

Notes of the meeting with local Residents Groups representatives on
Wednesday 17th November 2010 at Edgbaston

Present: Terry Allen (Boundary House)
Norman Gascoigne – (Warwickshire County Cricket Club – WCCC)
Andrew Burn – (WCCC) Chairman
Leo Nation (Cannon Hill Neighbourhood Forum - CHNF)
Vijay Sarathy (CHNF)
Dick Atkinson (Balsall Heath Forum - BHF) – *present for only part of the meeting*
David Spilsbury (CHNF)
Professor Carolyn Hicks (Russell Road Residents Association) – *present for only part of the meeting*
Hazel Churchill (Moorcroft Road)
Thomas Latham (Wickets Tower) – *present for only part of the meeting*
PC Simon Wilson
Colin Povey (Chief Executive, WCCC)
Phil Macdonald (Project Director, WCCC)
Simon Turner (Birmingham City Council)
Ian Bowes (Galliford Try Construction)
Jonathon Haw (Galliford Try Construction)

Action

1 Apologies and Introduction

There were no apologies.

Mr Burn welcomed everyone to the meeting and made reference to the letters he had received from Mr Nation since the last meeting, the first of which together with Mr Burn's response had been circulated before the meeting. This correspondence focused on a number of specific matters which had been debated at previous meetings and these were dealt with in Mr Burn's reply. Mr Nation stated that he did not share Mr Burn's views on a number of the matters referred to in the correspondence however the meeting agreed that it was more important to continue to meet and to try to have a positive dialogue on matters of mutual interest in the manner that had been established by earlier meetings.

2 Notes of last meeting

Mr Nation and a small minority of those present felt that the notes of the last meeting did not accurately reflect the discussions that had taken place. However the notes of the meeting held on the 8th September were approved by the majority of those who had been present.

3 Matters Arising

Mr Nation, Mr Spilsbury and Professor Hicks stated that they did not recognise

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the meeting as a properly constituted body but were present to represent the interests of local residents. Mr Povey reminded the meeting that a set of Terms of Reference for the group had been tabled and adopted at the outset and it was agreed these would be re-circulated whilst noting the position of the above named members.

It was agreed that the main items arising were now covered by the agenda and any other issues would be taken later in the meeting under 'AOB'.

4. Update on the development

Mr Bowes confirmed that construction was now in it's 34th week out of 64 and that the practical completion date remained the 1st July 2011. All of the pre cast concrete installation would be complete by early December and the erection of the steelwork for phase 5 (the main entrance, museum and banqueting room) would commence by the middle of December.

On the inside of the building the blockwork was nearing completion, plasterboard was being installed and the services work was starting. Some of the kitchen equipment such as the canopies would start to be installed the week after next and the 1st lift was scheduled to be installed on the 5th December.

Mr Spilsbury asked if the main cladding would be kept clean and how it would age. Mr Macdonald confirmed that the silver/grey finish was a coating which had a long operating life and was not expected to deteriorate. There was an element of self-cleaning but there was also a cleaning strategy which would ensure that the finish remained in good condition.

Mr Nation stated that he was still concerned, on behalf of the residents he represented, about the visual impact of the building on the local neighbourhood.

Mr Povey repeated his suggestion that members might like the opportunity to tour the new building. For this to be practical it would need to be carried out at in daylight and in small groups but interested members were invited to contact Mr Povey to arrange suitable times.

Mr Povey updated the meeting on the good progress being made with the new outfield drainage, irrigation and re-turfing. It was hoped that the majority of the work including laying of the new turf would be completed in the next 7-10 days. A strip of outfield at the front of the Eric Hollies Stand and the new building was being left unturfed for the moment to allow access to the front of the new stand.

Mr Macdonald confirmed that the 1st floodlight pole would be erected on Monday 22nd November, wind permitting. The next 2 floodlights would be erected by Christmas and the final 2, situated within the building site, would be erected in January. Aiming and testing would be carried out in March 2011.

Mr Nation sought clarification as to the commissioning process for the new lights and Simon Turner confirmed that the City Council would check that the lights performed in accordance with the planning conditions.

Mr Sarathy asked if the selection of matches where floodlights were to be used was at the Club's discretion. Mr Povey confirmed that the ECB was contractually

bound to provide a selection of floodlit matches under the terms of the broadcast agreement and that the specific matches were negotiated with each ground as the fixture list was developed. It was likely that Edgbaston would have to stage 2 floodlit games before the Test Match next year.

At this point Mr Atkinson and Professor Hicks left the meeting for their other appointment.

5. Parking and Transport

There was a wide ranging discussion based around the issues identified at the previous meeting. It was agreed that the Club would seek the co-operation of the Police and the City Council in producing a package of measures for the 2011 season. A draft proposal would be brought to the next meeting for further discussion. It was anticipated that this package would deal with;

1. Off site parking
2. Shuttle bus service
3. Updating of the ground/parking maps and information sheets
4. Taxi pick up/drop off areas
5. Informing visitors to the ground of the parking restrictions/enforcement plans

and include suggestions on how the following would be addressed

- a. Pre-season liaison with the City Council's parking enforcement team
- b. Community Police presence around the ground
- c. Representative contact with the 'Black Cabs'
- d. Assistance from members of the Safety Advisory Group
- e. Post season assessment within the group

It was agreed that the way forward was to plan a complete a package as possible in advance and ensure early communication with key stakeholders.

PM/CP

6. Noise

Mr Povey provided the meeting with details of the venue music packages used during 2010. This included the number and duration of music clips played during the One day international, the 2 neutral Twenty:20 internationals, the 8 group and quarter final Twenty:20 domestic matches and the 2 televised 40 overs domestic matches. The music package had been provided by the same contractors as previous years and, as had been debated before, the Club believed the sound levels to be the same or better in 2010 than in previous years.

Mr Nation, Mr Sarathy and Mr Spilsbury all felt that the noise produced by the media packages had a negative impact on the local community. Mr Povey explained that this was now part of the staging of sporting events in the modern era. However, he undertook to minimise any 'pre-match' music for domestic matches and to ascertain what discretion the Club has with regard to 'broadcast' games. He would provide a report to the next meeting by which time the fixtures

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for 2011 should be published.

7. Employment

Mr Povey gave a report to the meeting on the employment on site.

He confirmed that Galliford Try have so far employed 135 individuals who reside within 'B' postcodes. It is anticipated that this will rise as more, less specialized tradesmen are deployed on the project.

It was also reported that during the season the Club had undertaken a significant recruitment exercise for ground and match day stewards who are employed by Recruit Event Services (RES). In total RES now have 102 stewards on their rosta who live in the areas immediately surrounding the ground. 75 of whom have been taken on during 2010.

Letherby and Christopher, the Club's catering partners, also have a significant employment need on Major Match days. This is in addition to a much smaller core group of staff who work more regularly throughout the year. Core L&C employees currently total 17 rising to over 300 employees on major match days and with these largely being drawn from 'B' postcodes.

In response to a question from Mr Spilsbury, Mr Macdonald confirmed that 58 of the stewards employed by RES lived very locally to the ground and that all stewards received training to NVQ level 2. Mr Turner confirmed that the developer of the mixed use element was also committed to engage with the Employment Action Team at the City Council whose role was to maximize local employment opportunities within new developments.

Mr Sarathy asked about the Club staff. Mr Povey confirmed that we have 83 people employed at present, 26 of whom are professional cricketers. Nearly 50% of the professional staff were 'homegrown'. Mr Povey agreed to provide further information on the domicile locations for Club staff at the next meeting.

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In responding to a question from Mr Nation, Mr Povey said that he believed that local employment would continue to rise in the short and medium term as the business activity related to the use of the facilities in the new development increased.

8. Matters Arising and AOB

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Mr Spilsbury referred to a letter he had sent the the Club in September giving details of a local contact in relation to community access to training and coaching facilities. Mr Povey agreed to contact Zhor Mahlik and to offer support via the Warwickshire Cricket Board.

PC Simon Wilson asked if the Police could make contact about the ground hosting a 'Safe Haven' tour. Mr Povey confirmed that the Club would be happy to arrange for this to take place.

Mr Povey confirmed that the Club's dvelopment partner, MCD, was working up a scheme for the 1st phase of the mixed use development. Mr Sarathy

commented that there should be proper pre planning submission consultation and Mr Macdonald confirmed that this would take place at the appropriate time. Mr Turner confirmed that these proposals would be subject to a 'reserved matters' planning application which would involve full public consultation.

9. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 17th November 2010 at 6.30pm

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