

East Moor Village Residents Association AGM

20th September

Great Park Community Centre – 16:00

Attendees:

Cathy Priestly
Victoria Thomas
Jeremy Hyams
Gail and Roger Brown
Claudia Birtwistle
Neil Collington
Gary Jobson
Ruth Hewitt (M&WWRA)
Ian Herring
Sanchit Dutta
Jon Dowd

Apologies:

Mr & Mrs Witcher
John Gray and Justine
Ali McMorran
Becci Dowd
Greenside RA (Martin Fletcher and David Levison)
Anita Lower
Paul and Lee

Chairs Report

The chair thanked the committee for their time and effort (all voluntary) during the past year.

The committee have met quarterly with email correspondence between. At the first meeting we had an experimental open section for residents, but disappointingly there was just one attendee. The second meeting was partly devoted to some fruitful discussion with the Community Centre Trustees, who like us are all volunteer residents.

At the time we met in January, there was a fairly widespread perception that the centre was more commercially than community oriented. The meeting was helpful in understanding that this was not intended, but the result of the need to break even financially together with the time it takes for true community engagement. Points raised included :

- It was felt the catering surcharge was unfair and the trustees have waived this now.
- The trustees confirmed there is a discount to private hirers as against the commercial rate
- It was conveyed that residents felt the need for better communication and more community involvement and the trustees have taken this on board (please see full document on our web site)
- Hirers have been reminded of the 10% discount for members

-RAs may use the meeting room free of charge if it is not booked to a paying customer.

-A suggestion to make some money and provide a service by using the GPCC as a parcel drop off/pick up was made and the trustees agreed to try to take this forward.

We had an extra meeting in May with the new GP project manager to establish how best to work in future. The result is that he will attend all regular business meetings together with council officer(s) and our ward councillor. This direct discussion should prove much more productive than the old way when the council had to raise issues on our behalf.

Members have also attended council meetings and public consultations and keep in contact with the other Residents Associations. A joint meeting with the latter was held where the main issue was the school travel plan. It is proposed to have a meeting soon to discuss the pros and cons of a parish council for the Great Park and to propose joint working over registering the open spaces as an asset of community value .

Issues raised through the year include:

Traffic speed, volume and parking particularly in relation to the school. We have major concerns about safety (especially at the temporary crossing) and feel that the relevant parties (council, consortium and school) are not taking responsibility for this. We have repeatedly requested temporary safety measures be put in place until the much delayed final road surfacing and marking are complete.

Play park. We have pushed for its completion and are disappointed, but not surprised, that it has not been properly constructed and is now partially closed. We have recommended to the consortium that they get a ROSPA inspection, but they have declined to do so.

Post box – due in front of the GPCC within 6 weeks.

Landscape management lack of quality. There is still no information which tells us exactly what we are expected to pay for.

Engagement

Throughout the year the web site has been updated and email newsletters sent to members who have subscribed. The site has 69 registered members, a few of whom are not EMV residents, but interested neighbours. Our FB page has 54 followers. We also work with the GPCC and others to publicise events or news of interest to residents.

Treasurer's Report

We continue to operate with raising a subscription from members.

After much delay caused by the bank losing documents, we finally opened an account. A complaint was raised with the bank and as a result we were awarded £30 compensation. This has been our only income so far.

Expenses have been kept to a minimum by members not claiming costs for printing or web hosting. The GPCC allow us to use the meeting room for free if it is not booked out for our committee meetings.

We do intend to apply for a ward grant to cover our costs fully

Election of Committee

New committee elected

Chair : Cathy Priestly
Co-chair: Jon Dowd
Secretary: Neil Collington
Treasurer: Claudia Birtwisle
Victoria Thomas
Gary Jobson
Sanchit Dutta

Open discussion

There was open discussion amongst the group about a number of issues that the RA have been working on over the past two years

- The proposed road safety plan: residents are concerned about the delay in implementing the road safety plan. After recent enquiries, both the council and the consortium have advised that the delay is due to difficulty in securing a contract to carry out the road surfacing works. Since the 2014 AGM, no visible improvements have been made to Roseden Way and after a near miss on the pedestrian crossing on the first day of school this year, residents have become increasingly worried at the lack of progress. All authorities are aware of the situation and the associated dangers and have failed to take any action to prevent an accident or death. Two residents have written to our local MP to outline our concerns and it was agreed that the RA would write to all relevant authorities (school, local authority, local councillor, Mick Firth, the consortium, our MP and other RAs) to list our concerns and make them aware that they are liable if something happened due to their inaction.
- Children's play area: Residents raised concerns about the play park being completed to a sub standard level. Neil advised that he had asked David whether a ROSPA inspection would be carried out and David advised that consortium staff would carry out their own inspection. Questions raised whether this was sufficient and if children are being put at risk.
- At last year's AGM, Anita confirmed that the local authority would not approve or allow any further building works until the consortium ensure that the required infrastructure is in place (schools, town centre, surfaced roads etc) Residents questioning why TW are advertising Brunton Green when these amenities still do not exist.

AOB

1. Allotments: Residents would like an update on when/where/if allotments will be set up – Cathy to follow up with Anita
2. Halloween: RA holding a pumpkin carving competition. Neil will take photos of all the entries on the night (to be left on gate posts) and create a survey where residents can vote for their favourite. Also ask that residents leave their outside light on if they are happy for children to knock on their door.

Next committee meeting: Wednesday 14th October at 1930 - GPCC