

Fernwood Residents' Association (FRA)

Minutes of an Open Meeting for residents held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 1st September 2015 in Fernwood, Village Hall

Present:

David Heath, Chairman

Members of the FRA Committee + 35 residents

In attendance:

County Cllrs Sue Saddington

Messrs. Craig Bromley and John Jeys of FirstPort/OM

Clr Jim Weale, Chairman Fernwood Parish Council

Mr Bob Hatterley, Head Teacher Chuter Ede School

Messrs Alison Luke and Denise Davis from the Choose Newark Hospital Campaign

Messrs Clr Barry Smith and James Tetlaw from Fernwood Neighbourhood Watch

1. WELCOME

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman, David Heath who introduced a survey that was being undertaken by the Maintenance Strategy Group on the additional charges made by First Port, and encouraged everyone to complete the on-line survey.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clr Neill Mison

3 INTRODUCTION

The Chairman explained that this meeting was solely a public meeting and would not be dealing with any Committee business and would therefore concentrate on issues that were important to residents.

4 CHOOSE NEWARK HOSPITAL CAMPAIGN

Alison Luke and Denise Davis made a presentation to the meeting in which they ran through the types of procedures that Newark Hospital regularly undertakes. The key elements were:

A new CT scanner is due to arrive on Monday;

An MRI scanner is on site once a month;

The minor injuries unit is open 24/7

A Doctor is on site 24/7

The procedures at Newark are day cases of a wide range.

Pre operative and post operative care is available.

Every week, over 1,000 people attend outpatients, 80 people go for a surgical procedure each week and over 400 attend Minor injuries.

Some GPs and the allocation centre are not aware of all of the facilities at Newark and so patients are encouraged to contact the hospital to see if their procedure is available there.

Contact details are: Phone - 01636 685640 and request Tracey Wall

Email - tracey.wall@sfh-tr.nhs.uk

5 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND POLICIES

John Slater, the Service Director for Education, Standards and Inclusion at Nottinghamshire County Council was unable to attend the meeting as previously arranged but Cllr. Saddington made the presentation in his absence.

The problem has apparently been that people had purchased houses on Fernwood having been told by sales staff that there would be a Fernwood School that ultimately was not built for many years. The funding from the developer was only made available at set stages in the development and there were sometimes insufficient places in the Fernwood Annex for all of the eligible children in Fernwood.

It was emphasised that school admission was to the Chuter Ede School and that the Fernwood Annex could not be treated as a separate entity. Whilst all places in the Annex were filled by children from Fernwood, others from Fernwood attended the main Chuter Ede School in Balderton. The School is programmed to be expanded but this is very unlikely to happen until the North Build has made substantial progress.

The solution that is being discussed is to re-name the Fernwood Annex the Chuter Ede Annex to emphasise that it is all one school. The developers of the North Build must also ensure that potential buyers are not given the impression that if they buy a property in Fernwood, that their children will be able to attend the Fernwood Annex.

6 FIRSTPORT QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Craig Bromley (CB) of First Port stated that they were undertaking a review of historical accounts and would correct any errors. This was due to be completed by October; He was asked about the event at the weekend that resulted in many roads being partially blocked by many badly parked cars. He responded that the user had completed a risk assessment that included a car parking and traffic management plan that had not been adhered to. The user was to be interviewed and warned that should they failed to adhere to an agreed plan in the future, they would not be permitted to use the green.

Residents complained about the parking and especially lack of access for emergency services. CB responded that First Port did not have any responsibility in that area which, following the adoption of the highways was controlled by Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC). Also, that if the cars were causing an obstruction, then the Police should be called. Cllr Saddington commented that she and other councillors had acted to try and resolve the parking issue that was created by a lack of parking space in front of houses which was down to poor design. She had suggested that parking bays be formed within the wide pavements but this was apparently not possible because the services were under the pavement. She also confirmed that yellow no parking lines had been ruled as extremely unlikely by NCC as they were generally not used in housing estates.

Do First Port understand the difference between freeholders and lease holders?

CB said that he appreciated the difference but a number of residents felt that the company had mistakenly used a leasehold agreement for freeholders. CB agreed to query this at head office.

How First Port could charge a fee when there is no mention of a fee in the transfer documents? CB agreed to investigate and respond. CB also said that this was something that the purchasers solicitors should point out. Residents responded that many had used the solicitors that David Wilson had recommended.

Who sets the fees?

CB - The operational director of First Port sets the fees.

Clr Saddington stated that residents were constantly being treated unfairly and were dissatisfied. Maintenance of open spaces is satisfactory but it is totally unfair to charge the extras that are not mentioned in the contract.

It was pointed out that until a property is 5 years old, the owner can ask the builder for permission to make a change to the property which is given without charge. Residents may be charged by First Port who seem to be unaware of the 5 year clause. CB offered to investigate the and refund anyone who had been incorrectly charged. DH asked CB to report back to head office that the meeting had shown that there were many residents who were dissatisfied with the charges.

7 FERNWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Clr Smith reported that the scheme had been operating for 4 months and had 80 members and would like to see more people joining the scheme. Whilst a yellow card scheme had been started for inconsiderate parkers, feedback indicated that it should be stronger and was therefore under review. CS confirmed that yellow no parking lines could not be implemented and considered that a one way scheme for Goldstraw lane was unworkable.

Reports of bad behaviour had been received and were being monitored in conjunction with the Councils Antisocial behaviour officer. There is an action plan in place for one area of bad behaviour although nothing had been reported in this area since 4th August. It is also important too use the report it scheme where residents are encouraged to report any issues to the police using the 111 scheme. It was also important for neighbourhood watch members to report incidents through the Fernwood scheme.

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

North Build - Newark and Sherwood District Council Planning Department has confirmed that discussions are still taking place with developers and the County Council regarding aspects of the proposals, especially the road network, with another meeting due later in the month. Therefore, the application was not expected to be considered in September. Residents were encouraged to submit their comments to the Council.

Fernwood Shopping Complex - The agent for the complex has confirmed that it is hoping to rent the former Browns units as a single store for a similar use. If this is not successful, then the 3 units may be split, for which planning permission is likely. The future of the former Khans Spice will depend on the outcome of the letting of the former Browns unit.

Secretary - The Chairman announced that the Mr Jim Gould had resigned as Secretary after many years of excellent work for the Village. The Committee was therefore seeking a new secretary and notifications of interest were invited.

