

Notes of the meeting with local Residents Groups representatives on
Wednesday 6th April 2011 at Edgbaston

Present: Terry Allen (Boundary House)
Vijay Sarathy (CHNF)
David Spilsbury (CHNF)
Professor Carolyn Hicks(Russell Road RA)
Delphine Roe (Member)
Roger Howlings (Birmingham Sheltered Housing Committee)
Hazel Churchill (Moorcroft Road)
Robin Neall (Hemisphere)
Thomas Latham (Wickets Tower)
Norman Gascoigne(Chairman, WCCC)
Andrew Burn (Committee member, WCCC) Chairman
Colin Povey (Chief Executive, WCCC)
Phil Macdonald (Project Director, WCCC)
Simon Turner (Birmingham City Council)
Jonathon Haw (Galliford Try Construction)

Action

1 Apologies and Introduction

Mr Burn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Notes of last meeting

The notes of the last meeting held on the 26th January were approved.

3 Matters Arising

Mr Povey's confirmed that the Club had been in contact with Zhor Malik and was expecting to provide some help with wickets this season particularly in 'putting them to bed' at the end of the season.

The provisional date for the live testing of the floodlights is week commencing 16th May. Confirmation of the actual date and invitations to group members would be posted out.

PM

The next 'Inside Edg' would be produced in late April.

Responding to a question from Mr Howlings, Mr Povey confirmed that local residents would be invited to a launch event, likely to be the 15th July (T20 match) or the 26th July (CB40 match) to enable them to see the new facilities. It was also likely to extend an invite to attend the England v South Africa under 19 match on Saturday 16th July.

CP

4. Update on the development

Mr Macdonald confirmed that the main entrance and banqueting room was now watertight and all of the floors had been cast. Mr Haw advised that internal fitting out was progressing rapidly in the other parts of the building. Responding to a question from Mr Allen, Mr Macdonald confirmed that the building was still on target for completion on the 1st July 2011.

Mr Haw confirmed that the Section 278 works were to start in mid April. This would involve the reinstatement of the pavement kerbs, relaying of the pavement and the making good the area between the back of pavement and the new building. A minimum pedestrian width of 1500mm would be maintained throughout the works which would take approximately 4 weeks. Mr Haw confirmed that this width would be suitable for a mobility scooter.

Galliford Try had been approached by Creation Skatepark (a registered charity) for help with their park in Moseley Road and have agreed to provide the sheets and support timbers used in the roadside hoardings for use in the construction of new ramps.

Mr Povey confirmed that the new outfield drainage, irrigation and re-turfing was now fully complete.

Several members of the group reported that they had visited the consultation event, showcasing the plans for the enabling development, held by MCD at St Ambrose Church Hall. Feedback was generally very positive but concern had been expressed about the height of the multi-storey car park and any consequential effect on light for the buildings on the other side of Pershore Road. It was confirmed that the Club would always have access to 350 car parking spaces both whilst the development took place and once it was completed.

Mr Povey confirmed that the Club had recently completed a further purchase of a house on Pershore Road leaving only 2 houses to acquire. It was expected that the City Council would make and publicise a compulsory purchase order for the remaining 2 properties in the next few weeks. Some good progress was being made with the owner of one of the properties, who was being shown some alternative housing by the Club's property agent, Savills. It was hoped that a mutually acceptable agreement could be reached on this matter.

5. Parking and Transport

Mr Povey circulated a document confirming the details of the Club's suggested plans for spectator travel for major match days. These provide a comprehensive and timely approach to the issue and include proposals for car parking, road closures and no parking zones, information to be included with tickets, public transport arrangements and shuttle buses.

There was a wide ranging discussion with the following key points highlighted

Enforcement – it was agreed that early liaison with the parking enforcement team at the City Council and the Police, both community and match support team, was necessary to help make the road closure and no parking zones be effective. Mr Allen had already spoken to the Community Team and Mr Macdonald had raised the issue with the Police representatives at the Safety Advisory Group meeting.

PM/CP

Taxis – both the Club and local Police were to contact local taxi representatives to ensure that waiting areas did not cause obstruction to the highway.

CP

Satnavs – it was acknowledged that some systems were not helpful in that they directed visitors through local streets. Further instructions would be provided with tickets to help alleviate the problem.

Coverage – it was agreed that we would add Beaconsfield Road and Strenshaw Road to the list of roads to be requested closed on Major Match days and that we would endeavor to extend the no parking zone to include one side of Edgbaston Road from Salisbury Road to the island at the junction with Mary Street.

PM/CP

It was agreed by everyone that this approach was very encouraging. Mr Povey asked for any further comments and suggestions be forwarded to his office via his PA, Julie Moseley.

It was agreed that, once finalized, full details of the measures would be publicized locally through 'Outside Edg' and on the Club's website.

PM

Other issues identified for the future included the investigation of park and ride based on peripherally located sites such as the Maypole and Longbridge

Mr Macdonald confirmed that all of the above measures along with targeted reduction levels and survey times to establish progress were included within the Travel Plan being agreed with the City Council.

6. Noise

Mr Povey confirmed that the Club was to ban musical instruments, with the exception of the sole trumpeter, for the Test Match this season. This measure was widely and enthusiastically welcomed. The position for the T20 Finals Day was still to be decided.

CP

Mr Macdonald confirmed that sound level readings would be taken at the Test Match, a domestic T20 match and a floodlit 40 over game and a report brought to the meeting.

PM

7. Employment

Mr Haw confirmed that, so far, 1340 individuals had received induction training to work on the site. Of this total, many of whom were specialist trades, 28% lived in 'B' postcodes. This represented an increase in local employment of over 130 people since the last meeting. On any day up to 220 people were working within the site.

Mr Povey confirmed that the Club's stewarding provider, Recruit Event Services, were currently renewing their employee list for this year and would be undertaking some local employment as part of this process. Figures would be confirmed at the next meeting.

CP

8. Any Other Business

Mr Allen was concerned that contractors working on our stadium were parking in front of the shops creating problems for the local residents. Mr Haw confirmed that he had been monitoring this and placing someone to check what was happening. A strong message had been given to all sub-contractors not to park in this area and the situation would continue to be monitored.

JH

Professor Hicks asked if a contact number could be provided for local residents if they had a concern with any issues when matches were being staged. Mr Povey confirmed that a telephone number would be included in 'Outside Edg' for local people to be able to contact the Club.

CP

Ms Roe asked how the meeting was reported within the Club's management structure. Mr Gascoigne confirmed that copies of the notes and any issues arising were discussed by the Club's Management Committee. Both he, as chairman of the Club, and Mr Burn were members of that committee and were able to comment in detail on issues raised. Relevant issues were also discussed at the Safety Advisory Group meetings chaired by the City Council.

Mr Povey advised the group that the Club were working with Small Heath School to develop a curriculum friendly model for pupils to use our new visitor centre/museum and possibly set up a classroom on site.

Mr Sarathy inquired as to the current status of the mechanism to allocate major matches to grounds. Mr Povey confirmed that the policy of bidding for matches was under active review with a new framework likely to be agreed towards the end of the cricket season. This framework was likely to see 'soft' issues such as the matchday spectator experience and 'cricket legacy' take a higher priority than the more finance driven situation of the recent past. It was likely that the end result would see the 'larger' matches go to the bigger grounds once again. The announcement of the new framework should coincide with confirmation of further international match days for Edgbaston through to 2016.

Mr Spilsbury asked if the Club were aware of the comprehensive photograph archive held at the City library. Due to the relocation of the library, this archive would be closing in July 2011 and reopening in 2013. Mr Povey confirmed that he would pass on the information to the Club's curator to see if we had any requirements to access the archive.

9. **Date of next meetings**

The date of the next meeting is 22nd June 2011.