

## HURST PARK ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM 2019

at the Good Shepherd Church Hall, Mansel Way, Arbury

7.00pm on Sun 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Present:** Committee - Michael Page (chair), Mary Pountain (secretary), John Beasley, Hilary Goy, Andrew Milbourn, Jane Wheatley. Plus 52 residents of Hurst Park Estate and 7 representatives from Camcycle and other Residents' Associations: (Milton Road RA, Arbury Road East RA, Histon Road RA, Old Chesterton RA & FeCRA).

### Introduction and Welcome

Michael Page chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and in particular the representatives from other local Residents' Associations and organisations.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from committee members Richard Cushing (treasurer), Luke Tunmer and Barbara Thomas. Also received from Nicky Webb.

#### 2. Minutes of AGM of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 – matters arising

The Minutes were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

#### 3. Chairman's report and accounts

Michael Page read his report:

*During the past year your committee held four full committee meetings, sent out ten email bulletins and delivered five printed Newsletters to all households in the estate. The news articles covered a variety of matters of local interest and concern, but they weren't all centred on difficult or contentious issues. For example it was a pleasure for us to be able to support the pupils of Milton Road School and the Library Friends in their project to screen off the library construction site with colourful hoardings. And it was heart-warming to report on the huge attendance at the second year of carol-singing organised by Nicky and Ruth which raised £330 for the BackUp Trust charity.*

*At last year's AGM we invited our guest speaker, Colin Harris, to give us a presentation on the viability of the CAM Metro project being promoted by Mayor Palmer. Among other things Colin was sceptical about the costings in the consultants' initial report which came in at £1.5-1.7 billion. In their latest report published last week the same consultants' estimate has now risen to £4 billion. An indicative map of a future transport network including the metro is shown on one of the table displays. I'll leave you to judge how much of it you think we can expect to see in our lifetimes.*

*Also shown on the tables are design ideas for the streetscape and landscaping of the GCP Milton Road project. We continued to maintain a strong presence at all the consultation and workshop design forums for the project along with colleagues from Milton Rd Residents' Association and CamCycle. Following these efforts the GCP Board this week approved a set of plans that are much more in keeping with a street built for people rather than a corridor built for buses. Construction is now scheduled to commence in April next year with completion at the end of 2021. Also, we understand that construction of the Histon Road scheme will commence this year, sometime in the autumn.*

*Cambridge once again found itself dealing with a continuation of some familiar themes from previous years – unabated growth agendas being pursued by government, big business, the universities and colleges, and property developers. These pose big challenges for the quality of life of existing communities in the city and surrounding villages, and they also create concern about the quality of life to be experienced by those who will come and live in the new areas. Will they offer the affordable accommodation so badly needed by people working in our essential public services, for example?*

One such development is the North-East Cambridge Fringe which has just received a boost with a pledge of £227 million from the government to fund a move of the sewage works. This will release sufficient land to build a new community of up to 7600 dwellings – enough to house the population of Ely - across the other side of Milton Road from the Science Park. Andrew Milbourn and John Latham on behalf of HPERA, MRRRA and FeCRA have attended some of the early community engagement meetings. The online public consultation on this closes tomorrow. Further Information and links to the consultation are available from the News section of the HPERA website.

Parking is another subject which has remained an unresolved issue. Our county councillor and the GCP are now trying to reconcile conflicting needs in neighbouring areas because of the planned removal of parking spaces on Milton Rd. We will monitor the situation and do our best to keep everyone informed about any consequences for our estate.

Many of you have asked about the controversy caused by the removal by the County Council of a hedge bordering the Arbury Play Park which is actually a Protected Open Space owned by the City Council. We eventually had to lodge a formal complaint about the decision-making process and we are still waiting for a formal response. Likewise we were surprised to see the removal of the staggered barriers two weeks ago at the old cycle path, leaving a wide-open 3.6m entrance for all-comers. This is another example of poor decision-making and communication between the County and local councillors and residents. We are waiting for a proper explanation and rectification.

On a more positive note one of our city councillors confirms he has obtained funding for two extra streetlights, and installation of yellow lines to discourage parking at the corners of road junctions on the estate. Thanks to the persistence of Riki McDonald a vehicle activated speed warning display has also been approved. It should be possible to move it to various locations on the estate. What we need now is a camera that can be activated by the noise of a motor-cycle. If anyone knows of the existence of such a device please let me know.

In concluding my report I want to thank fellow committee members for their support in helping to look after the interests of our neighbourhood. It would be nice to think we could all relax and look forward to an entirely uneventful year to come!

Mary Pountain gave a vote of thanks to Michael for his work as chairman and an update on the mailing list, which now stands a 158, since the introduction of GDPR last May. She invited those not already signed up to do so via the website.

## Accounts

Residents have again donated generously and this enabled us to continue with professional colour printing of the five newsletters that we distributed during the year.

Abbreviated accounts for the financial year are presented below:

Income & Expenditure	1 January – 31 December			
	2018		2017	
Income	£	£	£	£
Donations	319.13		664.25	
Total Income		319.13		664.25
Expenditure				
Room & Refreshments	91.08		108.87	
Printing & Stationery	247.58		264.50	
Total Expenditure		(338.66)		(373.37)
Balance – Current year		(19.53)		290.88
Balance Brought Forward		488.33		197.45
Balance Carried Forward		468.80		488.33

*The Association has no membership fee, and relies upon donations for income. It will be seen that expenditure is roughly matched by income, and the Association has sufficient reserves to adsorb fluctuations. From the outset, the Association has operated a Community current account with Barclays Bank plc. Most transactions are made on-line, with expenditure authorised by any two of the signatories. John Beasley was added as a signatory during the year, making a total of four. The signatories are able to inspect the bank transactions at any time by logging in to the account. No overdraft facility is sought.*

*Prepared by Richard Cushing, Retiring Treasurer 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019*

#### **4. Election of committee for 2018/19**

Luke Tunmer has decided to stand down from the committee due to work commitments.

Gerry Rose proposed that the rest of the current committee should be re-elected en-bloc. Seconded by John Latham. The vote was carried unanimously.

Mary Pountain and Richard Cushing will remain as members of the committee, but will stand down from their positions as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Mary Pountain proposed the election of Nicky Webb as secretary and John Beasley as treasurer. Seconded by Karrie Fuller. The meeting voted unanimously to elect them.

The committee now comprises:

Michael Page (chair), Nicky Webb (secretary), John Beasley (treasurer), Richard Cushing, Hilary Goy, Andrew Milbourn, Mary Pountain, Barbara Thomas, Jane Wheatley. Barbara Thomas has provided some secretarial help during this year and will continue to do so.

#### **5. Consultations**

- North-east Fringe 25<sup>th</sup> March
- GCP Choices for Better Journeys 31<sup>st</sup> March

Jane Wheatley explained that there are no plans for a secondary school in the North-east Fringe development and encouraged everyone to complete the consultation and mention this in their response. Michael Bond highlighted the need for a road bridge from the Fen Road estate over the railway line to connect with the new development and Milton Road, and Wendy Blythe was concerned about dwindling water resources in the region and the provision of water for this large development.

#### **6. Meetings . . . elections**

- FeCRA AGM Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April
- County Highways Committee 16<sup>th</sup> April
- City Council Elections 2<sup>nd</sup> May
- North Area Committee 13<sup>th</sup> June

Wendy Blythe encouraged everyone to attend the FeCRA AGM Event – Making the Inclusive City with the main speaker Robin Hambleton and a panel of Cambridge experts (details at <http://fecra.org.uk/>)

Michael suggested that the North Area Committee Meetings were a good opportunity to bring up issues of local concern and encouraged people to attend. Michael Bond commended the use of the Open Forum at these meetings to bring issues to the attention of both councillors and the police.

#### **7. Street Party 15<sup>th</sup> June**

Karrie Fuller spoke about the Street Party. Leys Avenue will be the venue as before, and the road closure has been approved and a licence granted by the Council. The band, Sugar Beat, is made up mainly of residents from our estate and they are kindly charging a minimal amount to cover their costs. There will be

activities for children, a tombola with proceeds to a local charity - donations for this will be welcomed, as will financial donations to cover the costs of road closure etc.

Michael Page proposed that if the Street Party failed to reach its funding requirements, then HPERA would be willing to donate a sum of up to £50. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

## **8. Any other business**

Wendy Blythe spoke about the Cambridge Business Improvement District (BID) for High Street growth. The development of the market area and City Centre has been under consideration, but despite applications for funding having been open since last December, no community groups were notified and involved, and even the market traders themselves had not been consulted. Responding to the BID for High Street growth RA members had pointed out that areas such as Mill Road, Histon Road, etc. should have been consulted and asked why investing in local centres wasn't seen as a priority. FeCRA's response can be found on their website (<http://fecra.org.uk/20th-march-city-centre-plans-fecra-response/>).

John Beasley thanked all those who help with the distribution of the Newsletter, and special thanks to Patricia Beasley who folds them all each time to make the posting easier for the deliverers.

Michael Bond talked about the opening in May of the new Milton Road Library. There are to be events as part of the Chesterton Festival and ideas for these events will be welcomed. The new library will be a state of the art facility with public spaces available for meetings and will be of huge benefit to our local area.

Jeremy Musson asked us to consider sending a letter to the councils and councillors to advocate better communication when infrastructure and building and projects are proposed.

Naomi Needs suggested that there should be less reliance on the part of the council on dissemination of information via social media as this is not a universally used medium.

## **9. Close of AGM**

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Start of social evening with pudding and wine, during which our local hardware store, *Cam Home and Garden*, added colour to the event by selling a variety of plants and flowers with profits generously donated to help boost HPERA's funds.