

St Helens Residents' Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Date: 10th March 2011

Venue: 28 Highlever Road

Attendance: Clare Singleton (Chair)
RH
JTB
HP
MT
JH
TM
AK
MH

Apologies: AM, LG, JC, CM, NW

Westway Development Trust

RH reported back on activities as a WDT trustee. No response has been received to SHRA letter querying several issues, including level of representation from local community organisations. Discussed Westway Sport Centre and extent to which it meets stated social objectives of WDT. Plans for Portobello Green gym and links with health services seem good.

RH will pursue a response to SHRA letter at next WDT meeting.

St Helen's Festival

Clare reported on plans for this summer event, as conveyed by Cllr Judith Blakeman. Agreed that SHRA should support the event, and merge this with usual summer event (perhaps also linking in with community garden, the church, and the bowling club).

Involvement could include e.g. a stall about the association, and a cake stall to raise funds.

St Helen's Gardens shops

Reply to the Association's letter in support of Orlandos Florists had been received from Cundall Partnership. This explained their view on current dispute, and made commitments to try to achieve full use of shop units once building works completed. Also invited views on type of shops wanted in the area.

Clare to respond saying Association seeks occupation by any small independent retailers that will not duplicate or compete with others in St Helens Parade (e.g. no more dry cleaners). Possible links with Cittaslow initiative to be explored.

Agenda for next open meeting

Date fixed for 12 May. Possible subjects of interest to local residents discussed. Agreed to try for two main items with outside speakers:

- 1 Headmistress of Oxford Gardens Primary to be invited to speak about role of the school in the area, how area has changed over the years, and what local residents can do to support the school.
2. Planner from RBK&C to be invited to speak about major planning issues affecting the area (HS2 railway line and impact on the Scrubs and Kensal Rise, latest on plans for new academy and leisure centre, Woodlands Phase 2, plus future of neighbourhood planning under Localism Bill).

RH to find contact at the school, HP to contact RBK&C planning department.

Notice board

Siting of SHRA notice board still unresolved, as brick bin stores have been placed on side wall of bakery where notice board was to go.

Agreed to await conclusion of NW's enquiries on bin stores.

Localism Bill

JH reported back on discussions at meeting of Kensington Society, which has looked at implications of Bill's proposals on changes to the planning system.

Agreed that SHRA should begin to think about the potential future role of a 'neighbourhood planning forum' that would cover a wider area than St Quintin Estate. Committee members should pursue informal contacts with neighbouring residents associations, on basis that they might be interested in joining forces as a larger geographic grouping for planning purposes, including extending across to other side of Wood Lane.

Noted that Development Trusts would want to exert greater influence on planning issues, making use of new powers in the Bill.

Noted that the Bill was still at committee stage in the Commons, and some of its more radical proposals may be amended as it proceeds via the Lords.

Conservation Area Document

It was agreed that JH would distribute the current Conservation Area document to the Committee and the Committee would explore whether we could update it, possibly with the help of a body such as the Civic Trust.

Letter to Merrick Cockell proposing a meeting

Clare to finalise current draft and send this off.

Academy School/Leisure centre consultation

Association had not done its own response to K&C consultation, but several individual members had attended meetings. To be discussed further at open meeting in May.

AOB

No further business raised