

Fernwood Residents' Association (FRA)

Minutes of an OPEN Meeting for residents
held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 5 May 2015
Fernwood, Village Hall

Present:

David Heath, Acting Chairman
Members of the FRA Committee + 35 residents

In attendance:

County Cllrs Sue Saddington, Keith Walker
District Cllrs Declan Logue and Ivor Walker
Messrs. Chris Attwater, Tim Hughes and John Jeys of
FirstPort/OM
Jim Weale, Chairman Fernwood Parish Council

1 WELCOME

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting by the Acting Chairman, David Heath

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from John Proctor, FRA Chairman and Bob Hattersley, Head Teacher of Chuter Ede School

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST OPEN MEETING – 13th January 2015

Were accepted as an accurate summary of proceedings – Proposer: John Popple, Seconder: Janet Tindall

4. MATTERS ARISING from the last OPEN meeting – 13th January 2015

Minute 10 – Water Tower – it was advised that the application to remove the tower had been rejected

5. UPDATES on Progress

(a) School

Sue Saddington advised that the 2nd phase build was now up and running. The 3rd phase is programmed to coincide with the Fernwood North development – and DWH/Barratts have committed to provide related funding in the sum of £2.1 million, and she is pressing for an earlier trigger point for the release of these funds. Sue confirmed that the problem of the allocations of admissions at the school was being revisited, and the decision points are going to be re-aligned on the A1, and nearer to Fernwood to give our village children a better chance of being given priority.

Queries from residents:

Allocation of places – need to obviate the prospect of two children from the same family being allocated to the two Chuter Ede schools

Facilities appeared to be lacking at the new school – not keeping pace with the intake of children.

Sue reiterated that she is pressing for an earlier release of funds from the developers

In view of the above concerns it was recommended that a representative (Mr Bob Peck?) of

Notts Co Co – Education Dept be invited to the next meeting. However, on a positive note, discussions were concluded with the observation that the standard of education was very good.

b) Fernwood North development

The outline planning application is going to be considered by NSDC's Planning Committee on the 9th June, and residents were encouraged to again signify their concerns and recommendations by the end of this month. The original deadline for responses was 5th May.

ACTION

Jim G

All

5. (b) cont. Fernwood North Development

The following issues were again raised by residents:

- (i) the main access route still seems to be via Goldstraw Lane – which would add to the traffic problems already experienced by Fernwood Central (the existing village)
- (ii) the proposed public vehicle automated barrier under the A1 bridge leading to Balderton reduces the options to seek other exit points from the village – however, the needs of our near neighbours were fully appreciated since Main Road is already too busy
- (iii) Hollowdyke Lane to be primarily used for construction traffic queried – it would change the nature of this route which villagers appreciate as an attractive walkway. Single lane traffic system probably inadequate to accommodate both construction and bus access
- (iv) better design required to accommodate increased parking facilities – advisability of placing parkingaAt the front of properties queried, but at least the issue is now being taken seriously by both the developers and Highways Dept. Jim Weale (and in relation to Fernwood Central) advised that he was in dialogue with both the Police and Highways Dept to improve the longstanding parking problems – he confirmed that the “20 is Plenty” signs would be re-installed
- (v) the south developers had expressed reluctance to construct another road leading to the North development esp. since this aspect of the build programme was completely detached from the North. A strip of land dividing the two builds had not been acquired therefore there was no imperative to negotiate on the possibility of building a link road joining the north and south developments
- (vi) the build of the proposed southern relief road would add to the existing and proposed traffic flow problems
- (vii) the improved road works near Main Rd, Balderton, and adjacent to the Derry’s crossroad, were as a result of enhancements needed to address the increased traffic flow from Fernwood – but has this expenditure (paid by DWH) really been value for money in terms of improving the traffic problems? Couldn’t this expenditure have been put to better use?
- (viii) Keith Walker counselled that the whole Core Strategy development needs a re-think and had been in dialogue with District Cllr Roger Blaney at NSDC to organise a meeting post the current elections

(c) Fernwood South development

No comments were forthcoming from the recent public presentation made by Persimmon Homes

(d) Fernwood Neighbourhood Plan

Jim Gould explained that there was a need to have a Plan and which would give residents a greater say in the way that the village would develop – important that Fernwood had a formal and structured voice via a statutory document that would have to be recognised by all interested parties. It would take some 18 months to prepare – costing in the order of between £30k - £40k but for which grant funding could be attained, and would attract an award from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which could be as much as £100k when completed, and which funds could be sed for the betterment of the village. The Parish Council (PC) would be the drivers for this important initiative.

It was queried whether this would be too late to have impact on the North build, but Jim advised that Fernwood’s position was recognised via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the NSDC and the PC.

(e) Fernwood Maintenance Strategy Group

David Heath confirmed that the Group continued its negotiations with the developers and FirstPort (OM) to improve the existing land management arrangements esp. costs and charges to residents. Further, to press on behalf of the PC for ownership of the land ie. rather than let it pass to First Port(OM) upon completion of the Central build programme. Regular bulletins and progress reports would follow.

5. (f) DWH/Barratts Bursary Fund

At the last presentation by DWH the annual bursary was paid in the sum of £5k – so far an allocation has been made for the purchase of a defibrillator near the school (approx.. £2.2k). Residents were encouraged to forward any ideas for the betterment of the village in the first instance to the FRA Secretary – email : secretary@fernwoodra.com
Jim Weale advised that additional funding was also available via the PCs ‘Good Causes Fund’ – applications should be addressed to the Clerk, Emma – email: clerk@fernwood-pc.co.uk

All

6. Future presentations

(a) The local PCSO is prepared to organise local surgeries esp. dealing with anti-social behaviour problems.

Recent instances of vandalism would be followed through – fire of a bike’ (video evidence gratefully acknowledged) and destruction of small trees

At any sign of problems residents were encourage to dial **101** – the ‘local’ Police non-emergency line

Jim G

(b) FirstPort(OM) – Tim Hughes confirmed that the team would be prepared to organise another meeting, supported by a Powerpoint presentation, to explain how the service charges are arrived at

All

FirstPort(OM)

(c) Education Authority at Notts CC to deal with issues re. admissions and facilities at Chute Ede school Fernwood

Jim G

7. OPEN forum

(a) Neill Mison advised that following the Fernwood Central road adoption that Highways Dept had refused permission for the pavements to be used for the usual 5k run (previously scheduled for 28th June) – and that if the run was to go ahead then the road systems would have to be completely closed (for about 1-1.5 hours). Despite general approval (approx. two-thirds of residents in favour) sufficient concerns were raised regarding the effects of closing the road systems – eg. emergency access not only by the blue light services but indeed by residents – that it was decided to keep the roads open, and Neill would consider alternatives for next year. In respect of the current year consideration would be given to a children’s fun run of approximately 1.5k around the central communal areas (usually described as the football pitch), and probably during the village fete ‘Party on the Green’ on the 25th July..

Neill M

(b) Streetlights inoperative – who to notify? – Highways Dept after noting the number on the lighting column

(c) Minutes of the FRA meetings – helpful if they were posted on our Facebook page and certainly to encourage greater participation by residents

Barry S / Jim G

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David H reminded residents that the FirstPort (OM) team had attended to deal with any individual queries relating to their service charges or general maintenance concerns

9. FRA MEETINGS - 2015

Committee meetings: 2nd Jun, 7th Jul, 4th Aug, 6th Oct, 3rd Nov

OPEN Meetings:: 16th Jun – AGM (and to receive results from the North Build NSDC Planning Committee

1st Sep

CLOSE – David Heath thanked everybody for their contributions to a lively and interesting meeting – and asked for volunteers to assist the FRA Committee