

Westwood Heath Residents Association – 25th September 2018, Record of Meeting

University of Warwick (UoW)

We were pleased to welcome back Helen May, UoW Community Partnerships Officer, who outlined her role working with the local community. Helen provides updates and a regular newsletter, details of which can be found on the website warwick.ac.uk/community where you can sign up to receive the newsletter electronically. The website gives details of what is going on such as events, walks etc and also a page should you need to get in touch with any issues. Email address is community@warwick.ac.uk and Helen's number is 02476 150708.

UoW Development Plans

Daniel Gibbons from the Estates Dept and Mike Best from Turleys Consultants informed us of the hybrid planning application, followed by Q&A

Q: In the Masterplan, is the proposed parking enough?

A: They are asking the same question but do not want to keep putting in spaces because of the effect on transport access.

Q: The Uni has bought Cryfield Grange Farm which is currently in Greenbelt, are they planning to develop this?

A: There are no immediate plans and the next Masterplan is not focusing on expanding outwards.

Q: Does the University charge for car parking?

A: Yes. Introduced 10 years ago. Discussion followed regarding the fact that the cost means people park in neighbouring areas and walk in (or in at least one observed case, take out a bike and cycle in!). Traffic restrictions such as yellow lines can be introduced, and are scheduled, but this is via the Council and any concerns should be raised with them. Acknowledged it is a difficult balance. The car parking for JLR at Tesco was mentioned but Daniel pointed out this arrangement has nothing to do with UoW but he will try to find out more about this and let us know, especially as development will see these spaces disappear.

Q: One resident would prefer to see less parking and more alternative transport (and commented on the eyesore of the new car park on Kirby Corner Road).

A: Daniel acknowledged this and advised they will push these e.g. a new station on the Coventry-Leamington line.

Q: The impact of yellow lines is not good for the community.

A: Helen advised that the UoW allocated funding to Coventry City Council but it is up to them how it is spent.

Q: The 1030 spaces -will they be further away on campus and with the demolition of Car Park 7 (Arts Centre), how will this work? Residents are concerned that access will cause congestion locally.

A: Noted

Q: Is there a Car Share Scheme?

A: Yes but it is acknowledged this needs to be made better use of.

History Group

Jill Kashi gave an update on the newly formed history group.

It has quickly become very clear the area has a long and rich history which we are enjoying uncovering. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along or get in touch and we welcome ideas of where and what you would like us to explore. If you have any local stories, please tell us.

Currently looking at WW1 fallen and surviving soldiers -if you can help, please get in touch - westwoodheathhistory@gmail.com.

Aerial Photos

Display of photos taken this summer, also available on the website.

Traffic

We have obtained details of a survey from 2016, attached. A request to reduce the limit from 40 to 30 mph was declined as the average was 37.7 mph but the survey range shows the method of average is questionable.

Now looking to run our own traffic monitoring and more volunteers needed please.

Concerns about the dangers and traffic from the Smokehouse later in the evening was mentioned.

A46 Link Road

A Freedom of Information request to Solihull MBC from a Burton Green resident was granted after a two year battle and revealed details of Phases 2 and 3. In other words the consultation that has yet to take place is for something that already seems to have been decided. We have reminded and repeated our wish to be involved to the Programme Manager but our most recent communication received no response.

The question was raised to the UoW if they were consulted and yes, initially, they were but they too would like further influence. They would expect to be asked for a contribution so this a long way off from being clear. There are a lot of challenges ahead. A comment was made that the Gibbet Hill Road traffic scheme through campus was certainly not in the interests of local residents.

Planning

The initial tranche for the 425 houses on WHR were passed by both Councils and Section 106 money is awaited, some of which will be used for the Cromwell Lane junction, a crossing and cycle route to Kirby Corner Road and other monies will go to Kenilworth! This is not yet finalised but once it is there is only a further six weeks in which to challenge. Questions were raised to the Councils following legal advice and they remain unanswered but the door is not yet shut.

AOB

Ian has joined KOGG (Keep our Greenbelt Green) for their help with planning issues etc.

Mr FT Lam, a Consultant from UHCW advised of a threat to the pancreatic and liver services in Coventry and is to provide further details on how we can raise concerns eg via our MP or a petition and we will put details on Facebook etc.

Thank you to the new members who joined on the evening, everyone please continue to spread the word and encourage your neighbours to commit and sign up.