

Notes of the meeting with local Residents Groups representatives on
Tuesday 15th June 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)
Hazel Churchill (Moorcroft Road)
Professor Peter Spurgeon (Russell Road)
Roger Howlings (Birmingham Sheltered Housing Committee)
Robin Neall (Hemisphere)
Thomas Latham (Wickets Tower)
Phil Macdonald – (Project Director, WCCC)
Delphine Roe (Member)
Simon Turner – Birmingham City Council

Action

1 Apologies and Introduction

Apologies had been received from Colin Povey, Warwickshire County Cricket Club, Mazar Dad, Cannon Hill Neighbourhood Forum and Councillor Emily Cox. Mr Burn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Notes of last meeting

Notes of the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Nation asked for it to be made clear in the notes that he did not recognize the validity of the meeting but was there to represent the interests of local residents.

3 Matters Arising

Mr Allen passed on his thanks from his wife regarding access along Edgbaston Road and the new arrangements. The residents from Boundary House were pleased with the latest edition of Outside Edg and thanked the Club for both the information and the voucher for county match days.

There was a debate about floodlights and the Club's offer to meet with representatives of CHNF and BHF. The Club confirmed the offer to meet and review the background but it was agreed that CHNF and BHF needed to agree on a way forward between themselves before such a meeting could be held. **CHNF/BHF**

It was agreed that the Residents Liaison Group would be able to help identify any operational issues arising out of the use of the lights once installed.

Mr Atkinson tabled a letter of complaint from a local resident, Mr Abdullah Rehman, concerning noise from events at the Club in the evenings and nights. Mr Macdonald undertook to investigate and respond. Mr Turner said he would discuss the matter with his colleagues in the Environmental Health Department as he believed that they had previously received a complaint from Mr Rehman.

PM

ST

Mr Sarathy complained that the noise from the tannoy and, in particular, amplified music was excessive this season. Both Mr Burn and Mr Gascoigne expressed surprise as they had believed that this had been much reduced this year. Mr Macdonald undertook to review the tannoy set up.

PM

Mr Nation and Mr Sarathy suggested that a representative from the Environmental Health Department should be invited to attend the meetings. Mr Burn agreed that this may be helpful but felt that it may be difficult for them to attend given their 'policing' role. Mr Turner agreed to discuss with the relevant City Council personnel.

ST

Mr Nation accused Mr Turner of being biased in favour of the club. Mr Turner expressed his great disappointment with this statement. There was widespread support for Mr Turner's good reputation from other members of the meeting and Ms Roe made it clear that in her long dealings with the City Council she had always found the officers to be totally impartial. Mr Howlings expressed his disappointment that Mr Nation had made such a personal and inappropriate remark, the tenor of which was much against the positive spirit of cooperation that had evolved between all parties at the meetings.

There was a debate about spectators parking in local roads when attending matches. Mr Macdonald confirmed that research was being undertaken this season to explore how visitors travelled to the ground and why. This would help inform the travel plan that the Club is preparing as part of the planning conditions. The current situation is that for major matches and some T20 matches the Club arranges for off site car parks to supplement the on site parking. Parking restrictions and road closures are put in place which require a temporary traffic order to be obtained from the City Council and a contract with a specialist company to place cones and install barriers. The objective being to deter inconsiderate parking to the extent that there are still some local spaces available to residents and ensure that access for emergency vehicles is maintained. In recent years Mr Macdonald had visited local streets on every major match day to check that the objectives were being met. In his view the objectives were now being met and the situation has improved over recent years. In particular, there was a marked change during last year's Ashes Test Match compared to the situation in 2005. There was general agreement that, for major matches, the situation had improved but there remained issues around some T20 and 40 overs domestic matches. It was agreed that the Club would ask our counterparts at Worcestershire CCC to encourage their supporters to use public transport/arranged coaches as strongly as possible. The Club would also continue with it's communications to all visitors to the ground to be considerate when arriving and leaving and not to use a car as transport wherever possible.

4. Update on the development

Mr Macdonald confirmed that the good progress reported at the previous meeting was continuing. Piling had been completed and most of the pile caps were now in place. Installation of the lift/stair cores on phase one (nearest the Eric Hollies Stand) had started and steelwork erection would commence in the last week of June.

Mr Atkinson and Mr Sarathy enquired about local jobs being created by the construction. Mr Macdonald confirmed that, at this stage, most of the labour on site was involved in specialist ground/concrete assembly work undertaken by the staff of specialist sub contractors. Galliford Try had undertaken to appoint local sub contractors wherever practical and they had just appointed a local 'Mechanical and Electrical' contractor based in Sutton Coldfield. Galliford Try had taken on 2 local people to support their site operation and had meetings with the City Council's Employment Access Team and locally based Jericho Foundation. It was expected that further local employment would be forthcoming as more trades became involved in the construction.

GTC

5. Any Other Business

Ms Roe asked if a better table/seating arrangement could be in place for the next meeting as the layout for this meeting made inclusive debate difficult.

PM

Mr Howlings asked about arrangements to deal with crowds exiting the ground for the forthcoming T20 matches between Australia and Pakistan. Mr Macdonald confirmed that detailed discussions were being held with the Police on this matter.

Mr Sarathy confirmed that he thought it would be a good idea for someone from the Environmental Health Department to attend the meetings and that the Club should do more to discourage visitors from using cars and discourage parking in local streets. Mr Sarathy also commented that the group should continue to monitor the balance between the positive actions being undertaken by the Club and the interests of local residents to see that it continues to move in a positive direction. Mr Atkinson indicated that in conjunction with Mr Nation and Mr Sarathy they would try to bring some further suggestions around parking issues to the next meeting.

CHNF/BHF

Mr Allen and Mr Howlings agreed that there was a good opportunity to record at meetings during the season any issues arising from matches which could then be dealt with during the winter.

Hazel Churchill was still concerned over parking in Moorcroft Road. Mr Macdonald confirmed that parking restrictions would be in place for the major matches including the T20 match against Worcestershire. It was confirmed that it was the City Council's responsibility to enforce any restrictions.

Mr Nation asked if the Club would confirm that it would not use the floodlights to help stage other events. Mr Turner confirmed that there was a

planning condition restricting use to cricket matches only. Mr Gascoigne confirmed that the Club would continue to adhere to any planning conditions that are in place both now and into the future.

PM

Mr Allen suggested that it would be good for the group to have a tour of the new facilities once completed. This would be arranged.

Mr Latham enquired about smoking facilities being provided in the new development. Mr Burn thought that the Club would continue it's current policy of no smoking within the seating bowl or in internal spaces and the provision of specific 'smoking' locations. Mr Howlings asked if consideration could be given for these locations to include some form of shelter.

PM

6. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17th August 2010