

WESTWOOD HEATH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 24th SEPTEMBER 2019 7.30 PM AT THE WESTWOOD CLUB

Chair, Ian Stevenson (IS) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and outlining the Agenda.

University of Warwick Update

He then introduced Jo Handford and Ben Hayday from the Community Engagement Team at the University Of Warwick and their presentation is summarised separately.

Police/Streetwatch Update

As our local PCSO, Paul Jackson, was unable to join us IS provided an update on Streetwatch where we have 18 volunteers and which is active and successful. There are also more people interested and awaiting training dates and anyone else wishing to join in should email our Co-Ordinator, Louise Hughes, at streetwatch@westwoodheath.org.uk. One of the benefits of the scheme, apart from the opportunity of a walk, is the friendships being made.

Residents in Broadwells Crescent have their own WhatsApp Group with around 60 members with good results in identifying suspicious activities (including a 999 call). IS suggested other areas may like to implement this and, if they do, please let us know.

Message in a Bottle

This is a national initiative being led locally by the Lions. A person's emergency details are held in a bottle, which is placed in the fridge and a sticker is placed near or on the front door. The sticker alerts the emergency services that the MIB is there and could be invaluable in assessing how to treat someone. IS has a supply of these and if anyone would like some please let him know either via Facebook or email.

Defibrillator

Purchase of one or more for the area has been suggested by a resident and IS wanted to gauge support which was clearly there. We need to look into costs and fundraising and subsequent to the meeting Bee Bahia offered to undertake some research for us.

Planning Update

IS gave a brief update on "Hedgegate" - the destruction of the hedge along Westwood Heath Road and the justification for it by Crest Nicholson. Crest were invited to this meeting but were unable to attend but have indicated they will join us at our next meeting.

Just prior to the meeting we became aware of new developments with the A46 Link Road where the road to Westwood Heath is clearly marked yet there is no spur to the University. The proposal is a recommendation and IS expressed our disappointment that the residents of Westwood Heath have not been consulted on how this may impact our community and will be writing accordingly. The suggestion was made to write to the CEOs involved and remind them of their obligations.

HS2

IS and Habib Khashi attended the latest Drop In at Burton Green when it was confirmed Bockendon Road would be closed during the day from the end of this month until June 2020 with Cryfield Grange Road closing during the day again from the end of September but only until January(!). When asked why work was still going on while the review takes place, the response was "because no-one has told us to stop".

History Group

In Jill Khashi's absence IS introduced Ian Harrop and firstly thanked him for producing the RA's latest Newsletter.

Ian gave an update on the Group's activities where they continue to research the local area looking for "then and now" photo opportunities. With a significant anniversary of the Coventry Blitz next year, local stories would be very much appreciated.

Another project is Living Memories where your memories of Westwood Heath would be welcome. It could be how you remember it then compared to now, your first impressions even if only recent. These only need to be brief if you prefer.

Any stories, photos and memories should be emailed to Jill at westwoodheathhistory@gmail.com.

AOB

IS advised that whilst we do our best, there are just five of us on the Committee and we could really do with a Membership Secretary and a HS2 Liaison Officer. Jan Lloyd stepped up to take on the role of Membership Secretary and we are thankful to have her on board. We still need the HS2 Liaison Officer (the role can be shared) so if anyone would like to take this on for us please email westwoodheathra@gmail.com.

Vaughan suggested that the Minutes be published on the website and IS agreed advising this is a priority over the next few days. Vaughan also suggested the Agenda be published 7 days before and we will endeavour to do this.

Meeting closed 9.15pm