

Whinfield Residents Association
(incorporating the Friends of Beech Wood)
(website: www.whinfieldresidents.co.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of 20/07/2016 at Oban Court

Attendees: David Milner, Anne Rudkin, Judith Murray, Alan Hutchinson, Carol Milner, Barrie Newton, James Eddy, Dave Watson, Tom Watson, Chris Bean, David Reynolds, Barbara Reynolds, Roger Fitzpatrick-Odamamier

Apologies: Cllr. Tom Nutt, Cllr. Helen Crumbie, Allanna Robinson, Peter Voss, Rosemary Adams, Jean & Graham Foster, John Atkinson, David Lyonette.

Approval of Minutes: A question was raised as to why no reference had been made in the minutes to the concerns raised in the last meeting regarding proposed changes to the No 10 Bus Route. It was agreed to address these later in the Agenda and to approve the minutes. James Eddy proposed and Carol Milner seconded the minutes of the meeting of 18/05/2016 as a correct record and these were signed.

Matters arising from the Minutes

No 10 Bus Route Survey

David Miner explained developments re. our proposed change to the no.10 bus route. Councillor Helen Crumbie had arranged a meeting with 4 local Arriva officers and Gill Hutchinson, DBC Sustainable Transport Officer, which she, David Milner and Alan Hutchinson had attended. Arriva were unaware of our original letter to their Head Office and the reply received, copies were supplied to them, and they agreed that the first survey carried out was not adequate. A useful detailed discussion about the pros and cons of the proposal had taken place, and whether or not it might be economically viable for Arriva to make a change. It was agreed at the meeting that Arriva and DBC would carry out a new survey, targeting likely users of the service, and Alan Hutchinson had consulted WRA Committee members about a draft survey which had been received, and responded. After discussion, that included a number of concerns being raised, the WRA meeting agreed that we would await the results of the survey.

Whinbush Way Traffic Lights

David Milner had contacted Councilor Scott regarding the traffic lights. A fault found in the controller unit has been repaired and cameras are in situ to monitor the traffic flow situation.

Chair's report

David Milner reported on some recent activities, including the table top sale at Asda, and meeting with Arriva. WRA has been asked to take part in a workshop for Darlington Local Plan on 4/8/2016 and Judith Murray and Jean Foster are attending. Acting Inspector John Malcolm is meeting with David Milner to discuss PACT meetings. Alan Hutchinson had contacted Haughton Residents Association to accept their invitation to attend one of their meetings and this has been arranged for the first Thursday in October. The dog fouling in Green Lane has been cleaned up.

Treasurer's Report

Judith Murray reported that the table top Sale made £125, and thanks were given to Roger Fitzpartick- Odamamier, Tom Watson, Peter Voss, Carol Miner for their contributions. Monies in the bank stand at £1,152.51p.

Asda

Graham Foster had spoken to the manager prior to our Table Top Sale and was informed that we could not hold a Tombola. Graham had pointed out that it had said on our paperwork that we could and we had spent £50 on prizes for the tombola. A meeting had taken place with Asda to discuss this, attended by David Milner, Alan Hutchinson, Graham & Jean Foster, with the Manager and Louise Gibson, Asda Community Champion. WRA was extremely disappointed by the response from the manager, who had made clear that we could not hold any more sales. It was agreed that we write to Asda Head Office, and Judith Murray will implement this.

Beech Wood

David Milner passed on residents dissatisfaction as to what has happened regarding the wildflower planting. Cllr. Crumbie had met with Pippa Smalling from DBC, who are deciding on action to take. Cllr Crumbie to update WRA.

Darlington Local Plan

DBC asking people to come forward with land suitable for development, and are not taking into account peoples previous objections from the Making and Growing Places Plan. Objections have to be received by 15th August, but the website is very difficult to navigate. Judith Murray is to raise concerns at the workshop, and will draft a letter re the whole process about our objections.

Website

Alan Hutchinson has added the recent Ward Newsletter and links to Arriva bus timetables and Connect Tees Valley. Also added to the PACT page is a police article re. telephone/text/PC scams. Ideas are needed as to how we can promote the website.

PACT Meeting

David Milner and Alan Hutchinson had attended meetings but there had been no room booked again. Concerns had been raised over PACT meetings, the police website is still out of date, but some of the main part has been improved.

Litter pick Is taking place on Sunday 31st July 2016, volunteers to meet at ASDA foyer at 10am.

Any other business: None

Date of next meeting: 21st September 2016, 7pm at Oban Court

Meeting closed at 8.15pm