

# **Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association**

**Minutes of SLRA Committee meeting held at Sandyacres Clubhouse on Thursday, 6 October 2011.**

**Attendees:** Howard Preston, John Hobbs, David Porter, Evan Thomas.

**Apologies for absence** had been received from Sandra Bunclark, John Faulkner, Don Murrell and Andy Peddle.

**Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2011.**

**i. Approval**

The Minutes were agreed and signed.

**ii. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising which were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

**Item 2: Planning Issues**

**HP** said that the new diversion of the footpath AE210 was due to be opened on 19 October 2011.

With reference to the other 'TRACK' (which runs from Sandyhurst Farm Cottage uphill to the rear of no. 250 Sandyhurst Lane ("Molehill") and then turns 90 degrees down to Upper Pemberton and to Trinity Road), **HP** said that about 100 residents who use this route were prepared to complete and sign the 'Preliminary Public Right of Way Evidence Form' for submission.

It was noted that, following submissions by SLRA and other bodies and individuals, the planning appeal to build a house in the back garden of 10 Sandyhurst Lane had been refused.

It was also noted that Westwell Parish Council had objected to the planning application for a John Lewis At Home store in Fougères Way. [This application is due for decision by 2 November 2011].

**Item 3: Traffic issues**

**i. A20/Sandyhurst Lane junction**

The lobby letter, together with supporting accident data, had been sent to Kent Highway Services on 31 August 2011. A reply was awaited. David Robey, Borough Councillor for Downs West ward, had supported the lobby by emailing it to Andy Corcoran, Transportation & Development Manager at Kent County Council.

**ii. M20 Noise Action Group**

**JH** had prepared a report of the meeting he attended, on behalf of the SLRA, on 29 September 2011 in Lenham, to explore the revival of this lobby. The meeting was chaired by Tom Sams (Independent Maidstone Councillor, Harrietsham and Lenham ward) and about 75 people attended. It was a positive meeting, addressed by Robin Knox-Johnson, Chairman of CPRE. The result was that the lobby group will be re-formed to push the noise problem 'up the agenda'. **JH** has agreed to join the Action Group on behalf of the SLRA.

**Item 4: Neighbourhood Watch**

**HP** had spoken to Monica Berwick (356 Sandyhurst Lane), the existing Neighbourhood Watch contact. It appears the scheme is running at a fairly low level and could be revitalised by the SLRA. Further discussion was held over until the next meeting and would include the possibility of launching the scheme at the AGM.

**Item 5: Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer was not present, but it was noted that there had been no known expenditure since the previous meeting and a small income from new members.

**Item 6: Membership Drive****i. Report on current membership**

DP reported that there were now 66 members, an increase of 3 since the previous meeting. The membership represented about 20% of the catchment.

**ii. Next steps**

It was agreed that new members would be targeted at the AGM, with a leaflet advertising the event being delivered to all residents.

**Item 7: SLRA website**

DP had contacted all the local County and Borough councillors and the Chairpersons of the two Parish Councils, with a view to securing contributions to the website. A new website page, entitled 'Local Council activity' had been set up and already included contributions from Boughton Aluph & Eastwell PC and Westwell PC. Borough Councillor David Robey (Downs West) had suggested that 'Leader's Briefs' produced by the Leader of Ashford BC might be suitable and examples were tabled. It was agreed that these briefs would be very useful and should be included on the website. Responses from the County Councillors were awaited.

JF had provided a revised list of restaurants. In his absence, it was agreed to hold over discussion until the next meeting.

**Item 8: Planning for AGM**

It was agreed to hold the AGM on 28 March 2012 at Sandyacres. Several possible guest speakers were discussed. It was agreed that a major aim would be to recruit new members at the AGM and to publicise the event to all residents.

**Item 9: Any other business**

A circular had recently been distributed by Rita Hawes (ex Boughton Aluph & Eastwell councillor) and others to residents in the BA&E ward/parish area. It included a questionnaire asking residents if they thought the parish should be split into two separate parishes for Goatlees/Kennington and Boughton Aluph/Eastwell. It also asked if a residents' association should be formed as 'the best way forward'.

The Committee discussed the proposal, including comments received from residents, and formed the view that there was little merit in such a split and the status quo was preferred. It appeared likely to increase costs for little benefit. The Committee was opposed to the proposal for a new residents' association, since SLRA already existed for Sandyhurst Lane and the adjoining area.

It was noted that further opinion is being sought from JF, being the only committee member who lives in the BA&E parish.

HP had received an email from Christine Drury, encouraging the SLRA to connect to the Central Ashford Community Forum. It was agreed to circulate information on their forthcoming AGM to members.

**Item 9: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12 January 2012 at Sandyacres Clubhouse.