

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the meeting at Manor Primary School
7pm on 8th November 2012

1 Cllr Paul Sparks introduced himself, welcomed everyone, and thanked the (25) residents present for finding time to attend the meeting. He introduced Peter Griggs, who was acting as Secretary.

Apologies for absence had been received from another 11 residents:

Caroline Fletcher	Jerry Miller
Lucy Cratchley	Cllr Alan Whittaker
Victoria Searle	Tricia Bentley
David Carr	Duncan Bennett
Diane Murton	Elizabeth Gottliffe
Sam J Thurley	Mick and Lisa

2 Paul then spoke about the background to his idea for a Residents' Association including: the discussion at the pilot meeting held earlier in the year; the sample survey that had been undertaken (which indicated strong support for an Association) and the issues of concern that the survey had identified. He went on to point out that Manor Park and Hempstead Fields comprises around 1200 houses – a significant number when considering that the whole of Uckfield Town comprises approximately 5,800 properties.

He went on to say that 'this is a very good place to live and we should celebrate this but acknowledge that nevertheless there are some matters that need to be addressed. It is often difficult to tackle important issues as an individual but a coherent organisation with a strong clear voice will ensure that people in authority take notice of the views and needs of the residents of the estates'.

3 The meeting **agreed** that there is a need for a Residents' Association and that initially Paul should Chair it; Peter to take on the role of Secretary and Lisa (not present) to be its Treasurer. Also, that a simple Constitution should be drafted and a Committee formed to tackle the key issues.

4 The following volunteered to sit on the Committee:

Wendy Tagg	Ric Mears
Alan Duncan	June Parris
Emma Luck	Peter Griggs
Sally Majors	Paul Sparks
Dorothy Sparks	

5 The meeting **agreed** that funding was necessary to pay for meeting rooms, printing etc and that membership of the Association should be subject to a subscription of £5 to £10. The Committee should consider this and decide a fair level of payment. It was also suggested that grants may be available for this type of organisation and that this should be investigated.

6 The meeting **agreed** that the key issues the Association needs to address (taking account of the findings of the survey, contributions made via the Facebook page and ideas discussed at the meeting) are as follows:

Maintaining and lighting footpaths (liability)	Community self-help e.g. snow clearing
Road Safety and road repair	Wild life awareness e.g. deer on the estate
Parking	Communications e.g. noticeboard
Planning	Village Green proposal
Relocation of Meads Surgery	Crime
Social events	Design a Logo (children's competition)

The Committee will prioritise these matters and form small working groups to address them.

7 Peter listed the various means that had been employed to publicise this first meeting and, following some discussion, it was agreed that: leaflet drops; word of mouth; Facebook and email had been most successful. It was suggested that a dedicated notice board outside the Browns Lane shops would also be very useful.

8 Any other business – Peter advised that he would email/post notes of the meeting to all those attending as well as the local Town Councillors (Alan Whitaker, Duncan Bennet, Louise Westwood, Brian Marsh and Thelma Rumbelow).

9 Next full meeting date and venue to be advised; the Committee to meet within the next 2 or 3 weeks.

10 The meeting closed at 7.40 with Paul thanking those present for coming along.