

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

6 p.m. 9th March 2010 at 6 Wellington Court

PRESENT

Wendy Andrews	WA
Roger Chatterton	RC Joint Chairman
John Lawton	JL Joint Chairman
Jeremy Waller	JW
Leonie Llewellyn	LL
Susan Dixon	SD
James Oram	JO Secretary taking minutes
Sally Westwood	SW
Mike Ashby	MA
Sue Gordon-Roe	SGR Treasurer

Michael Wiseman MW Manager of the Grafton Centre

1. Apologies for Absence:

None

2.	Michael Wiseman	
2.1	The committee thanks Mr. Wiseman for attending the meeting	
2.2	The committee's concerns were laid out	
2.3	Permission for a six storey hotel would give a precedent for the height to the Grafton Centre to be increased.	
2.4	MW stated that there was no desire to increase the height.	
2.5	SD attended a meeting about high rise buildings which she thought was good and well attended.	
2.6	It was a consultation exercise to gather views from University and various residents associations.	
2.7	The Grafton Centre does have permission for alterations but work has been postponed and there is no resumption date yet.	
2.8	The alterations will be within current permissions which are valid for five years from January 2009.	
2.9	There has been an upturn in tenancies but NOT booming as reported in the Cambridge Evening News.	
2.10	The Eden Hall section is doing well where rents are more affordable and some good retailers are now there.	
2.11	Primark has helped especially the restaurants.	
2.12	One vacant (formerly Mr Shoes) is about to be let out.	
2.13	Clement Jocelyn are doing OK they have about ten outlets altogether.	
2.14	Empty shops will continue to be used for art displays which MW has been pleased with.	
2.15	Empty shops are expensive for Grafton Centre as they are liable for rates, where the tenant is in administration Grafton Centre is not.	
2.16	New Look will be in the old Marks and Spencers.	

2.17	Another food retailer is due to finalise a lease soon but this is not definite.	
2.18	Generally things are more positive.	
2.19	RC was at Western Gateway meetings where it was noted tall buildings are more of a concern for planning committee.	
2.20	<p>Fitzroy and Burleigh meetings have raised some concerns, RC attended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Removal of 'phone boxes, disorder and drunkenness, sale boards on shops. ii. Eden Chapel has been fenced off to stop people sitting on steps. iii. The refurbishments now on hold included removal, of steps so when work starts the fencing will be removed. iv. The police did air concerns about antisocial behaviour and drug use which is bothering retailers and those using area. 	
2.21	<p>MA asked MW about plans to reduce traffic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. MW and JW had this morning attended a meeting where traffic schemes were discussed. ii. Congestion charge for Cambridge has been dropped. iii. But the number of vehicles in Cambridge have dropped over the last 12 years. iv. There is no simple answer to the traffic problem. v. Do Grafton retailers give incentives to use Park and Ride? MW said they do not they are more likely to do so for parking at the centre. vi. Robert Sayle did something with Park & Ride vii. Grafton Centre does not promote Park and Ride. viii. Could Grafton Centre parking West be used by residents at night rather than being closed. MW suggested Paul Nicus is asked about this. 	
2.22	<p>Early deliveries seems not to be a problem now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. SCA lorries have in the past been a problem early in the morning but not recently if there are problems MW should be contacted. ii. The agreement is that there are no deliveries between 7 pm and 7am. (Environmental Health would allow delivered up to 11pm). This applies to both sides of Grafton. iii. 20mph and HCV restriction will not have any impact on Grafton. 	
2.23	Could MW do something about speeding trucks? –MW said he could not police would have to be contacted.	
2.24	Since August 2009 the number of vacant units in Cambridge has reduced by 20%	
2.25	43%-45% of Cambridge workforce is in Public Sector (the national average is 27%) so there could be an impact when Government makes cuts.	
2.26	Unemployment in Cambridge is at 4%.	
2.27	Housing market is strong	
2.28	The Grand Arcade has not been a big problem for The Grafton Centre as it attracts a different clientele and has added to the pull of Cambridge.	
2.29	No sign of a new bookshop coming to The Grafton.	

2.30	MW will be pleased to make this meeting a regular event.	
2.31	MW was thanks by the committee for attending and left the meeting.	

3.	20 MPH Limit & Zebra Crossing	
3.1	WA followed up with Karen Lunn, the limit will be in place by the end of April.	
3.2	WA asked about the zebra crossing Karen said she would need more evidence of any danger.	
3.3	Once 20 mph limit in place the police will probably not monitor, so residents may have to do so.	
3.4	Busses seems to be going faster	
3.5	Decided to see what the impact of limit will be before taking any further actions.	

4.	Salmon Lane	
4.1	RC attended a meeting with Tim Bick and Paul Nicus.	
4.2	RC dropped in handouts to houses that were affected inviting occupants to attend the meeting, around three residents attended, a number of properties are let which may have caused poor attendance, it is possible for the Council to contact the landlords if needs be.	
4.3	One option which seems unlikely to be adopted is to use area as parking for residents, this would enhance values of properties.	
4.4	£8,000 still available for trees in planters but they will need a lot of care, the estimated cost for trees in planters is £120,000. Drug use etc may also be encouraged where there is tree cover.	
4.5	RC suggested mobile CCTV should be installed	
4.6	Options are either trees or tarmac – should the residents of Salmon Lane have the final say?	
4.7	Is it right that the environment is lost because of drug use?	
4.8	JL has concerns about the trees not being an option now.	
4.9	Can other options be considered to get rid of drug takers, there is a dispersal order in place and this has been effective on Mill Road.	
4.10	Could the area be grassed?	
4.11	Paving or tarmac may encourage parking	
4.12	JL should go with RC or contact Tim Bick and Paul Nicus	
4.13	JL would like to know why the trees cost so much.	
4.14	JL will attend the meeting	JL

5	Icy Footpaths	
5.1	JL has not sent a letter to Council but attended the Area Committee meeting.	
5.2	JL read from the minutes for the meeting – can residents help manage ice e.g. by having access to grit bins.	

5.3	There is a consideration for the legal liability but could use "accredited volunteers" and City Council will provide more bins and County Council would fill them, alternatively bags of grit salt could be distributed.	
5.4	Should we still write a letter?	
5.5	JL thinks Council need to show more leadership by encouraging residents to clear snow and ice.	
5.6	Ian Nimmo-Smith had promised to contact JL	
5.7	The alternative is that the City could allow residents to collect grit salt and use it.	
5.8	The BruNK Committee agreed that it was reasonable to have more grit salt bins this should be added to AGM agenda.	RC
5.9	What have ward councillors done?	
5.10	JL will write to Ian Nimmo-Smith that we want grit bins or sacks and what would council suggest in place by next winter	JL
5.11	The committee is in favour of local resident clearing ice.	

6	Travel Lodge	
6.1	There could still be an appeal but plans would have to be drastically different and reduce height by one or two stories which could make it financially unviable.	
6.2	There is another Travelodge plan for Camborne or Orchard park.	
6.3	Why did planning officers approve this?	
6.4	Perhaps local residents should have regular meetings with planning officers it is understood that local surveyors have these meetings SD said she is willing to attend.	
6.5	Who is the chair of the CB1 residents association?	
6.6	There is a meeting of residents associations for planning we should get involved on a case by case basis or at least give support to other areas.	
6.7	SD will attend resident's association meetings.	SD

7	FOMC	
7.1	Date of AGM is 17 th March	
7.2	Nothing has happened with orchard may now be too late this year.	

8	Strawberry Fair Licence	
8.1	This has been approved with caveats as reported in the paper.	
8.2	Also entertainment licence for Friday and extended licence to Sunday is this correct and will it mean the fair is extended to Sunday, is the licence different to last year.	
8.3	JW will check this it could be Friday and Saturday.	
8.4	Newspaper reported that the event would extend to Sunday – FoMC meeting may have the answer.	
8.5	They must have double the number of toilets, keep the fencing and there will be consultations.	JW

8.6	SD said that the fencing should remain on Sunday to dissuade hangers on from urinating.	
8.7	Police strongly objected to the fair, does this mean that if it goes ahead and there are problems the Council will be liable?	
8.8	Police have not been paid for last year	
8.9	JL & RC will attend consultations.	JL/RC

9	Fitzroy & Burleigh Meeting	
9.1	Next meeting is on 13th April RC will attend	
9.2	Could RC bring up puddles there is money available to deal with this along with telephone boxes seats etc and perhaps plant some trees.	

10	AGM	
10.1	Christchurch room has been booked and paid for.	
10.2	They can supply glasses SGR can provide refreshments	
10.3	Committee meeting will be at 6.45.	
10.4	Discuss Contents of newsletter	
10.5	RC to write to the three local councillors Sarah Whitebread and Joy Rosensteil to invite them.	RC
10.6	SGR will prepare treasurer's report	
10.7	RC to do agenda re-election of officers, rest of committee to be re-appointed on masse.	SGR
10.8	There is no need for extra committee members at the moment we should do this at start of meeting.	
10.9	Invite FoMC could talk about Strawberry Fair and orchard	

Meeting ends