

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the **Committee Meeting** at 27 Roman Way
24th January 2013

1 Introductions and apologies

Present:

Alan Duncan
Dorothy Sparks
Emma Luck
Paul Sparks (Chair)

Peter Griggs (Secy)
Ric Mears
Sally Majors
Sandra Manning-Jones (TRUCK)
Wendy Tagg

Apologies were received from June Parris and Gwendoline Hedges (guest)

2 The TRUCK Project

Sandra delivered a short presentation to the meeting on the work of the TRUCK (Trees on the River Uck) project. This is a new and innovative project with the Environment Agency, The Woodland Trust and the Sussex Wildlife Trust working in partnership on a project that aims to decrease the impacts of flooding in Uckfield town, by restoring natural river features such as floodplain woodlands.

After heavy rain, the water levels in the River Uck catchment naturally rise and fall very quickly. Years of changes to the river have increased the speed that water from the land and urban areas enters the river. These river changes have also hugely reduced the area available to naturally store floodwater upstream of Uckfield. This makes the natural 'flashiness' of the Uck's river flooding even more extreme.

Flooding is a natural phenomenon, and it is not possible to prevent flooding altogether. However, they hope that by working together with local people they can help to significantly reduce the likelihood of people's houses and businesses flooding in the future.

Surface water from Manor Park and Hempstead Fields drains partly via Views Wood and partly direct to the river.

Solutions might include hedge (and tree) planting, encouraging the use of water butts, building debris dams and a balancing pond in Views Wood. Many small changes could together combine to make a big difference.

Sandra was asked what the Association could do to help. She asked for feedback (in next 10 days) on a questionnaire she intends to start using as part of a door to door survey and it was suggested that the Association's Facebook and Twitter accounts could be used to inform residents and point them at the Project's website - <http://www.treesontheriveruck.org.uk/>
Ric, who is a drainage engineer by profession, volunteered to assist the project.

Sandra's phone number is 07795 116 880 and she can be contacted by post at The Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woods Mill, Henfield, BN5 9SD.

Sandra very kindly agreed to hand out information on the Association to residents as she does her door to door survey.

Paul thanked Sandra for her very interesting and enlightening presentation and Sandra left the meeting.

ACTION: committee members to feedback to Dorothy any comments on the draft questionnaire.

3 Notes of the last meeting and matters arising

The notes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting.

Matters arising:

- *Communications sub group* – Wendy and Dorothy reported that following their meeting a Twitter account had been set up; delivery ‘rounds’ had been devised (13x100); but to date it had not been possible to progress the newsletter. It was agreed that a flyer summarising the objectives and contact details for the association would be useful. Paul advised that ‘Print Matters’ (<http://www.printmatters.co.uk/>) can provide plastic holders for temporary notices.
ACTIONS: Wendy to work up a business card or similar for use as a flyer (www.vistaprint.co.uk) Paul and Peter to work on design and content of a newsletter – first edition to incorporate the application form/standing order mandate. Dorothy to see what ‘Print Matters’ can offer.
- *Village Green sub group* – Dorothy has been in correspondence with the Clerk to Buxted PC and has been advised that the Dene is protected by the Open Spaces Act and therefore there is no need for Village Green status. Wendy pointed out that the aim is to get the residents to take ownership of the Dene and that Village Green status would be a greater safeguard. Wendy also circulated her diary of activity on the Dene which dated back to 1987! Dorothy is waiting for further information from the Clerk but in meantime we should invite the Clerk to a Committee meeting at some point in the future – date to be decided.
- *Road Safety* – Peter reported that, other than an acknowledgement, the Police had not responded to invite. Wendy referred to the Police street meetings and Emma said she could promote these on the Facebook page.
ACTIONS: Emma to provide info on Facebook page and Peter to invite the Police to the next meeting.
- *Road Repair* – Paul advised that repairs to Downsview Crescent are due to start on 22nd February and that he had reported other potholes to ESCC.
ACTIONS: Emma to post a link to ESCCs ‘report a fault’ web page on Facebook.
- *Community self-help groups* – no progress to report
- *Social events* – no progress on May Day event but Emma suggested this might be rather ambitious and that a more manageable first event might be a Music Quiz at Manor Primary over Easter or May Day. Her suggestion was warmly received and after some discussion it was proposed that Emma proceed on the basis of a Family Fun Quiz with a mixture of music, general knowledge and local knowledge rounds.
ACTIONS: Emma to continue working on the project with June and Sally
- *Logo competition* - Emma circulated a paper to the meeting setting out her plans for the competition and asked for feedback. Her ideas were well received with the main discussion about the age range for entrants. It was agreed that Emma would take advice from the school on this (Note our school contact is Ruth Martin - rmartin@manor.e-sussex.sch.uk)
ACTIONS: Emma and Communications sub group to progress this project.

4 Constitution

Some further amendments were made to the original draft and it was agreed that the key differences highlighted in the 'Any town' version be incorporated into the final version.

ACTIONS: Peter to make amendments and circulate final version with Minutes

5 Application form

This was agreed subject to minor addition required to advise re the use of subscriptions.

ACTIONS: Peter

6 Meads Surgery

Peter informed the meeting that he had spoken to the Surgery Practice Manager, Carole Midgley, and ascertained that the surgery will move to the new Medical Centre on 18th February, all patients will receive a letter about 2 weeks before move. Kamsons will be making temporary arrangements for prescriptions at the Centre until a full dispensing licence obtained. No progress has been made with re-routing Rider Bus. Note the website is misleading as it says Centre is already open!

ACTIONS: Paul offered to contact ESCC Highways re bus service.

7 Topics identified through Facebook and Twitter

- *Offer of assistance* – it was agreed that Richard Eyres should be invited to the next Committee meeting to advise the Committee further about his expertise and how it might assist the work of the association.
ACTIONS: Paul to invite Richard to the next meeting
- *Dog fouling* – decided that a positive newsletter item promoting responsible dog ownership should be included in first edition.
ACTIONS – Paul and Peter with advice from Emma
- *Footpaths and gas repairs* – agreed this was not a common problem and as the incident referred to was several years ago, that no further action be taken at this time.
- *Footpaths and ring fenced precept* – accepted that this was a good idea but that law did not allow for this
ACTIONS: Peter to send a reply

8 Any other business

- Alan recounted his (positive) experience with a local problem of parking on a roadside verge and told us that he had written to ESCC about installing posts to discourage verge parking. He had also advised ESCC about a yellow lines solution that he was aware of that had been successful in West Sussex. **Alan will keep committee informed on progress.**
- Verge badly damaged by Tesco (?) lorry at Browns Close – **Paul to action**
- Barnet Way – Peter read letter from Uckfield TC disclaiming responsibility – NFA
- Nevill Road – Emma advised the meeting about a Park Home that had been installed in the front garden of a property in Nevill Road
- Street lighting – concerns that current arrangements mean lighting is significantly reduced late at night had been raised at Police meeting – **Paul to raise the matter at forthcoming meeting**
- Peter thanked Wendy for her help with the application form and for her report on Twitter activity.

9 Date and venue of next meeting

7pm on Tuesday 26th March 2013 at Roman Way.