

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the **Committee Meeting** at 27 Roman Way
26th March 2013

1 Introductions and apologies

Present:

Paul Sparks (Chair)	Wendy Tagg
Peter Griggs (Secretary)	Ric Mears
Sally Majors (Treasurer)	June Parris
Dorothy Sparks	Richard Eyre (Guest)
Emma Luck (for first four items)	

Peter advised that the Sussex Police had apologised for being unable to attend.

The Chairman amended the agenda to allow for the items on the Big Lunch to be considered first.

2 The MPFH Big Lunch event

Emma gave the meeting a comprehensive update on progress so far and her ideas for the event. Key points as follows:

- a working group to be formed comprising Emma, Sally, two volunteers plus Richard. To meet after Easter – Emma to lead.
- Manor Primary have offered their school grounds/hall as the venue, Emma to meet school Business Manager to discuss this (and logo competition).
- no funding available from Wealden DC. Other opportunities for funding are being investigated but need to prepare a business case, Tesco and Waitrose are potential sponsors. Question raised – how much funding do we actually need?
- Emma has spoken to Uckfield Mayor re promoting the event.
- working group will need to consider/decide who the event will be open to, timing, format, catering, liquor licensing etc etc.
- Emma favours an olde English theme – ideas put forward included Morris Dancers, Hog roast, art group competition, face painting, tug of war, teddy bears picnic, could ask Uckfield FM to be present, Ron Hill to take pictures.
- “come rain or shine” might be the strap line
- need to investigate need for public liability insurance.

ACTIONS: various actions as outlined above – **Big Lunch working group**

3 Richard Eyre – Big Lunch experiences and time banking

Paul invited Richard to talk to the meeting about his experience organising Big Lunch events in the London Borough of Croydon. Richard began by congratulating Emma on the work she had undertaken so far and her plans for the event, he described it as a ‘textbook approach’.

Key points raised by Richard were:

- Insurance essential – try Zurich Insurance
- Catering – encourage people to bring their own food and drink
- Richard knows Kate Groves at the Big Lunch organisation
- Raffle is a good idea but need to sell tickets on the day to avoid need for a permit etc
- Numbers attending might be as few as 50 or as many as 200 difficult to anticipate. Get school children involved to boost attendance. Maybe involve Twiglets Pre School too.
- Use Facebook to promote and get people to sign up to the ‘Event’

- business case for funding would not be too difficult, Richard has experience – emphasise intergeneration links, serves vulnerable groups etc
- Richard offered to help the working group and his offer was gratefully accepted

Richard then went on to talk about ‘time banking’. This is a scheme where people offer to undertake tasks on a straight swap basis i.e. an hour for an hour, for example an hours gardening in exchange for an hours guitar tuition –skills swapping.

Could join the Timebank UK website and utilise their software but this costs around £250 per year. Richard suggests that Uckfield Volunteer Bureau should be encouraged to run it for the whole of the town.

Association could use Facebook to facilitate it but need to avoid CRB and insurance issues by keeping it at arms length – promote it but not to directly organise the contacts.

Richard’s new role at Health Watch will be to organise ‘Asset Based Community Development’.

Paul thanked Richard for his interesting and very enlightening presentations.

4 Notes of the last meeting and matters arising

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

Matters arising:

- Paul noted that we had omitted to include an item on responsible dog ownership. Paul is getting complaints about this issue and it has become topical again on the Facebook page. Emma proposed we encourage residents to feel empowered to challenge or better still assist dog owners by offering them ‘poo bags’ – a pass the poo bag, initiative which the Association could support.

ACTION – Emma to draft a form of words for the Association to use as a position statement and publicise through a News Release and on Facebook, Twitter etc.

5 Parking and Traffic

Peter recounted a meeting Paul and he had with the Head Teacher (Margaret Coleman) and the Business Manager (Ruth Martin) at Manor Primary about car parking issues in Downsview Crescent. The school is very aware of the issue and the problems of obstructing the highway, damage to the verges and road safety and it was a frequent feature of meetings and newsletter items.

The school supported the options proposed: create a one way system and or widen the road. (the pupils had proposed planting the verges with flowers). They mentioned that plans for a walking bus had failed because of the disrepair of the twittens.

Ruth agreed to let us know which twittens and paths the walking bus would have used.

The Head Teacher had also agreed to provide the venue for the Big Lunch and to promote our newsletter through their email group.

A general discussion ensued when Ric pointed out that a one way system for the whole stretch of that part of Downsview Crescent would cause difficulties as that would mean that the school coaches would have to pass along the narrow stretch outside Manor Primary. Ric

suggested a part one way system combined with restricted parking (time zones) might be the best solution. The need to gain residents support was noted as without it the Highways Dept are unlikely to proceed.

It was agreed that Paul, Ric and Peter would meet with ESCC Highways to explore the options and then to arrange a meeting with local residents to discuss these matters.

ACTION: Paul to arrange the meeting with Ian Johnson from Highways

6 Newsletter

Dorothy advised that there were still some delivery rounds to be completed (allocated at the meeting) and that next time we should print 1300 copies as somehow we had run short.

June reported some negative reaction particularly about the age group question and Wendy said that some people seemed unaware that the Association is supported by volunteers and think that it is being funded from some central fund!

Peter suggested we try to gain funding for the newsletter by selling advertising space to local small businesses. Some ideas were put forward including dog walking agencies, carpet and window cleaners.

ACTION: Peter to explore advertising opportunities and to note that we should order a print run of 1300 for the next edition.

7 Website update

Feedback on the new website was requested and received as follows:

- include photos of Hempstead Fields
- avoid copyright issues by replacing map with Wendy's version (thank you Wendy received and published)
- add names to contacts page
- remove 'Cllr' on home page as the Association is non-political

ACTIONS: Peter to make these changes to the web pages and then to commence promoting the site.

8 Topics identified through Facebook and Twitter

These had already been discussed under previous agenda items

9 Committee membership – vacancies and resignation

Paul reported that Alan had resigned due to pressure of other commitments and proposed that Richard be invited to join the committee. A vote was taken with unanimous support for the proposal.

ACTION: Paul to inform Richard

11 Any other business

Dorothy reported that she had been in touch with Print Matters and obtained prices for notice boards:

A4 size, Wood with spike, to include a laminated A4 poster, £9.50 each, minimum order 12.
Or £5 without laminate.

A3 size, double sided, 2 spikes, £24 each, minimum order 12.

June reported that despite a conversation with Uckfield TC a workman was unaware of the 'non-intervention' policy regarding the hedgehog haven on Hempstead Field and that she had to advise the workman herself, just in time.

ACTION: Peter to write to Christine Wheatley about this and also to remind her about the orchids on the bank opposite Streatfield House.

Dorothy updated the meeting re the village green proposal. It was agreed that it was necessary to reconvene the working group in order to progress this matter.

ACTION: Dorothy

Ric reported problems from noisy young people leaving the Youth Centre late in the evening

ACTION: Ric to advise Peter which group is causing the problem and then Peter to write to the Youth Leader.

Ric reported that despite young people helping push cars up Browns Lane when it was icy few if any drivers thanked them

ACTION: Peter to post an item on Facebook thanking all those that helped the community during the snow.

Paul asked that in future we have 'Treasurer's Report' as a standing agenda item.

ACTION: Peter

10 Date and venue of next meeting

Tuesday 7th May 2013 at 7pm in Roman Way.