the Chair of the TRDC Executive Committee backing the chair and an explanation on policy which did little to remove the notion that it was contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework. BG will reply and seek further explanation of the actual planning policy of TRDC in relation to site allocation for development on the Green Belt.

MG commented how many differing answers were given by Councillors and council officials when asked questions on these issues. MG suggested that the CGRA writes to HCC to ask about their development plan for the allocation of new schools and whether they are looking into alternative sites for a new secondary school in the Watford district. It was also suggested that having a forum meeting with officials from HCC be arranged to establish facts on a new secondary school site.

6) TFL and Herts CC public consultation re Croxley Rail Link

The Public Enquiry for the Croxley Rail Link is due to take place at Watford football ground on Tuesday 9th October. Various groups from the Croxley and Watford area have lodged objections. BG asked if local residents who attended the enquiry would report back to the CGRA.

7) Croxley Green Road Safety Committee update

TM reported back about the Road Safety Meeting held on Monday 25th June.

15 mile per hour speed limit signs have been mounted on the lamp posts in Community Way. In September leaflets will be distributed to households giving details of the speed limit in Community Way as a way of reinforcing this speed limit to residents.

One of the Croxley PCSOs attended the meeting and reported to the Committee that traffic speed checks have been carried out by PCSOs on various roads in Croxley. They now have the power to deal directly with some road and traffic issues and encourage residents to use the police 101 telephone number to report any traffic violations or incidents..

8) Projects:

a) Boundary walk and footpaths

Money has been provided from the PC, HCC and the CGRA for signage to mark out the boundary walk around Croxley. Local resident volunteers and Parish Rangers will erect signs on footpaths to identify the boundary route.

It was suggested that the walk is publicised in the next edition of the Resident magazine and a pamphlet produced to aid walkers as well

b) Olympics

Red, white and blue flowers will be planted around various sites around Croxley by the Flowers 4 Croxley group to mark the Olympics and as a way to support Team GB.

c) Local history project

A book on the history of Croxley is in the process of being written by MP dating from the turn of the century up to the 1970s. A publisher has been lined up and an estimated print run of a 1000 copies is being worked on. BG advised that Heritage Lottery funding is being investigated to cover costs of a community project of which the book could become a component. Ideas on material are welcomed and it is hoped that material and data will be published on a website.

MP is still conducting in depth research and RH will help with the application of project.

10) Finance

MM reported on finance. Invoices for advertisers in the Resident are in the process of being drawn up and will be sent out with a copy of the magazine to speed up payments.

Advertising revenue will not cover full costs so there is a deficit of about £100. This may reduce if any new advertisers are found for the Autumn edition.

11) Any Other Business

RH reported that a meeting is lined up with TRDC and the new finance director for leukaemia research to discuss a way forward for the Yorke Road school site

MP reported about the Victorian society

The Nectar Oasis group is promoting areas to be used in Croxley for bees

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

**Date of next meeting:
September 10th 2012 8:00 p.m. Croxley Green Library**