

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the **Committee Meeting** at 27 Roman Way
Wednesday 13th May 2015 – 7.00pm

1 Introductions, apologies and resignations

Present:

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Paul Sparks (Chair)	Gill Evans
Peter Griggs (Secretary)	Ric Mears
Sally Major (Treasurer)	Dorothy Sparks
Jane Shepherd	Anna Elliot

Apologies: Emma Luck (the committee sent Emma their best wishes)

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

Matters arising:

1. Paul referred to the outstanding action re the poor repair of a brick wall in Browns Lane.
ACTION: Peter to chase WDC re progress
2. Ric reported that the problem with wheelie bins left on the pavement continued unchanged
ACTION: Peter to chase WDC re progress

3 Treasurer's Report

Sally presented her report and advised that we have a bank balance of £1194 with 150 renewals/new members. The accounts for 2014/15 are currently being audited.

4 Wendy's Resignation

The committee were very sorry to hear that Wendy had found that she needed to resign from the committee. The committee thanked her for her past support and much valued input.

5 Surgery Car Service Update

Sally and Anna reported that we have now undertaken 243 journeys since the service was introduced but that there had been very few bookings since the last meeting. There was concern that bookings were continuing to be made direct with a driver.

Peter said that he and Paul had met with a number of drivers in March when this issue had been aired and a letter sent to the driver concerned **ACTION: Peter and Paul to now meet with the driver**

With regard to the drop-off in numbers it was also agreed that each of the co-ordinators would contact 6 of their regular 'customers' to try to ascertain why use of the service has dropped off e.g. because people are booking direct with a driver or whether they are using the new Access to Healthcare Service. **ACTION: Sally and Ann**

Peter reported that a response from the Disclosure and Barring Service indicated that our drivers should be subject to DBS checks (£25 per driver unless we can claim an exemption because of the voluntary nature of the service). Given the doubts over the future of the service it was decided to hold this matter in abeyance until the results of the phone survey are known and to see whether numbers pick up over the next 4 weeks. **ACTION: Peter and Paul to review in 4 weeks time**

If the service does continue it was agreed that we should publicise the 250th user and use that opportunity to reaffirm that the service is still running and that it does not benefit from any external funding.

The question of drivers carrying parents with young children was discussed and it was decided that children of an age or size requiring a child seat or booster seat would not be carried.

Tom has kindly set up a Dropbox account for the service.

Sally will set up a direct debit account to pay the annual telephony costs **ACTION: Sally**

6 The Walking Group

Peter told the meeting that Tom Crellin (the Walking Group's secretary) was unable to attend the meeting but that he had provided the results of a survey of users he had undertaken together with an analysis of the results.

Only 7 of the 21 people that had originally expressed an interest had completed the survey. The results suggest that there is a mix of fitness (although most seem to be quite fit).

Given the survey results and the low numbers of walkers attending, Peter suggested that he talk to Tom about the possibility of inviting the group to another meeting when the future of the group and how it might work to meet everyone's needs can be discussed. **ACTION: Peter to contact Tom to arrange**

Paul said that the walks are a useful social experience and suggested that we clarify that the routes followed are on hard surface roads and paths; that maybe the group could look at meeting at different locations in order to provide more variety and possibly focus on the tortoise's as there are other groups in Uckfield that cater for the hares.

7 Social Media

Peter advised that the Facebook page now has 304 'Likes' which is an increase of 11 since the last meeting.

Paul advised that with Wendy's departure we needed someone to run the Twitter account. Anna very kindly agreed to take over running the Twitter account **ACTION: Anna**

8 Events and Activities

- **Easter Egg Hunt** - this was very successful despite the weather with 59 children completing the quiz and £85.50 raised for Demelza
- **Big Lunch 7th June 12 to 2pm** –Peter has approached Churchcoombe and they want to make it a combined event. A grant of £200 has been obtained from Active Sussex. Activities organised so far are:
 1. Rugby Club Field - booked
 2. Bouncy Castles (combined castle catering for both toddlers, one for older children (up to 12 years) – booked but **need supervisors** please
 3. Punch and Judy - **Dorothy to check booking and to confirm we would like 12.30 and 1.30 performances**
 4. Face painter – still trying to find one that is available – **Peter to try Kings Church**)
 5. Bubble Man – as above
 6. Dog Show – Dorothy organising

7. Beat the Goalie – Peter’s son to run this
8. Fire engine and crew – booked
9. Manor Primary Art Competition – entries submitted, **Paul, Sally Peter and Gabbi** to judge (7.30 Friday 22nd May at Paul’s – 3 prizes for each class
10. Rugby based activity – being organised by URFC
11. Splat the Rat and Lucky Dip being organised by Churchcoombe
12. Posters to be designed by **Peter**
13. **Paul and Dorothy** to post the posters at key points and **Peter** to organise the large ‘road signs’ at Browns Lane and Southview Drive locations

- **AGM** - 14th July at 7pm - MP Primary School Hall booked, no speaker at present. Paul suggested we invite the two new District Councillors – **Peter to contact them**
The event to be badged “Question Time and AGM”

9 Any Other Business

- **Village Green** status for The Dene – agreed to spend up to £250 on legal advice, **Dorothy to contact Dawson Hart**
- **Rugby Festival** – no huge problems, Ric suggested we contact the club to suggest cones to prevent problems with parking at road junctions and more stewards to direct cars to parking locations.
- **Committee vacancy** – Sally to contact a neighbour who may be interested
- **Absence of dropped curbs for wheelchair/mobility scooter users** in certain locations – **Paul to pursue with ESCC Highways**
- **Tree Preservation Orders** – Peter to contact WDC to try and identify which trees are protected
- **Next Newsletter** – **Peter** to include items on being a good neighbour and keeping footpaths clear – eyesore, mobility scooter users and residents with impaired vision

10 Date and venue of next meeting

Tuesday 28th July 2015 - 7pm at 27 Roman Way.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Sunday 7 th June | Big Lunch |
| • Wednesday 14 th July | Question Time and AGM |
| • Tuesday 28 th July | Next Committee meeting |