

Chorleywood & District Residents Association

Meeting of the Executive Committee at 8.00pm on
Wednesday 3rd March 2010
at Sunrise Nursing & Residential Home, Chorleywood

Agenda

- Apologies: Fay Caplin
- Review and agree minutes of meeting on 20th January 2010
- Matters arising:
 - Laurence Evans passed away on Friday 12th February a charitable donation of £50.00 for the RNLI will be sent to Jeremy Evans with a letter of condolence on behalf of the committee written by Raj.
 - Air Monitoring station – Henry
 - TRDC Environmental Forum – Alan/Harry
 - Noticeboard – Tomo
 - Children's playground – Annette
 - Spring Newsletter
 - Subscription Sheets
 - Promoting AGM - Wednesday 19th May 2010
 - Invite Chairs of local Residents Association
 - Name change from CDRA to CRA.
 - Invite guest speaker
 - Item 11 rules needs to be amended
- Correspondence:
 - Community School WD3 Action group.
 - Booking form for AGM at Memorial Hall.
 - Comments from road rep Anthony Boswell re newsletter inaccuracy
- Sub-committee reports:
 - Planning - Annette
 - Health – Henry/Jacky
 - Environment - Raj
 - Membership – Fay
 - Website – Richard
 - Transport
- AOB
- **Date and time of next meeting: 8.00pm on Wednesday 14th April 2010, at Sunrise Residential & Nursing Home. (TBC)**

Planning Report March 3rd 2010

Stubbs Farm: Planning permission was requested for redevelopment of the site for seven detached 4-bedroom residential dwellings and associated parking. This application has been withdrawn.

2 The Drive: Planning permission was sort to replace one dwelling with two substantial detached dwellings with basement levels further accommodation in the roof space and associated accesses, parking and landscaping. This application has been refused.

152 The Drive: Shandler Homes wanted to build three houses on a site in place of one large detached dwelling. Planning permission already exists for two dwellings with the previous owner prior to its sale to Shandler Homes. This application has been since been withdrawn.

Durnovaria 20 Wyatts Road: An application was submitted for the creation of a basement, ground-floor and first-floor rear extension, loft conversion with rear dormer window with front, side and rear roof lights. The main objections to the application were regarding the overall size of the property. The development is out of keeping with the street scene and there would be a loss of light and privacy to the neighbouring properties. This application has been withdrawn.

11 Chestnut Avenue: Retrospective planning permission was applied for, for a Heat Source Pump that was installed without consent, by the developers of the property prior to its sale to the current owners. The neighbours' of no 11 have battled with many departments within Three Rivers District Council to find a workable solution. With four planning applications later the permission has been granted with many conditions to preserve the wellbeing of those affected.

Homefield Road: Unlawful removal of trees from the Ancient Hedgerow along Homefield Road. Permission was granted to open up the hedgerow to allow site traffic and traffic for the new dwellings once built, on the site of "The Cottage" back in 2009. The owner of the historic hedgerow applied to the council for a tree works application for the management of the hedgerow at Home field Road. The owner of the hedge commissioned an independent Arboricultural Consultant to undertake a survey and report on appropriate management of the hedge. Within the request there were hard standing bays for residents parking, which does need planning permission and was not sort. As this request does not need to go through the planning procedure it could well have been overlooked. In the meantime whilst the Landscape department were reviewing the request, the owner had two contractors, currently working on The Cottage development, remove trees that had Tree Preservation orders on them. This is something that officers are currently investigating and following this investigation the Council will decide whether or not to instigate a prosecution

Feedback from the **Friends of Chorleywood Common** AGM
held on 5th February at 8pm in Chorleywood Library

The Chairman's Report :

Some of the activities that Chorleywood residents were invited to participate in were:

- Pond dipping
- Dawn Chorus
- Fungus foray

The Rangers and The Countryside management Service have also undertaken some extensive pond work and the removal of numerous oak saplings.

Health and Safety has been an issue with those activities that have involved local volunteers. The Rangers are therefore heavily involved as they are already trained in First Aid.

Membership has dropped - a recruitment drive is being planned.

The Friends have supported the following projects :

- The re-introduction of grazing on the Common
- The moving of the cricket pitch
- The right-of- way through Betjamen Gardens

There is a new Common Ranger

The Speaker was Yvonne Merritt, Clerk of the Chorleywood Parish Council

who gave a very interesting talk on the educational importance of the Common with particular reference to children:

The Parish Council owns the Common and has to abide by rules and regulations set out in legislation. They have to report to DEFRA (Dept of Food and Rural Affairs). The Parish Council manages the Common for the benefit of the Community. It is their legal responsibility to ensure that the Common is protected for future generations. The most important aspect is to maintain the balance.

Formal Education:

- Organised walks – often carried out with associated bodies such as The Countryside Management Service, Herts Biological Records Office and Friends of the Common.
- Presentations and Nature Trails
- Peter, The Ranger – gets involved with Local Schools and Scouts and Brownies. Peter took over 200 children from Russell School, aged 5-11, on walks around the Common. Some of the parents had never walked across the Common – only driven round it.
- Formal Education includes Bye Laws, Management Plans, Council Minutes and the more physical aspects of Beating the Bounds (walking the boundary and checking that pieces of land are not being taken)
- There is a 10 year Management Plan and a new Woodland Management Plan

Informal Education

- Village Day
- Meet the cattle
- Local Nature Reserve Week – the first Common in the country to become a Registered Nature Reserve

Information

- Circular Walk leaflets
- Communication with the Councillors and the Rangers. There are 70 Hectares to cover and at best 3 men. The Public are the eyes and ears and so are encouraged to tell the Rangers or the Councillors.
- Chorleywood Matters publication
- Website – www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk

Communication

- Newsletters
- Leaflets
- Notices
- User Group meetings
- Parish Rangers
- Councillors
- Sharing Information

Training

- Volunteer training
- Staff training
- Councillor training

The Parish Council learn from the Public. “ Their biggest critic and their greatest ally”

JK Feb2010

Feedback from **The Community Voice** meeting
held on 4th February 2010 at Mount Vernon Hospital

The guest speaker was Dr Peter Ostler – Director, Mount Vernon Cancer Centre. He described the latest achievements and future plans:

The much needed new chemotherapy suite is completed. It was charity funded at a cost of £1.43 million pounds. It contains 19 treatment chairs and 2 beds, 3 clinical assessment rooms, a counselling room, a pharmacy control area, enlarged waiting area and landscaped gardens. The treatment of patients started there on 1st February.

The Cancer Centre has the first Cyberknife in the NHS. There are two in London in private clinics. There are plans for 10 across the UK. It is a complex and expensive piece of equipment which will enable treatments that haven't been possible before. Charitable money - £ 4 million – was donated to fund it. The complex building to house it should be finished in May and treatments started in the Autumn. The aim is to treat 50 patients in the first year , building up to 150 each year.

New IT and related systems are being developed. These include a new PAS (patient admin system), a new database system and a new electronic chemo-prescribing system.

The Research and Development Partnership update – The Royal Marsden and Institute of Cancer Research is the preferred bidder and the agreement for partnership is going well. The first academic meeting will take place this Spring.

The next project is to finish the Mount Vernon site. The Cancer Centre is staying. The Hillingdon Hospital Trust will be building new wards. There is good joint working between Hillingdon and East and North Herts Boards and progress is being made on developments for the site. In 5 years the hospital will be smaller but modern.

There has been a lot of very positive progress but there is still a lot to do

Chairs Report:

National Car Parking Consultation –only web based and only 8 weeks. Need to reply.

Community Voice AGM in June . There will be an informal meeting in May

National survey of GP Practices – can see results

Need to report back re Herts LINK at next meeting.

JK Feb 2010

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Health Sub-Committee

Report to the Executive Committee – 3 March 2010

The text below is my copy on health issues for the Newsletter. Following that is Jacky's report on a recent meeting of Community Voice.

The NHS financial situation.

The financial situation of the NHS in Hertfordshire is a subject of some concern. This year, the Hospital Trusts serving Hertfordshire residents are spending above their budgets due to increased patient referrals from GPs. As a consequence, community and primary care service budgets are being cut back. The Primary Care Trusts are trying to correct this situation by what is called "service redesign". Basically, this means that GPs are being encouraged to review the care pathways of their patients, use more services in their practices or in the community, with fewer referrals to the hospitals, particularly to out-patients departments. This is in line with the longer-term strategy for Hertfordshire, of shifting the balance of services more towards patients' homes, but is being pursued now with greater urgency. Such changes could improve patient care, but past efforts in this direction have not been very successful.

For the year 2010/11, the Primary Care Trust and NHS (e.g. Hospital) Trusts are expected to make very significant cost savings. The impact of this on NHS services is not clear at present, but one Chief Executive has described the outlook as bleak. This pressure on NHS budgets is irrespective of which political party wins the next general election.

Community health services

In the meantime, good reports have been received about the new community Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) service, which commenced last November. This service is for people with breathing problems and is designed to help them manage their condition at home and avoid hospital admissions. A new community diabetes service is due to be launched in April.

Watford Hospital

The West Herts Hospitals Trust (which manages Watford, Hemel Hempstead, and St Albans hospitals) was runner up in a National award for the best Hospital Trust.

Watford hospital has had a number visits recently from senior political figures. Andy Burham, Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley from the opposition front bench, and the Chief Executive of the NHS Executive all visited the Acute Admission Unit. Both Government and opposition appear to be supporting the development of the Watford Health Campus, with its proposed new Watford hospital. This is notwithstanding some negative comments reported from the MP for Hemel Hempstead.

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A new MRI scanner is now working at Watford, and out-patients at Watford is being re-organised in response to patient surveys.

Henry Goldberg

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