

Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association

Minutes of SLRA Committee meeting held at Sandyacres Clubhouse on Thursday, 25th February 2010.

Attendees: Howard Preston, David Porter, Evan Thomas, John Faulkner, Don Murrell, Peter Coatsworth and Winston Michael (guest)

Apologies for absence had been received from Sandra Bunclark, John Hobbs, Doug Harman and Gemma Hammond

Item 1: The Minutes of previous meeting held on the 5th December 2009 having been previously circulated were agreed.

Item 2: Discussion on Residents Survey - It was recognised that some considerable delay had occurred since the completion of the 2009 SLRA residents survey. The report on the analysis of the results was again circulated some while ago. Members reminded themselves of the contents of this report. It was agreed that the overall response rate of 20.8% was very encouraging. The question then posed by John was 'what should we now do, if anything about the results'.

After further discussion it was identified that the two most important issues to residents were 1. M20 traffic noise pollution and 2. Speeding traffic using Sandyhurst Lane throughout its length. It was agreed that the SLRA should consider taking forwards these main two concerns. Members generally accepted that little could currently be done regarding traffic noise emanating from the M20 given the economic climate but agreed to request the relevant two parish councils to keep this problem under review at least on an annual basis

ACTION: PC to write to each parish council to request at least an annual review of the problem.

However in regard to speeding traffic PC explained what he considered to be the most likely effective action that could be taken by the SLRA which was to request each parish council jointly agree to approach Kent Highways Services to conduct a traffic movement survey to ascertain vehicle speeds using the Lane. Such a survey would also identify the most 'popular' periods that speeding takes place plus the busiest times of vehicle use along the lanes. Subject to the results of such a survey the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership (which includes Kent Police) will then have properly researched data upon which to conduct speed enforcement. JF raised the question of the use of the Speed Watch initiative and indicated that he was prepared to assist. PC stated his view that those volunteers albeit with the best of intentions will not be able to collate full relevant data to persuade the KMSCP to commit funds for enforcement. Speed Watch is not currently up and running in the local area but any such effort can operate side by side with the KHS survey.

ACTION: PC to write to each parish council requesting that consideration be given to a joint approach to KHS be made for an official data gathering survey.

Finally it was agreed in principle that the membership should be updated on a regular basis with perhaps an email newsletter. Not all SLRA members are able to receive emails and the therefore potential expenditure may be an issue given the high cost of postage. DP stated that he would electronically forward the relevant membership database to PC

ACTION: DP to forward database.
JF and PC to jointly consider possible way forward

Item 3: ABC Kennington North development proposals - HP invited Winston Michael, a Boughton Aluph and Eastwell parish councillor and a leading opponent to this proposal to explain the effect of the proposals and detail his objection. Winston is also a member of a small group of local residents and councillors which has been formed to promote the objections to the proposals.

Copies of the proposals were on display for examination and Winston explained the background to the proposals and the geographical extent of the area which could be substantially affected by the proposed development. He then detailed his objections and it was agreed that his formal letter of objection to ABC detailing those objections can be attached to these minutes to inform all members of the issues involved.

After discussion members it is probably correct to state that members shared his concern and Winston indicated that those who felt strongly about the matter should forward their own formal objection within the time limit set.

ACTION: PC to obtain a file copy of WM letter of objection and attach to minutes for circulation to all members of the committee

Item 4: Other Planning issues - HP reported on other planning cases One had the potential to effect 23 and 25 SL. However after consideration by the residents concerned there was no objection submitted. HS also reported that the earlier proposal to demolish 289 and 296 SL had now been approved by ABC

Item 5: Postal Deliveries - PC voiced his concern but requested that at this time those concerns be merely noted regarding the continuing and increasing late delivery of postal items especially at the eastern end of the lane. Members indicated that this problem was not just effecting residents at the Faversham Road end.

Item 6: Financial Statement - HP requested members to note that reimbursement was outstanding for a recent donation made on behalf of the SLRA amounting to £25. DM gave a short report and asked members to note that account details will require amendment

Item 7: Any other business - the recent correspondence from Bybrook Garden Centre requesting support against proposals by Tesco received little support.

Item 8: Next Meeting - Thursday 29th April, 2010 at Sandyacres