

**Whinfield Residents Association**  
(incorporating the Friends of Beech Wood)

(website:www.whinfieldresidents.co.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of 22/03/2017 at Oban Court**

**Attendees:** Anne Rudkin, David Milner, Judith Murray, Alan Hutchinson, Graham Foster, John Atkinson, Peter Plant, Cllr. Helen Crumbie, Cllr Tom Nutt, Carol Milner, Rosemary Adams, Tom Watson, Alan McNab, Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier, Linda Davison, Simeon Hope.

**Apologies:** Pat & Barrie Newton, Mike Haw, Jean Foster, Allanah Robinson

**Approval of Minutes:** It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 18/01/2017 be signed by the Chair as a correct record, proposed by Peter Plant and seconded by Carol Milner.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

**Asda:** Cllrs Crumbie and Nutt held a meeting with manager of Asda to discuss various things, the possibility of relaxing regulations regarding the holding of Tombolas and table top sales, as they would like to be more involved with the local community, They are aware of the trolley situation. The WRA campaign is ongoing. Jenny Chapman MP is also involved and has written a letter to Asda Head Office, If customers see trollies they should be reported to Asda who inform Trolleywise. John Atkinson asked if employees see trollies can they not report them, Cllr Nutt reported regarding the issue of litter around the surrounding area of Asda, which is quite happy to join in litter picking. Cllr Tom Nutt and Mrs Nutt cleared some of the litter from the surrounding area of the Shuttle and Loom, which had discarded glasses. Cllr Nutt spoke with his colleague from Licensing who had met with the pub manager. It was agreed that empty beer glasses would not be allowed to leave the pub.

**Springfield Park:** The meeting between Cllr Crumbie, the PCSO and DBC officers which John Atkinson was to attend on behalf of WRA had been postponed. Due to anti social behaviour PCSO's will walk the area.

**Parking on footpaths and verges:** Cllr Nutt outlined 3 options for the access road to Oban Court:

- Installing bollards along the area which could block access for emergency vehicles
- Dry hard verges would widen the road, could encourage more parking
- Double yellow lines along the area, which would take 4 months to pass.

If residents have alternative options they should be sent to Cllr Nutt.

Cllr Nutt said he had been in contact with both The Chief Constable of Durham (Mike Barton) and the PCC Ron Hogg on the issue of parking on pavements and enforcement. Cllr Nutt said that both the CC and PCC knew of the problem with parking on pavements in the Darlington area but enforcement would cause difficulties for access for emergency vehicles if other cars were parked correctly on the road. Hence they were not going to enforce the law if there was enough room for people to pass on the pavement. John Atkinson raised the point about new developments taking this into account to prevent parking on the pavements and allowing access for emergency vehicles. John Atkinson asked Cllr Nutt to raise the matter of future developments and the view of the CC and PCC with Darlington Borough Council to ensure these mistakes are not repeated. Cllr Nutt agreed to contact the "Director" in charge of this issue.

**Visit to Haughton Residents Association:** Alan Hutchinson reported that he, David Milner John Atkinson and Graham Foster had been welcomed, arrangements had been made to have a bric-a-brac stall at their Easter Fayre on 15<sup>th</sup> April and contributions were requested.

**Telephone Box Drummond Close:** Cllr Crumbie to report back at the next meeting.

**Green Lane:** Due to a misunderstanding only a partial clean up had been done. There is much left to do to improve its condition and reduce the amount of litter.

**Springfield Park**

John Atkinson reported that the burnt out bin had been replaced, the spike had been removed, and the drainage cover secured in Sparrowhall Drive. He had been in contact with Dean Scott from DBC regarding the fenced-off play area which will be maintained and preserved, finances allowing. ROSPA have advised about repairs to the damaged pyramid climbing frame, the wooden platforms on the climbing frame will be replaced in April/May. The soft surface around the play equipment is becoming a trip hazard this will be sorted June/ August. Inspection of equipment is to be done frequently, John asked members to report anti-social behaviour to 101 if they see it. Development of new diverse facilities was discussed and application for community safety funding may be available. It was suggested that we have a sub-committee for Springfield Park, and to involve the local schools. John also reported back re, the cut through in the hedge near Sparrowhall Drive and the Golf Club says it has done everything it can to block this short cut and could not pursue it any further. John Atkinson asked if Cllr Nutt would meet with him at the cut through in the hedgerow along Sparrowhall Drive so we could see the issue first hand. He agreed.

**Parking at Whinfield School:** Cllr Nutt is aware of the situation as this is an old ongoing problem. A lot has been done by the school regarding this and most of it is caused by irresponsible parents. PCSOs will visit and monitor the situation.

### **Chair's Report**

- David Milner reported that he was very encouraged by the work done by the Beech Wood Sub-committee and Friends of Beech Wood.
- A fundraising coffee morning is being held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Oban Court between 10-12 and PCSO's will be invited to attend.
- WRA will be having a stall at Haughton Fayre, organised by Haughton Residents Association, and may take part in Darlington Community Carnival.
- A Speed Watch was done with Councillors in Whinbush Way and out of 100 vehicles no one was speeding. This will be repeated every 6 weeks in different locations.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Judith Murray reported that there is currently a balance of £1167.80 in the bank. Support is needed for our fundraising events and our Public Liability insurance will be renewed on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Beech Wood**

Peter Plant reported that there was a problem with youths building dens, which have now been cleared. Peter and friends had planted 30 primroses, a few honeysuckles, and installed 18 bird boxes, which already have blue tit residents, There had been a hedgehog release. 24 types of wildflowers are planned and Darlington Wildlife experts in bird life and flora & fauna are on hand to offer advice about getting people involved. Peter also had the opportunity of getting some trees to plant and it was suggested that he get written permission from DBC and advice from Phil Haynes, the Arborist.

### **Darlington Local Plan**

David Milner and Alan Hutchinson had spoken to our Councillors at length about concerns re. the publication of the "call-for-sites" map and how Beech Wood and Springfield Park came to be included.

It was agreed that a Special General Meeting be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm at Oban Court when Cllr Chris McEwan will explain where things are re. The Local Plan. Alan McNab is going to invite David Nielson. Judith Murray commented that the proposed northern bypass will be handled by Highways England.

### **Website**

Alan Hutchinson reported that he had sent out group emails to members on behalf of several officers and that he had published articles on the website re. The Great Spring Clean, Speed Watch and the Street Scene Initiative. General maintenance had been carried out to correct links and update information, based on suggestions supplied by members and organisations. The minutes, agenda and Ward Newsletter had been published on the Meetings page,

### **PACT Meeting**

The next meeting of PACT will be at Rockwell House on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 6pm.

**Litter Pick** Judith Murray reported that the litter pick on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017 had been successful, having collected 20 bags from two places. Springfield Park needs a major litter pick, this will be arranged at a later time.

### **Any other business**

Anne Rudkin put a question forward on behalf of Mike Haw re. Durham County Council introducing a regulation called PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) which says that if dogs stray into a designated play area the dog owner could be fined £1000, and whether it would apply in Darlington. Cllr Tom Nutt said that as Darlington is a unitary authority it should not apply here.

**Date of next meeting:** Special General Meeting on Wed 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 7pm in Oban Court  
Ordinary General Meeting on Wed 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 7pm in Oban Court

**Meeting Closed 8.22pm**