

# Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the **Committee Meeting** at 27 Roman Way  
**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – 7pm**

## 1 Introductions and apologies

Present:

Paul Sparks (Chair)	Glenda Derby,
Peter Griggs (Secretary)	Wendy Tagg (joined meeting at 7.35pm)
Sally Major (Treasurer)	Dorothy Sparks
Esteban Amirante	Ric Mears ( joined meeting at 8.00pm)
Apologies: Emma, , Jane	

## 2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The notes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting. Any matters arising appeared on the agenda

## 3 Treasurer's Report

Sally presented her report. In summary we have a bank balance of £677. Income from The Surgery Car Service amounted to £37.

## 4 Surgery Car Service Update

- **Bookings** - Glenda advised that there were 11 bookings in August and 5 already this month. One request had to be refused. Busiest driver was Chris Found – thanks Chris.
- **Ansaphone** – Paul questioned whether the system was taking messages – **ACTION Glenda to check with Tom**
- **New Volunteer Drivers?**-Sister Sarah at Hooke Hall had expressed an interest in becoming a volunteer driver but when Jane contacted her to pursue this she indicated that she could not offer her services at this time. Some discussion ensued about whether we should be recruiting more drivers but it was decided not to progress this at this time.

## 5 Wealden Bus Alliance

Paul outlined the discussions at the meeting with Barry Marlowe of the Wealden Bus Alliance. (Committee members please see the Secretary's email of 27<sup>th</sup> August which sets out the details of the matters raised and Barry's response). It was decided that the Association should keep a watching brief on the Bus Alliance's project and Paul agreed to meet with Barry regularly for updates. **ACTION Paul**

## 6 Village Green Project

Peter reported that no one had responded to the request for pro bono legal advice on the court ruling. It was agreed that the best way forward will be to include the Dene as a 'community asset' in the Neighbourhood Plan and also to take advice on the legal aspects from the Consultant assisting the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. **ACTION Paul**

## 7 Town Centre Improvements

Sally presented a report on the meeting held by ESCC to discuss these works, her report is reproduced below:

## **Meeting Re Diversion of Traffic during Town Centre Improvements**

1. *Work to be undertaken in three stages namely,*

- *Phase one:*
  - *starting 22 September - area between Bell Lane and Framfield Road including work on the new station car park. This is likely to take 8 weeks, with the car park work taking 12-16 weeks.*
  - *New 'smart' traffic lights to be installed at Framfield Road and Bell Lane*
- *Phase two: High Street, starting Spring 2015 - work expected to last 30 weeks.*
  - *Work includes new, wider pavements using York stone slabs.*
  - *Real time bus information.*
  - *Reduced number of long term parking spaces in Luxford Fields car park, also long term will reduce from 23 hours to 9 hours. Parking on the High Street will be limited to disabled and loading bays.*
  - *There will be a speed limit of 20mph on High Street and beginning of Church Street.*
- *Phase three: Bus Station area, timing to be arranged but will start after completion of phase two.*
  - *Work to included new large covered area on wider central island plus real time bus information*

2. *Concerns raised during the meeting were:*

- *Access to High Street from River Way both during and after the improvements.*
- *Parking in the surrounding side streets following introduction of paid parking at the station.*
- *Other private car parks introducing charges (e.g. by bus station )*

Sally went on to say that access to Waitrose will be affected but that part of the road (southbound) will be closed for as short a time as possible.

Some discussion ensued about whether a business case had been made to justify the expenditure required for these works.

### **8 ESCC Bus Service Review**

Paul said that he had been approached by a number of people following publication of our media release about these proposals. Peter had received a letter from a concerned resident. It was agreed that we will see what further responses we receive and that Paul and Peter would meet w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> September to agree a response from the Association..

### **9 Linking with other Residents' Associations**

Peter advised that the suggestion to meet up had met with approval from the other Associations (NTAG, Church Coombe and Fernley Park) and that a date had been agreed (evening of 7th October). Paul suggested we meet at Highlands Inn – two representatives from each Association.

Paul advised that he had heard of another Association – the Harcourt Road Residents' Association and that the secretary is due to contact him. **ACTION Paul to forward contact**

details and Peter to invite Harcourt Road Association once we have contact details and advise all that the meeting will be at the Highlands Inn.

## 10 Autumn News letter

Peter said the meeting of the content and the amount of advertising revenue that had been raised. It was agreed that the next edition will be printed in colour with advertising rates increased in order to meet most of the increased printing cost. ACTION Peter to advise Sally of advertisers details for invoicing purposes.

## 11 Social Media

Wendy advised that there had been the expected drop in interaction following the previous two months surge. Tweets from the Police had dropped off dramatically for no apparent reason. Peter reported that the top three posts on our Facebook page were the Surgery Car Service (283), the Bus Service review (451) and The Royal British Legion Lights Out Campaign (1.1k)

## 12 Future events

Paul explained that it had been necessary to move the proposed Open Day and Food and Drink events into next year but the Quiz evening will go ahead as planned.

### Quiz

Details of the Quiz evening were agreed, as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> December (Saturday)
- 7 – 10.30pm
- at Luxford Centre (subject to availability – Dorothy to check and make the booking please)
- it will be a 'fun' quiz – not too taxing!
- Jerry Miller Uckfield FM DJ to be the MC (Sally to check whether he will devise the questions if not Peter and Emma will)
- tickets in advance £2.50, £3.00 at the door.
- teams of up to 6 people
- to support Demelza (or maybe Children in Need – there appeal night is 14<sup>th</sup> November – your views please)
- raffle – prizes to be donated, maybe also approach shops in Discount Scheme?
- refreshments – people to bring their own alcohol, we provide nibbles, we make tea and coffee – charge 50p per cup.
- if we have missed anything please contact Peter or Paul

## 2015

Paul suggested that we consider organising an event for children. The idea of an Easter Egg Hunt perhaps with the added attraction of a Punch and Judy Show (£175) met with approval. Carry forward to next meeting ACTION Peter

## 13 Any Other Business

- PA system – has been purchased and now in full working order. Agreed we will loan it out to other organisations but ask for a donation.
- Street signs – Peter has found some reasonably priced signs which it was agreed we should purchase (x2).

## 14 Date and venue of next meeting

4<sup>th</sup> November 2014 - 7pm at 27 Roman Way.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 28<sup>th</sup> September – deadline for ESCC Bus Review responses
- 4<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm at 27 Roman Way - Committee Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup> December 7pm at the Luxford Centre (tbc) - Quiz evening