

Brunswick and North Kite Residents's Association
Minutes of Committee Meeting

7.30 p.m 30th March 2009
At 38 James Street
Cambridge

Present

Wendy Andrews (Chair)
Roger Chatterton (Vice Chairman)
Mike Ashby
Susan Dixon
Sue Gordon Roe
Leonie Llewellyn
Sally Westwood
James Oram (Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence and Matter Arising

John Lawton will be late.

Susan Dixon welcomed as new co-opted member of the committee, Susan has been involved with Midsummer Common and will be proposed as a full member of the committee at the AGM.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2009 were approved.

3. Bus Stop Maid's Causeway

This has been positioned temporarily on the outside of the railings with a plan to make this permanent.

Gaynor Griffiths a county councillor has been pushing for a site visit and for the location to be moved this is being considered.

Guided buses will not be using this stop but will be using Maid's Causeway.

Colin Rosenstiel has suggested a location further down the road by the island but this has problems.

Even if the stop is approved it needs planning permission as the railings are listed. The railings are a 'planning barrier' stopping the widening and development of Maid's Causeway.

The railings adjacent to Butt Green are not listed and this could be a new bus stop site.

(John Lawton arrives)

4. CRC Development

An update has been circulated there are ongoing exhibitions at The Guildhall and Milton Road library.

The closing date for comments is 6th April.

The height seems to have been reduced which gives an improved view from the Victoria Avenue direction. The proposal for a new cycle path has been abandoned.

The density of the development is still quite high only the houses will have small gardens and therefore the use of Midsummer Common will increased.

Brunswick House will be demolished to provide access.

Should BruNK put in a formal response by 6th April?

Action

SD and SW and possible RC and JL will go to The Guildhall to view the plans. They will form a view and circulate their conclusions to the committee and to FoMC.

Will this project give scope for further development close to the common? The allotments and small strip of land joining the common to Newmarket Road is common land, there is a plan for this area to be partly used for a community orchard.

5. Midsummer Common

The gate and the state of the common are the concerns as usual.

A new lock with copy proof key has been promised since the lock was broken. Anthony Finch is the Council official dealing with this. An electronic gate had been promised but this was abandoned as there is no power supply.

There is a meeting at The Guildhall to discuss matter relating to Midsummer Common RC is attending and will report back.

There is particular concern about the state of the common outside Fort St George public house with litter and damage to the grass noted.

Action

SD will re-circulate her note about the common especially the encroachment of Midsummer House onto the common.

The response of The Council to these matters has been very disappointing and no progress is being made. The only action has been various management plans being put forward which are generally good but never implemented.

RC will raise this at the meeting.

At the moment The Council may be more concerned with Jesus Green and the Lottery funding on offer.

Midsummer Fair – Ken Rankin no longer events manager for the council so position vacant for the fair. There is likely to be less police present because there were so few incidents last year. So there is a fear the fair could be a problem this year.

Action

RC will raise this at the meeting on Thursday.

5. Marks and Spencer / Grafton Food Shop

WA and RC went to the Love Cambridge meeting to discuss the Grafton Centre refurbishment and tidying up empty shops.

There is a follow up meeting on 29th April 6 – 7.30 pm.

The empty shops and M&S moving out could indicate rents are too high. But Grafton Centre cannot reduce rents they may be able to some offer concessions for new tenants generally.

There is a possible food store tenant for the old Nat West premises

Generally The Grafton Centre and surrounding area is going down market.

The new Primark shop should bring in more shoppers.

However the key issues at the moment is will there be a new food store,

Action

Proposed that a letter should be sent to Emma Thornton the City Centre Manager highlighting concerns about the lack of a food store. The need to tidy up empty shops. MA will draft this letter.

6. AGM

On 20th April at 6.45 p.m. there will be a committee meeting then there will be the AGM.

Need a flyer to go out and to book church

Action

RC will design the flyer and MA will print.

Various members agreed to distribute

Agenda for AGM:

1. Food store
2. Guided bus – should we invite a speaker on this ?
3. Invite Tim Bick, Colin Rosenstiel and Gaynor Griffiths they should be able to talk about guided bus.
4. Ask Alistair Wilson to talk about Strawberry Fair
5. Financial report

Action

WA will e-mail invitees

Flyers to go out by Easter.

SGR confirmed the balance at the bank was healthy, should we make a payment from the reserve ?

WA is planning to stand down

At AGM officers will be appointed including WA's replacement there may be attendees at AGM who also want to stand for the committee we should request residents to stand for the committee but the general feeling is the number in the committee is about right.

If no single person wants to be chair we could appoint a co-chair

7. AOB

Salmon Lane trees – JL has e-mailed council who are still looking into this.

Next Meeting 30th March at RC's