

Chellaston Residents' Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting and Forum held on Monday 30th March 2009 at Chellaston Community Centre

The meeting was opened at 8.00pm by the Chairman, John Bowden, who welcomed approximately 60 residents to the 2009 AGM and Forum.

Annual General Meeting

Mr Bowden gave a resume of the 2008 minutes and they were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Mr Alan Pitcher, seconded by Mr Derek Allsop.

The balance sheet for the accounts had been circulated to the assembled residents. The money being held for the 'youth shelter' gave the impression that the CRA was 'cash-rich', whereas funds were only available to cover the cost of the website and incidental expenses. The accounts were accepted. Proposed by Ms Susan Haynes, seconded by Mr Derek Allsop.

The committee members present were introduced and the Chairman proposed that the committee be re-elected for 2009-10. Mrs Linda Winter had asked to step down and Mr Bowden thanked her for her work over the years. The re-election was unanimously accepted by the meeting. The Chairman reiterated the aims of the Association and invited those present to consider joining the committee.

The Constitution had been updated and the meeting was asked to accept the modified document. Proposed by Mr Alan Pitcher, seconded by Mr Derek Allsop.

Forum

A presentation was given by Mr Andrew Mellors, Senior Neighbourhood Manager, on neighbourhood working. He gave an overview of the work of the Neighbourhood Board and associated forums. The system basically replaces Area Panels, giving more power and funding to the community. The aim is to be responsive to local issues, developing stronger communities and empowering local people. Much work had been done with young people, through funding of Youth Services and Enthusiasm. Grants had also been made to groups such as scouts, football teams, bowls club etc. Mr Mellors urged groups requiring funding to approach the Board. The Board consists of ward Councillors, group leaders, representatives from the Police and Housing Associations and local residents.

A show of hands revealed that only five residents from those at the meeting had attended a forum meeting.

Cllr Harvey Jennings said that the aim was to shape the future of the area. Youth issues had been tackled as a priority and there has been a 30% reduction in anti-social behaviour. He admitted that there are still problems, but the Police are targeting three hotspots per quarter, with encouraging results.

Q: Where does the funding come from?

A: Derby City Council. Some of the money has to go to highways, for example for dropped kerbs.

Q: Will there be more or less funding this year?

A: Same as last year, but there will be £10k for highways.

Q: Communication is an issue.

A: A communication sub-committee has been formed to look at this problem.

Following Mr Mellor's presentation, Mr Philip Bailey gave a presentation on 'A Vision for Chellaston', outlining a major project for the CRA, the formulation of a Supplementary Planning Document. This is designed to give local residents an opportunity to have an input in to the planning strategy for the area. It gives guidance to developers regarding what is (and what isn't) acceptable to the community. The area being considered is the 'old village' since this is most at threat from developers. Full consultation is required and this presentation was the first in the process. Mr Bailey said that it was hoped to have the document ready by the end of the first quarter 2010.

Q: Council see us as a suburb, not a village. Can you still call Chellaston a village and will an SPD be accepted?

A: This will be the first to be formulated for a village in Derby. The area being considered is the old village. The Planners put forward the idea and there is no reason to believe that it won't be adopted.

Q: Can we have our Chellaston village sign back?

A: The SPD can include detail such as this. Better signage in keeping with the area would be considered.

Q: Disappointed that the area under consideration is small.

A: You have to start with a relatively small area, which can be expanded at a later date.

Q: If the Council had to choose between having a derelict site and a developed site that did not meet the wishes of the residents, which would they choose.

A: If adopted, the Council would have to work to the SPD.

Q: Is the process to identify areas and decide what's wanted?

A: Look to the future, identify developments that we want and those that we don't.

Q: Will consultation be with all Chellaston residents?

A: Everyone.

Q: So there will be no control until it's implemented. Anything can happen in the next year or so.

A: It is unlikely that this will save the Red Lion site from development, but the economic climate may work in our favour.

Q: What can we do? How can we get involved?

A: The document is information based, so individual's knowledge is important. Please become involved through public meetings etc.

Q: How are you going to get the information to the residents?

A: The initial questionnaire will be dropping through letter boxes shortly. We may need helpers to distribute them.

Q: Why don't you use Council mail drops?

A: The project is community led and requires independence. However, this could be looked at.

Q: Can we have a link on the CRA website?

A: There will be a dedicated section.

Q: Is the document a dynamic one?

A: It will be reviewed over time.

Q: Can we prevent infill?

A: Hopefully.

In conclusion, Cllr Jennings said that if the full Council adopts the SPD, planners cannot override it.

Other general questions:

Q: Parkway traffic calming – Throws you on to the wrong side of the road, on a blind bend, close to the school. You cannot see the signs, since they have been lowered.

A: The Planning Dept has been asked to look at this issue.

Q: Parking on Maple Drive close to the school is dangerous. What can be done?

A: This is being looked at by various bodies. This is one of the priorities of the Neighbourhood Board and traffic wardens have been identifying irresponsible parking. The Police no longer have the power to issue parking tickets, but they regularly report problems.

Q: Shouldn't the school try to encourage the restriction of car use?

A: This is a real problem and professionals within the Council are actively pursuing a solution.

Q: Station Road, bottom end – what is happening there?

A: There are plans for a new public park in 2011. It will remain closed to prevent rat running to the proposed T12, but access for pedestrians and cyclists will be looked at.

Q: What is the status of the T12?

A: In the present economic climate, it is unlikely that there will be any progress in the short term.

Q: Parkway is badly pot-holed.

A: It is now in the schedule for repair. Councillors to be advised if only patching is carried out.

Due to time constraints, the Chairman brought the meeting to a close at 10.00pm, thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution to the debates.