

Notes of the meeting with local Residents Groups representatives on
Wednesday 22nd June 2011 at Edgbaston

Present: Terry Allen (Boundary House)
Vijay Sarathy (CHNF)
David Spilsbury (CHNF)
Professor Carolyn Hicks(Russell Road RA) (left the meeting at 7.15)
Leo Nation (CHNF)
Delphine Roe (Member)
Roger Howlings (Birmingham Sheltered Housing Committee)
Hazel Churchill (Moorcroft Road)
Thomas Latham (Wickets Tower) (arrived at 7.30)
Norman Gascoigne(Chairman, WCCC)
Andrew Burn (Committee member, WCCC) Chairman
Phil Macdonald (Project Director, WCCC)

Action

1 Apologies and Introduction

Mr Burn welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Colin Povey (Chief Executive, WCCC), Simon Turner (Birmingham City Council), Jonathon Haw (Galliford Try Construction) and Dick Atkinson (Balsall Heath Forum).

2 Notes of last meeting

The notes of the last meeting held on the 26th January were approved. It was noted that under section 5 it should read 'Strensham Road' not 'Strenshaw Road'.

3 Matters Arising

It was confirmed that, via th next issue of Outside Edg, all local residents would be invited to attend the England v South Africa under 19 match on Saturday 16th July. This would be free on production of the Outside Edg voucher.

Mr Macdonald confirmed that a direct telephone number, 07974 362960, would be published in 'Outside Edg'. This number should be used to contact the Club if a local resident needed assistance with any issue arising from an event being staged at the ground.

Mr Nation asked why Oakfield Road had not been added to the list of road closures agreed at the previous meeting. On looking at the detailed maps it was agreed that this had been an oversight. Mr Macdonald undertook to see if it could now be added. It was also agreed that a review of the parking in the streets immediately adjacent to those with closures would be undertaken during the upcoming Test Match.

PM

PM

4. Update on the development

Mr Macdonald reported that the building was still due to be completed on schedule. The contractors are currently laying carpets in the member's areas, power is on in phase 1 and 2, the terracing is now complete and the external paving is continuing. Internal works are progressing and cleaning is now underway. The remaining floor coverings are also progressing in all areas and ceilings are now being closed in.

5. Floodlights

Mr Macdonald reported that the floodlights had now been tested after dark on three occasions. More testing was scheduled for w/c 4th July. This would include some late afternoon testing to assess the effect of the floodlights in dealing with bad light during Test Matches. There was a possibility that, at those grounds with suitable lights, the floodlighting could be used this summer to ensure that normal hours could be played.

Mr Allen had attended the first night testing and expressed his satisfaction with the new lights and the control of light spillage. Mr Nation reported that he had received a complaint from a resident in Eastwood Road and Mr Spilsbury was disappointed that there was still some spillage and glare to be seen outside of the stadium. Mr Latham reported that there was no discernable spillage on the Pershore Road around the tower blocks. Mr Sarathy commented that whilst the old temporary floodlights lit up the whole area it was clear that the permanent ones had decreased the radius of any light spillage but also reported that the house opposite to his showed some light spill.

Mr Macdonald confirmed that there were still some adjustments to be made and further testing to be carried out. Comprehensive light spillage readings were being taken and would be submitted to the planning department for comparison against the figures submitted at the application stage. He would ask Mr Turner to comment on these at the next meeting.

PM

5. Parking and Transport

This item had been taken earlier, out of sequence, at Professor Hicks request as she had to leave early.

An update on progress on the items presented at the last meeting had been circulated with the agenda. This confirmed all of the actions being taken directly by the Club with regard to transport and parking at the major matches for 2011. Details of the road closures and parking restrictions would be printed in the next issue of 'Outside Edg' which would be distributed in early July.

Mr Macdonald reported that action to deal with issues around enforcement, local Police attendance and taxis were to be addressed at a meeting organized by PC Simon Wilson and taking place at the Club on the 11th July at 10.00am. Mr Allen was already attending and it was suggested that a couple of representatives from members of the group living on the east side of the ground should also attend.

Mr Macdonald advised the group that the Chief Executive was meeting with the Police with regard to officer attendance at upcoming matches and would also discuss presence in local streets.

CP

Both Professor Hicks and Mr Nation reported heavy traffic congestion on the day of T20 match against Nottinghamshire on the 8th June. It was believed that this had arisen due to a clash with an event in Highbury Park as the attendance levels at the match would not normally cause any such delays.

Ms Churchill reported that there had been extensive parking on both sides of Moorcroft Road and on Russell Road as a result of the match on Friday against Worcestershire. It was agreed that the Club needed to look again at the arrangements for T20 matches.

PM

6. Noise

As reported at the last meeting, Mr Macdonald confirmed that sound level readings would be taken at the Test Match, a domestic T20 match and a floodlit 40 over game in order to compare and set some benchmarks.

PM

Mr Allen and Mr Howlings reported that the newly re-opened pub was causing them more noise issues than events at the Club. Mr Sarathy, Mr Nation and Mr Spilsbury all reported their objection to the music and host noise from T20 matches. Mr Macdonald explained that there was a package of entertainment defined by the ECB to help promote T20 to younger audiences that was used nationwide. It was accepted that the Club will try to limit the use of any music packages to the minimum time windows.

It was reported that at one match that the 'DJ' had started 'testing' with music some time before the start of the match. Mr Macdonald agreed to check into this and also ensure that the clear instruction that this was not to happen was followed. *(Post meeting note: On checking the club is able to confirm that early testing has not occurred on any occasion)*

PM

Mr Gascoigne advised the group that there would now be a reduction in the number of T20 home matches from 8 in 2011 to 5 in 2012.

At this point the Chairman suggested that we address the letter received from Mr Atkinson regarding issues being experienced by Mr Rehman, a resident in Raglan Road. The letter contained 3 specific issues

1. Events are still being staged in the marquee with music until 12.00. Mr Macdonald explained that the Club were in compliance with the license, and that the City Council had overseen the installation of noise limiting equipment. It was difficult to see how anything further could be done. But the marquee would cease to be used once the new building was open and therefore this issue would shortly end.
2. Noise from the match played on Sunday 19th had been 'horrible'. Mr Gascoigne explained that this had been a family day which started at 11.00am and finished at 5.00pm. There was a children's play area on the grass at the north end of the ground which may have added to the general noise from the match. This type of family day typically only occurs

once or twice a year.

3. After the previous week's T20 matches people had been urinating in the street and house gardens and being loud and abusive. Mr Burn suggested that, as this broke the law, that we should see if we could get the Police to address this type of behaviour. It was agreed that the matter would be taken up with the Police at the meeting on the 11th July.

Mr Macdonald undertook to respond to Mr Atkinson on behalf of the Club.

7. Employment

Mr Haw had provided an update for the meeting and Mr Macdonald confirmed that, so far, 1877 inductions carried out of which 608 reside within a Birmingham Post Code Area (32% in total).

Mr Macdonald confirmed that the Club's stewarding provider, Recruit Event Services, had recruited 35 new stewards since March with 15 living in the immediate vicinity of the ground.

Once the new facilities were opened the Club would be able to report on the new positions created as part of the expanded business.

8. Any Other Business

Mr Sarathy commented on the progress that was being made by the Club in trying to address the issues being raised in the meetings. There were improvements in various areas and in particular communication.

Mr Nation asked about the timescale for the reserve matters planning application to be made by the Club's development partner MCD for the first phase of the enabling development. Mr Macdonald advised that, whilst he did not have the planned date, MCD were now going through a process of consultation with the local Wards and thought it likely that the application would be submitted in the next couple of months.

Mr Nation asked about the situation with the 2 properties on Pershore Road. Mr Macdonald confirmed that the City Council had made the compulsory purchase order in late April. There had been 2 objections received from the 2 remaining property owners. Unless agreed purchases were possible, there would now be an inquiry later in the year. The Club was still actively involved in trying to find a suitable alternative property for the owner of 328 and it was hoped that a mutually acceptable agreement could be reached on this matter.

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

It was agreed to not hold meet on the next scheduled date in July so the date of the next meeting is 23rd August 2011.