

Notes of the meeting with local Residents Groups representatives on
Wednesday 8th September 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)
David Spilsbury (CHNF)
Professor Carolyn Hicks (Russell Road Residents Association)
Hazel Churchill (Moorcroft Road)
Professor Peter Spurgeon (Russell Road)
Robin Neall (Hemisphere)
Thomas Latham (Wickets Tower)
Colin Povey (Chief Executive, WCCC)
Phil Macdonald – (Project Director, WCCC)
Delphine Roe (Member)
Simon Turner – Birmingham City Council
Jonathon Haw – Galliford Try Construction

Action

1 Apologies and Introduction

Apologies had been received from, Mazar Dad (CHNF) and Roger Howlings (Birmingham Sheltered Housing Committee)

Mr Burn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr Nation, Mr Spilsbury and Professor Hicks all wished to be make it clear in the notes that they did not recognize the validity of the meeting but were there to represent the interests of local residents.

2 Notes of last meeting

Notes of the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed that they represented an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Matters Arising

Mr Macdonald confirmed that he had spoken to Mr Rehman at a recent Sparkbrook Ward meeting. Mr Rehman had been invited to telephone Mr Macdonald or the Chief Executive directly if any further issues arose from noise emanating from evening events at the Club. No further incidents had been reported.

Mr Macdonald confirmed that he had checked the position with regard to the use of the tannoy and any supplementary amplified sound systems for cricket

matches and could state that there had been no change to the quantity of speakers or volume for this season. The increase in volume experienced by Mr Sarathy remained unexplained. Mr Turner explained that, as part of the planning decision, amplified noise from the new stand was a conditioned item. This would be looked at in detail prior to use of the new facilities. **ST**

Mr Turner confirmed that he had discussed the matter of attendance at the meetings of a representative from Environmental Health but that they felt that, as their role was to deal with specific incidents then their attendance would not be appropriate. Mr Turner would continue to act as a liaison where it was relevant. **ST**

Mr Spilsbury commented that he had experienced significant noise in his garden in the build up to the recent Pakistan v Australia T20 internationals. Mr Povey commented that this was part of the nature of staging international events and that crowd noise and atmosphere are part of Edgbaston's routine business and , as such, not manageable. These matches were atypical as they involved Pakistan as the home team. It had been decided that for these relatively short duration matches our normal policy of allowing human powered instruments into the ground would apply. The increased use of horns at the recent football World Cup had led to an increase in their use and, with more design/production input, the volume of noise generated. In light of this, it had been decided not to allow their use at the rest of the international fixtures for the season. This policy would be reviewed annually in light of the fixtures and teams involved. There was a debate about the 'announcer' encouraging crowd participation but the Club confirmed that this was not the case. **CP**

There was a debate about parking on major match days. It was accepted that the normal arrangements did not work well for the above T20 internationals. In particular, 'no parking' zones were ignored and the Club was unable to get the City Council to respond with enforcement officers quickly enough. This was rectified for the matches that followed with both the Police and enforcement officers in attendance. This resolved many of the difficulties but some specific issues still remained

- Parking by unauthorized personnel in front of the shops and in Raglan Road.
- Incorrect coning of the 'no parking' zone in Moorcroft Road
- Notice received by residents of the 'no parking' zones
- Lack of spaces for local residents later in the day/on return from work
- Congestion levels in the lead up to the match increasing local journey times

The first 3 of these items would be addressed again by the Club before any major matches next season. The Club is committed work with the local council and the Police to tackle the more general issues in 4 and 5 as well as the further implementation of the strategy of discouraging the use of cars by encouraging visitors to use other transport methods. This item will be added as a separate agenda item for future meetings. **CP/PM**

Mr Allen commented on the disruption to traffic flows caused by licensed taxis stopping on Pershore Road. Mr Povey confirmed that this issue should be resolved once the new development was completed and the Edgbaston Road entrance fully operational once again. Any residual issues would need to be

tackled by the Police.

4. Update on the development

Mr Haw confirmed that the build programme remained on schedule. The majority of the steelwork had now been erected and cladding and floor installation was well under way.

Mr Allen reiterated his thanks from his wife regarding access along Edgbaston Road and the new arrangements.

Mr Povey suggested members might like the opportunity to tour the site and new building. For this to be practical it would need to be carried out at lunchtime and in small groups. Possible dates will be identified and notified.

CP

It was agreed that progress would continue to be reported on our website along with the posting of the 'fly through'. This would, along with the regular publication of 'Outside Edg', enable local residents to be kept updated on the development.

PM

5. Floodlights

Mr Macdonald gave a summary of the background to the adoption of the current style of floodlights including the reasons why a fixed pole design had been chosen as opposed to retractable lights. The key issues if straight poles had been selected were additional height to meet required safety angles, additional bulk of the retractable poles, poles only retract to 29/30m, increased number of lamps (further from pitch) and increased light spillage. Copies of a report prepared by Peter Wright of Birmingham City Council for council members were made available.

The Club had recently submitted a Section 96a minor amendments planning application to deal with the removal of platforms, ladders and framing from the floodlight heads as well as a rebalancing of the number of lamps per head. This had come about primarily because of a change in the way maintenance would be carried out. Detailed drawings were tabled comparing the original and new designs. After looking at the proposed changes on it was agreed that this was an improvement over the original layout as there would be less metalwork on the heads.

Mr Nation and Professor Hicks requested confirmation that the floodlights would not be used to facilitate the staging of a pop concert at the ground. Both Mr Povey and Mr Gascoigne reassured them that there were no current plans to stage a concert and indeed the use of the lights was the subject of a planning restriction which only allowed them to be used for cricket. This matter had been discussed at previous meetings and whilst the current senior officers of the Club could reassure members of the current position, they could not commit those who may follow in these roles to anything in perpetuity.

6. Any Other Business

Mr Spilsbury commented on coverage of the Club's involvement with the community and, in particular, schools but was disappointed that the examples given in Outside Edg were some distance from the ground. Mr Povey was

supportive of the objective to be further involved with the very local community. Mr Spilsbury agreed to provide some further information as to what might be helpful and a contact name.

DS

Professor Hicks said she believed that evening play finishes earlier in the evening at Lords and asked whether a similar arrangement here would be considered. Mr Povey said that it may be that Lord's planning conditions for the operation of lights were different but that he believed the Edgbaston conditions that had been applied were appropriate. She also raised a question about the constitution of the meeting. There was a brief debate in which several long standing members of the group expressed the view that they were satisfied with the current arrangements.

Mr Allen asked if the Club now owned the old dentist premises (320 Pershore Road) as it appeared to be empty and had only very recently been boarded up. Mr Macdonald confirmed that it was now in Club ownership.

PM

Mr Haw confirmed that a quarter of the specialist workforce currently employed on site lived in Birmingham. Galliford Try were looking to increase the number of local employees as further trades became involved with the build process.

JH

7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17th November 2010 at 6.30pm