

Notes of the meeting with local Residents Groups representatives on
Tuesday 20th April 2010 at Edgbaston

Present: Terry Allen (Boundary House)
Norman Gascoigne – Warwickshire County Cricket Club (Chairman)
Leo Nation (Cannon Hill Neighbourhood Forum)
Mazar Dad (Cannon Hill Neighbourhood Forum)
Dick Atkinson (Balsall Heath Forum)
Hazel Churchill (Moorcroft Road)
Roger Howlings (Birmingham Sheltered Housing Committee)
Robin Neall (Hemisphere)
Phil Macdonald – Project Director, Warwickshire County Cricket Club
Delphine Roe (Member)
Simon Turner – Birmingham City Council

In attendance: Jonathon Haw (GTC)

Action

1 Apologies and Introduction

Apologies had been received from Andrew Burn and Colin Povey, Warwickshire County Cricket Club, Professor Sturgeon and Thomas Latham. Mr Gascoigne welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly representatives from Cannon Hill Neighbourhood Form (CNHF) and Balsall Heath Forum (BHF).

2 Notes of last meeting

Notes of the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and agreed.

3 Matters Arising

Mr Gascoigne apologized that the 'free entry voucher' promised with the recently circulated 'Outside Edg' had not been included due to an internal communication problem. Mr Macdonald confirmed that, until we could circulate either with the next Outside Edge or earlier, local residents should be advised to contact him or Julie Moseley at the Club to arrange for access to domestic matches. From around the table it appeared that the latest 'Outside Edg' had not been delivered into local flats. Mr Allen and Mr Neall offered to co-ordinate deliveries into Wickets and Boundary tower and Hemisphere respectively. Mr Macdonald to arrange for Julie Moseley to provide copies to both.

PM

Mr Allen confirmed that there had been some delays with the refurbishment works and that the contractors would probably had not yet needed the parking offered at the last meeting.

Mr Allen took the opportunity to thank the Club and Galliford Try for making arrangements to allow free passage for mobility scooters past the site.

Mr Nation raised the issue about terms of reference of the meeting and questioned its constitutional scope. This was echoed by Mr Atkinson. Mr

Howlings strongly confirmed that the meetings held so far had been constructive with the Club engaging with local concerns. This was echoed by several other members who had attended previous meetings. When challenged as to the late engagement with the meetings by CHNF, Mr Nation advised that the decision not to attend had been taken on legal advice but agreed that it was good to talk and not rake over the past. Mr Allen strongly urged everyone to get together to drive forward. Mrs Roe stressed how central the Club and its activities were to the City and endorsed the view that we should put the past behind us and move forward. Mr Nation and Mr Atkinson asked if the subject of the style of the floodlights could still be discussed and indicated that they would not attend future meetings if this was a closed subject. Mr Gascoigne offered to meet with them both to present the Club's position and listen to suggestions. He stressed that the Club had very good reasons for selecting the floodlights and had received a lot of professional advice before seeking and receiving planning permission. Mr Gascoigne indicated that he was happy to meet and listen to ideas but stressed not to take encouragement from the offer to meet that any change to our plans will be considered.

PM

4. Update on the development

Mr Macdonald confirmed that good progress was being made with demolition completed and actual construction work about to begin. Mr Haw confirmed that bore type piling would be underway for the next few weeks and this would be followed by the installation of the lift/stair cores. Steelwork erection would commence in June. To support the piling works there would be a number of concrete deliveries daily which would access the site from the Edgbaston Road. Site access was arranged so as not to impede normal traffic. Mr Haw pointed out that his contact details were included on Outside Edg and expressed the hope that, if anyone had any queries or was concerned about the construction works, then they should contact him immediately.

5. Any Other Business

Mr Atkinson asked about noise generated by the temporary marquee on the main car park. Mr Macdonald explained that for the first few events the noise monitoring/limiting device fitted as part of the planning conditions had not been calibrated and set. This had now been done by the City Council and the Club had also increased the stewarding at late events to make sure that noise was kept to an acceptable level. There had been an event on Saturday night where noise levels both inside and outside had been recorded and the Club were confident that this would resolve matters.

As a result of the early events there had been some complaints from local residents both directly to the Club and to the Council. Mr Macdonald undertook to check that any direct contacts had been written to with an apology and explanation of the steps being made to resolve the situation (*post meeting note – the Club has written to both people who contacted us directly and believe that the Council has replied to those that contacted them*).

PM

It was agreed that a contact number for the duty manager responsible for evening events would be included on the next Outside Edg (*post meeting note – the telephone number is 07974 362960*).

Mr Nation raised a concern regarding parking for non cricket events and made the suggestion that parking should be offered 'free' or included in the cost of the event in order to discourage visitors from parking in local streets (*post meeting note – everyone booking an event is already made an offer of inclusive parking with their event*). Major match day parking was also discussed. Mr Macdonald reported the success of last year's shuttle bus service and confirmed that this would be used again for this year. Mr Turner confirmed that travel plans were to be produced, initially for the stadium operations but also for the enabling development as it was brought forward, as part of the planning conditions.

There was a debate around the noise created by cricket matches. It was agreed that this was generated in 3 ways, crowd, safety announcements via the public address and amplified music. There was a discussion around the acceptability of musical instruments at matches (drums and horns were specifically mentioned) and the volume and timing of music. Mr Turner referred to the planning condition applicable to the new development and confirmed that a noise report would need to be carried out on completion. It was agreed that this issue should be monitored over an extended time period and reviewed regularly to see what could be done to mitigate any disturbance to local residents. There would be a couple of Twenty:20 matches played before the next meeting which could be discussed.

6. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 15th June 2010