



The Counties Residents' Association

Protecting the interests of the community

Minutes of Meeting 4th July 2007

Committee Members Present:-

<i>Helen Zammett</i>	<i>Chairman CRA</i>	<i>HZ</i>
<i>Philip Carnelley</i>	<i>Treasurer CRA</i>	<i>PC</i>
<i>Kate West</i>	<i>Secretary CRA</i>	<i>KW</i>
<i>Malcolm Dowers</i>	<i>Membership/Webmaster CRA</i>	<i>MD</i>
<i>Naomi Passman</i>		<i>NP</i>
<i>Ron Berger</i>		<i>RB</i>
<i>Janet Berger</i>		<i>JB</i>

Guests Present:

Cllr Burgess and Cllr Chan

-
- 1. HZ opened the meeting and gave an overview of the activities since the initial meeting of the CRA in July 2006 (attached)*
 - 2. MD delivered a report on the state of current membership (attached)*
 - 3. PC delivered the Treasurer's report (attached)*
 - 4. KW proposed an amendment to the Constitution by the addition of a new sub clause (c) to the existing clause 8 (revised constitution attached)*
 - 5. As per the terms of the Constitution KW resigned from the committee. There being no other officers proposed MD proposed KW be re-elected to the committee and this was seconded by NP*
 - 6. Any Other Business. Questions were invited from Members present at the meeting and discussed. Including inter alia revisions made to planning applications by applicants; local press articles; the state of the garden at 17 Leicester road (including the tree which is lifting the pavement). In addition it was noted that a copy of the tree preservation report prepared by Peter Studholme for Cllr Burgess has been requested but not received.*

There being no further business the Chairman thanked Cllr Burgess and Cllr Chan for attending as well as the members and the meeting was concluded.

I would like to begin by welcoming Janet and Ron Berger on to our Committee: their particular area of interest is in tree preservation. Also, I welcome Naomi Passman, whose area is planning and property law. We would very much welcome other new Committee members, who could represent their roads. So far, most of the action has been around Leicester and Gloucester Roads but development pressure is anticipated on other parts of the Estate. Having someone who lives in the immediate area is key to opposing the wrong type of development.

Also, I would like to thank the Wanstead Society for their support, information and collaboration, especially the work of Billy Figg and Anne Barlowe.

It has been a busy year since the Association was formed, but as most of our activity has already been reported in the newsletters, I do not intend to repeat it. Therefore I shall merely remind you of the main issues which we have been dealing with:

47 Leicester Road, for which permission was sought to demolish it and build 8 flats. This was refused by both Redbridge and the Bristol inspector. It is important to note that the inspector stated that one of the key factors in denying the application was the large number of local residents who wrote and opposed it.

22a Gloucester Road – the development plans did improve but were finally passed by Redbridge West Regional Planning Committee, although we are still not satisfied with the reasons for the approval and the permitted work has not yet begun.

A report asking for the Counties Estate, the Avenue and Grove Park be added to the Wanstead Conservation Area was presented to the Area One Committee, who supported it and added Grosvenor Road to be considered.

Chepstow. Letters of objection against the original and revised plans have been sent to Redbridge and in collaboration with the Wanstead Society, a petition of almost 400 signatures was compiled, which stated residents' wish that no flats be built on the site. This was presented to the local MD of Telford Homes, with a copy to the Redbridge Planning Department, where it is part of the consideration of the planning application.

Last Monday, 2 July, we held a meeting with Vincent Maher, the Acting Head of Development Control in the Redbridge Planning Department, notes of which are to be posted on our website.

Various issues concerning communication from the Planning Department and planning application procedures were discussed. Of particular note was that we were informed that Marc Dorfman, the Head of Planning and the Cabinet member responsible for planning, had decided that Chepstow should not be granted local listing status.

The conservation status of the Counties Estate, Grosvenor Road, Grove Park and the Avenue is still under consideration. However, as the conservation officer told us last year, the conservation is under resourced and so work cannot be done until next year. We stressed that more urgent action is needed, as we are under severe development pressure.

As far as the Telford planning application for the development of Chepstow is concerned, ~~this is still being processed~~ and will go before the July 26 or August 16 Regulatory Committee, at which we will be speaking in opposition. If anyone wants to attend, it will be held in the Town Hall Council Chamber, starting at 7:15 pm.

I now hand you over to Malcolm Dowers, our membership secretary and webmaster.



The Counties Residents' Association

Protecting the interests of the community

Membership Report Annual General Meeting 4/7/2007

As a result of the Higgins development and spurred on by the threat of 47 Leicester and the fear of Chepstow, during our first year our membership levels rose to over a third of "our patch". As you have heard these threats and fears have been justified and whilst it would be too much to necessarily claim we are winning, we are certainly making a difference.

In order to remain effective, not only in terms of having sufficient funds to meet expenditure, it is essential to maintain a high membership level. As of this morning (only for days into the new year) our membership levels are already half that of last year. We therefore strongly urge all those who have not renewed or joined to do so immediately.

Road	Total Houses	2006-2007		2007-2008	
		Members	Percent	Members	Percent
Buckingham	33	9	27%	1	3%
Gloucester	22	12	55%	9	41%
Hereford	39	17	44%	10	26%
Leicester	37	9	24%	2	5%
Nutter	34	9	26%	6	18%
Preston	33	7	21%	3	9%
Reydon	26	10	38%	8	31%
Rutland	46	13	28%	5	11%
Warwick	45	21	47%	8	18%
Totals	315	107	34%	52	17%
				<i>As of 4/7/07</i>	



The Counties Residents' Association

Protecting the interests of the community

Website Report Annual General Meeting 4/7/2007

We currently have our website hosted by a company called Telivo which provides our association with email addresses and 200mB of webspace. Of this we are using 54% showing that the next lowest package would be insufficient, but that the next highest package is as yet unnecessary. Although we have to renew the hosting annually and the website address two-yearly, we do not anticipate needing to change the hosting package for two years.

The bulk of the website (approx 70%) is for members only, however the committee have provided access to our three local councillors, Harry Cohen MP and the two reporters who often provide coverage of our association. Of the remaining 30%, half is used by the conservation report alone which was felt important enough to remain public.

Of all the information on the website, one quarter is used by the various historic documents, another quarter by the ever increasing amount of correspondence and 15% by the conservation report alone. The remaining 35% is utilised across all the remaining types of information such as financial reports, the members forum, newspaper cuttings etc.

Whilst we are able to keep the website up to date with the latest correspondence etc, we have not had the time to make it as user friendly as we would like. We therefore repeat our request made last year, and within several of our newsletters, for anyone with web experience to lend a hand, possibly even for just a one off maintenance task of tidying up.

The Counties Residents' Association

Treasurer's Report

In 2006/7 we managed to get over a quarter of the 300 households on our 'patch' signed up as members, great news. However, as our fees are modest, the resultant income of £376 was not quite enough to cover the costs for the first year (2006-7). Consequently, this year (2007-8), many renewing members have generously given a little extra, as a donation, which has meant that we can clear our deficit for last year (approx £100).

Nonetheless our expenditure has been modest. The most significant single item is the website hosting service, which costs around £60 per year. We have also made several small purchases of documents – mainly maps – to scan for the website or for reference in our campaigning work. In total, printing and stationery items have been the main outgoings. These fall into two main buckets: first, there is printing of membership forms, notices to members, newsletters etc., which has cost about £200. Second, a one-off in this first year was the production of the (very well-received) Conservation Report to Redbridge Council, costing about £60. Costs have been kept low by use of our own printing equipment wherever possible, which means, for example, that we can print an A3 colour sheet for 12p, rather than the commercial copy-shop rate of 75p.

In 2007-8 I don't expect that expenditure will be as high as our start-up year, but income will depend heavily on current members' willingness to sign up for another year. As can be seen, member subs this year to date (i.e., renewals) are already 46% of last year's figure, as at 1st July, so the signs are very promising.

CRA Accounts summary statement

1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007

Income

Membership subs - 2006/7 year	£ 376.00
Membership subs - 2007/8 year	£ 176.00
Donations (May/Jun 07)	£ 91.00
	<hr/>
	£ 643.00

Expenditure

Website - hosting etc	£ 129.26
Materials for website etc	£ 56.19
Printing & Stationery	£ 264.98
AGM (2006)	£ 34.93
	<hr/>
	£ 485.36

Balance at 30/6/2007	£ 157.64
-----------------------------	-----------------

Philip Carnelley
Hon Treasurer
2 July 2007