

# Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the **Committee Meeting** at 27 Roman Way  
**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – 7pm**

## 1 Introductions and apologies

Present:

Paul Sparks (Chair)	Jane Shepherd
Peter Griggs (Secretary)	Ric Mears
Sally Majors (Treasurer)	Wendy Tagg
Dorothy Sparks	Glenda Derby,
Esteban	

Apologies: Emma Luck

Paul welcomed Jane to this her first meeting.

## 2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The notes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting and there were no matters arising.

## 3 Treasurers Report

Sally presented her report and advised that the balance sheet shows a current balance of £451.25. She said that of the 128 members that joined in 2013, so far 98 had renewed. Sally reminded the meeting that Wendy had paid the subscription (£40) for the Open Spaces organisation but Wendy said she did not wish to be reimbursed and that this would be a contribution to the Association from her. The meeting thanked Wendy for her generosity.

**ACTION: Peter to send out reminders.**

## 4 Collective Purchasing

Sally reported that she had started investigating this topic and that it was very involved and carried with it legal responsibilities, numerous conditions and the potential for significant costs. The guidance includes case studies which might be useful. If it does look feasible then could gauge level of interest through social media and at AGM.

**ACTION: Sally offered to email copies of the guidance literature to the committee.**

## 5 Surgery Car Service Update

Glenda reported that take up remains very slow – seven journeys in total since we started. A customer telephone survey of those that had used it said they were very happy with the service. Paul advised that Cllr Collins had asked that the scheme be extended to include trips to Buxted Surgery. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with all the car volunteers to gain their views on this and on the scheme generally.

**ACTION: Peter to set up a meeting**

Jane mentioned that Streatfeild House does not have a warden at present and suggested that we post leaflets in the residents' post boxes. It was also suggested that Streatfeild House have a specific mention in the leaflet.

**ACTION: Peter to deliver leaflets and amend text for next print run.**

## 6 Village Green

Dorothy advised that guidance notes indicate that if the land owner has given permission for land to be used then an application for Village Green status would fail. This may be the case for

the Dene where there is permission in a covenant for 'quiet recreation' but this was before the land was transferred from Buxted to Uckfield.

**ACTION:** The working party to ask the Open Space organisation for a view.

## 7 Question Time Evening – matters arising

- Crossing in Browns Lane – unfortunately any kind pedestrian crossing or traffic calming was very expensive and does not meet ESCC criteria. Position re school crossing patrol is less clear, may be feasible if a volunteer(s) can be found. This topic will be included when Paul and Peter meet with the Head Teacher re Walking Bus. In the meantime Paul has approached ESCC re provision of 'Slow Down - Children' lamp posts signs. Cllr Louise Eastwood has told Paul that she is willing to use her share of the Community Dividend (£1247) to address issues on MP and HF.
- Footpaths and Twittens – it was agreed that the best way to tackle this was to form a working group which will devise a 'tool kit' to advise and guide residents on their responsibilities and practical solutions. The following volunteered to sit on the working party: Paul, Sally, Ric, Peter

**ACTION:** Peter to set up working party meeting

## 8 Shoppers Discount

Peter advised on progress so far (nine businesses signed up as at 3<sup>rd</sup> March):

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1) Caesars Italian Food and Drink | 10% off all food and drink                                     |
| 2) George Moss                    | 10% off sales (excluding pre-owned)                            |
| 3) Josefina Gift Shop             | 5% off all retail sales (excl. 'Autentico' products)           |
| 4) Footcraft Shoe Repairs         | 10% off sales and repairs                                      |
| 5) Fross Wedding Collections      | £150 accessories when spend + £1000                            |
| 6) Lorena's Spanish Lessons       | 5 lessons for price of 4 (call Lorena on 07526 890 607)        |
| 7) Noble Wine                     | 10% off wine excluding current offers                          |
| 8) Parade Radio                   | 10% off all retail sales                                       |
| 9) The Ringles                    | 10% pre-booked table for 2 (excl. B. Hols, Mother, Father day) |

It was suggested that the following businesses be invited to join the scheme:

- a driving instructor
- Green DIY
- Computer Shop
- Sports Shop
- Coles Outfitters
- Hobby Shop

**ACTION:** Any committee member that has a contact in one or more of these businesses to advise Peter please

## 9 Future Events and Projects

- **AGM** – booked at the school for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July
- **St Georges Day** (Weds 23<sup>rd</sup> April) – Wendy has designed some posters for downloading from the web site and Paul suggested we invite members to join us at the Ringles for a drink on the day (7to9pm) **ACTION:** Wendy and Paul to use social media and email group to publicise these from 1<sup>st</sup> April)
- **Big Lunch 2014** (Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> June) – Peter has agreed to lead on this. Richard has agreed to make a funding application Dorothy had agreed to organise a simple Dog Show, Paul and Sally and Esteban and possibly Ric will be there on the day. Wendy will contact UPE band to see if they are available again.

NOTE Rugby Club have confirmed availability of the field. Esteban has agreed to organise a Rugby associated activity. Other arrangements are in hand.

**ACTIONS: As above plus need to remember to submit programme to Insurers**

- Uckfield Festival – pitch to be booked **ACTION Peter** – (done)  
Sally, Glenda, Paul, Ric? and Esteban? will man it, in shifts (8.30 set up through to 5pm)  
Consider including fund raising e.g. Lucky dip, splat the rat or toy car theme

### **10 Spring Newsletter**

Peter outlined the draft content and several suggestions were made which have since been incorporated.

### **11 Social Media**

Wendy advised that the Twitter account had been very lively this month and submitted a report (copy available) showing that our statistics continue to increase.

Peter advised that we still have 217 'likes' on Facebook page.

### **12 Any Other Business**

- Shed Alarms – decided we will not purchase and supply, maybe promote via a link on Facebook and/or ask Green DIY for discount for members
- Polite Parking Notices – decided not to adopt this idea as might be misused and lead to confrontations
- Sand bags - decided we will not purchase and supply
- Dangerous Trees – an update from Glenda and Ric re the Oakwood Drive situation and assistance being given by WDC.
- Food Bank – Paul advised that they are desperate for volunteers to transport food from Tesco's to depot. Waiting for more information about this
- Vandalism – Sally reported on positive meeting with Deputy Head at College and the offer made to meet us to talk about key community issues. **ACTION: Peter and Sally to liaise re meeting arrangements**
- Operation Crackdown: Wendy advised of the effectiveness of this service.

### **13 Date and venue of next meeting**

17<sup>th</sup> April - 7pm at 27 Roman Way.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

- Committee meeting Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April
- St Georges Day Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April
- The Big Lunch Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June
- AGM Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July