

Minutes of Chellaston Residents' Association Annual General Meeting and Forum held on 26th March 2007.

Chairman John Bowden opened the meeting at 7.45pm and announced that, due to other commitments, the Head Teacher of Chellaston School, Mr Ray Ruszczynski, had to leave by 8.30pm. This meant that the agenda had to be rearranged and the topic of schools admissions would be dealt with first.

School admissions policy:

Mr Ruszczynski gave a presentation outlining the admissions policy and the options available, with special reference to the oversubscription criterion. Main points were:

- The maximum nett capacity intake figure of 260 has been exceeded, by a small amount, for a couple of years.
- The final determination of the policy has to be submitted by 15th April and there is a 6 week period for objections.
- Options for oversubscription criterion are: Proximity, next nearest school, land registry, length of residency and random allocation. A Code of Practice recently issued gives the random allocation criterion as one of the preferred options. Mr Ruszczynski believes that whatever option is chosen, some authority will object, resulting in the Adjudicator being brought in again. However, he pointed out that he is fairly confident that the oversubscription criterion will not need to be used.

Mr Ruszczynski stated that the Governors' aims are:

- To maintain the normal catchment area
- To grow the school in line with the area
- To maintain standards during change and growth
- To spend more on buildings than any other school in Derby

Andrew Flack, Corporate Director of Children's and Young People's Dept, Derby City Council, reaffirmed that Chellaston is a Foundation School and, as such, makes its own decisions. He went on to say that the City Council objected to the oversubscription criterion last year. The basis proposed was land registry and the Adjudicator accepted the council's case. He felt that the school would be able to take all in the normal area, based on the predicted figures:

2007	259	Actual	263
2008	237		
2009	238		
2010	241		
2011	235		
2012	218		
2013	225		

In response to a question about new housing, Mr Flack said that the proposed 130 houses in Melbourne would only add about five children to the intake. In addition, there would be section 106 money available. Boulton Moor houses, if built, would not affect Chellaston School, since children would go to Noel Baker/Merrill College. Likewise, any Willington development would result in the children attending John Port School.

Finally, he pointed out that under the new Code of Practice, a group of parents can object to a school's admissions policy.

Residents' Association election of committee and other business:

At this point in the proceedings, the CRA Chairman said that all the present members of the committee are prepared to stand for another year and that Mr Ian Colder has been proposed to take over the role of Secretary. Mr Bowden asked for a show of hands and the proposals were accepted.

Copies of the accounts for 2006/7 and the Chairman's report were available to those present.

Mr Bowden encouraged attendees to visit the Association's website and suggested that local businesses could help financially in the hosting of the website by advertising on it.

New Derby Hospital:

There followed a presentation on the new Derby hospital by Derrick Conway from Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Presently, there are two hospital sites, with 1000+ beds and 6500 staff.

The vision in 2000 was to have a University teaching hospital with centralised acute services.

By 2006, it was 2 years into a 5 year programme. The build is to cost £334M, with 1149 beds and 35 operating theatres. Total site area will be 160000m².

Presently, half of the main building is complete. It is anticipated that the Maternity Block will be refurbished by the end of the year and the project is due for completion by December 23rd 2008.

Mr Conway and Ms Julie Acres, Chief Executive of the Trust, answered questions from the floor.

- In response to a question regarding the DRI site, it was stated that it would be used for primary care, diagnostics and mental health. The Macmillan unit will move to the new site and the present building will be put on the market.
- One attendee expressed concern regarding emergency access to the new hospital. Mr Conway said that full consultation had taken place with the ambulance services who felt that access via the ring road was probably better than battling through the city centre. In addition, the new facility will feature a helipad.
- Julie Acres said that primary care is changing. For example, some GP services are now offering blood tests, X-rays and minor surgery.
- Asked about additional bus services to the new hospital, Mr Conway said that talks had been fruitless to date.
- Car parking fees – DRI charges are in line with city centre car parks. The City charges have been frozen and it is hoped to reduce in the future. It should be noted that concessions are available.
- Abuse of parking spaces – it is accepted that abuse does occur and there is particular effort in policing the Children's hospital area.

Policing:

Inspector Sam Slack, PC Emma Daniels and PC Jonathan Moses represented the community police. A new PCSO will be starting in April. It was acknowledged that Chellaston suffers from anti-social behaviour and measures are being put in place to combat this. For operational reasons, Insp. Slack could not expand on this. It was claimed by a Station Road resident that anti-social behaviour has worsened since the road became a through route. In addition, groups of young people congregate on the Corner Pin car park. The police are working with the landlord to alleviate the problem.

Cllr. Mark Tittley requested that a dispersal order be reintroduced, since it had worked well in the past. Insp. Slack remarked that if other initiatives fail, then this may be applied for. He pointed out that:

- It has to be specific in the area
- It obviously has to be policed, and there are limited resources
- Support for its introduction has to come from local groups and businesses

Alcohol consumption by underage youngsters is a particular problem around Pit Close. Introduction of alcohol free zones is the responsibility of the Council. It was stated that confiscation of alcohol from youngsters does occur. A new initiative, the 'alcohol marking scheme' is to be piloted in the Chellaston area in the coming weeks. This will help to identify the source of supply. This could result in the possible loss of licences.

Other policing aspects in brief:

- Installation of CCTV – not a panacea.
- Aston Lane – travellers. Court order to be issued, despite the fact that this area actually sits in South Derbyshire.
- Speeding on Parkway – Sgt Jackson to be detailed to carry out checks when equipment available.
- HGVs on the A514 – The Road Policing Dept will carry out checks over the next few weeks. Cllr Tittley said that the answer was to obtain funding for the T12 route, which he is actively involved with.
- Street Watch – The police to work with the group to get this initiative off the ground.

Mr Bowden thanked all of the speakers for their contribution to the lively debate throughout the evening.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm