

Notes of the meeting with local Residents Groups representatives on  
Tuesday 23rd August 2011 at Edgbaston

Present: Terry Allen (Boundary House)  
Vijay Sarathy (CHNF)  
David Spilsbury (CHNF)  
Professor Carolyn Hicks(Russell Road RA)  
Leo Nation (CHNF)  
Roger Howlings (Birmingham Sheltered Housing Committee)  
Hazel Churchill (Moorcroft Road)  
Thomas Latham (Wickets Tower) (arrived at 7.15)  
Clinton Davies (Cannon Hill and South Edgbaston Tasking Force)  
Tony Steer (Cannon Hill and South Edgbaston Tasking Force)  
Cllr Deirdre Alden (Edgbaston Ward)  
Cllr Martin Mullaney (Moseley & Kings Heath Ward)  
Cllr Tony Kennedy (Sparkbrook)  
Simon Turner (Birmingham City Council)  
Norman Gascoigne(Chairman, WCCC)  
Andrew Burn (Committee member, WCCC) Chairman  
Phil Macdonald (Project Director, WCCC)  
Sue Hitchin (Edgbaston Ward)

**Action**

**1 Apologies and Introduction**

Mr Burn welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Colin Povey (Chief Executive, WCCC) and Delphine Roe (Member).

Mr Burn welcomed several new members to the group including representatives from each of the local wards.

**2 Notes of last meeting**

The notes of the last meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June had been circulated and posted on the Club's website.

**3 Matters Arising**

Mr Burn suggested that, rather than dealing with any specific matters arising, he would ask Mr Macdonald to provide a report on the recent Test Match and to confirm the arrangements for the T20 Finals Day on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

Mr Macdonald confirmed that

- a. Attendance had been between 20000 and 22000 each day
- b. Road closures and parking restrictions had been implemented as agreed in previous meetings. Daily inspections had taken place to confirm that physical equipment had been deployed by the Club's sub-contractor
- c. Road closures worked generally as intended, reducing spectator parking in most areas and leaving spaces available for local residents

- d. There were issues with the spectators ignoring the 'no parking' cones. The latest statutory cones were smaller than those used in previous years. There was also a doubt about whether the necessary orders had been fully processed by the Council and this may have hindered enforcement.
- e. The shuttle buses were used by approximately 3000 people per day. Mr Burn confirmed that he had used scheduled buses and these were also very busy.
- f. Parking was provided on site and off site at Cannon Hill redgra, Priory School and Calthorpe Park, nearly 2000 spaces in total. Spare spaces were available on every day.
- g. Taxis used one lane of Edgbaston Road at the end of each day. In general this did not cause congestion but there were safety issues with taxis undertaking 'u-turns' into the oncoming traffic flows. This had already been raised with the representative from TOA and the Police.

Mr Macdonald advised that the same arrangements would be in place for the T20 Finals Day with the exception of the Cannon Hill redgra area which was being used for a fair. This had been replaced with the artificial surface areas off Holders lane.

Responding to a question from Mr Allen, it was confirmed that there was a reserve day for the T20 Finals Day. No finals day had gone to the reserve day so far and everything possible would be done to ensure that both the semi-finals and final are completed on Saturday.

Mr Howlings was concerned about the clash of events with the fair in the park. Mr Macdonald confirmed that the dates of major match days were shared with the Council as soon as they were known to try to avoid this happening. Due to the tight schedule this year the Finals day coincided with the August Bank Holiday weekend and therefore it was inevitable that it would coincide with other local events.

Mr Nation acknowledged that there appeared to be a welcome move away from car use for the major matches but was concerned that this was not the case with domestic T20 matches. This matter had been discussed before and a number of initiatives identified. It was agreed that the Club would bring forward proposals for these matches for further discussion during the winter.

Professor Hicks endorsed the efforts being made to encourage the move away from car use and proposed that perhaps more 'stick' should be employed. Mr Macdonald confirmed that the Club was committed to reducing car use and that this was already having a significant effect. The Club would continue to develop and promote alternative transport methods but did not want to impose any restrictions that would deter people from coming to Edgbaston.

Cllr Kennedy advised the group that he had been involved with the parking provisions implemented around Aston Villa and wondered if there were any lessons to be taken from that experience. Mr Macdonald confirmed that the Club had sought advice on this matter and details of the implementation of this scheme but it had been felt that, for the limited number of days where such a scheme would be operational, the disruption to local residents would be onerous. Mr Kennedy indicated that it had taken a couple of years to 'bed' the

system down at Aston Villa.

Mr Allen asked why there had been no enforcement of the restricted parking areas on Sir Harrys Road. Cllr Alden advised that she believed that the necessary orders had not been fully processed within the Council. The Police had also mentioned this at a previous meeting. Ms Churchill thought that some notices had been issued in Moorcroft Road although the 'coning' had not been deployed all the way up to the Reddings Road junction. Mr Macdonald undertook to investigate what had happened as the Club had already paid the Council for these to be implemented.

Mr Nation asked why the Club had been allowed to use Calthorpe Park for parking. Mr Macdonald confirmed that parking on the eastern side of the River Rea (Cheddar Road) had been proposed by the Council to help alleviate traffic congestion around the ground. There were some strong feelings expressed about the loss of public amenity. Cllr Mullaney pointed out that similar arrangements were in place at many parks in the city to support a wide range of events. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed further during the winter.

Mr Nation asked about the 'non crowd' noise during the Test Match. Mr Macdonald confirmed that there had been some entertainment provided in the food and beverage areas including in the marquee. There would be similar entertainment provided at the T20 Finals day but steps were being taken to both reduce the volume and alter the orientation which would reduce the impact outside of the ground. Mr Sarathy felt that this noise was 'unnecessary' but Mr Macdonald confirmed that this type of entertainment was now a required part of staging major sporting events.

Mr Macdonald advised that there was a short pyrotechnic display at the end of the final on Saturday evening. This was expected to be at around 9.30 and focused on a visual display rather than noise which would be kept to a minimum.

Cllr Kennedy advised that he had received a number of communications from residents about litter in the streets after the Test Match. He also confirmed that he had visited the local area on 3 occasions during the match and found the parking to be acceptable.

#### **4. Update on the development**

Mr Macdonald reported that the building had been completed in time for the major events. There was a list of 'snagging' items to be addressed by the contractor but the building had worked very well during the Test Match.

#### **5. Floodlights**

Mr Macdonald reported that the floodlights had now been used successfully for 3 evening matches. They had also been used during the daytime during the Test Match to try to supplement the natural light. The lights will also be used for the final on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

Mr Turner confirmed that he had received the detailed light level readings from the Club's contractor which were in line or better than those submitted at

planning. Mr Sarathy asked for a copy of the readings.

PM

Mr Macdonald confirmed that some minor adjustments were being carried out to deal a couple of areas of unevenness on the outfield.

**5. Parking and Transport**

It was agreed that we had covered this item earlier in the meeting.

**6. Noise**

It was agreed that we had covered this item earlier in the meeting.

**7. Employment**

Mr Macdonald confirmed that, as the building was completed, there were no further construction jobs on the site until the mixed use development commenced.

The Club had formed a joint venture with Compass to market and deliver catering at the ground. Several new full time posts had been created. Casual staff required for events held at the ground were recruited from the surrounding area and there were currently 572 people on file.

**8. Any Other Business**

Mr Sarathy asked about the timescales for the mixed use development. Mr Turner confirmed that he had so far received 2 applications from MCD dealing primarily with residential housing and flats and was expecting a 3rd to deal with the food deck area. The details of this application had been presented to the 3 local wards and been subject to 2 exhibitions at the local church hall. Consultation letters had been sent out inviting comments by the 8th September 2011.

Mr Nation asked about the compulsory acquisition by the Council of 2 properties on Pershore Road. Mr Macdonald confirmed that a Public Inquiry was scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> October. It was clear that those members living close to the properties had received notification but others living further away had not. Mr Turner explained that this was a separate process to planning and that different criteria were applied with regard to consultation.

Mr Nation reiterated that he and other representatives from CHNF did not recognise the meeting as a properly constituted body but were present to represent the interests of local residents

**9. Date of next meetings**

The date of the next meeting is 5th October 2011.