

The Wincheap Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of The Wincheap Society at 7.30p.m. on Monday 23rd January, 2017 at 40 Scott Avenue, Canterbury, CT1 3RN (Thanks to Gillian)

Present: John Osborne (Chairman), Gillian Bull, Nick Eden-Green, Ed Craven, Pat Marsh

1. Apologies for absence: Eddie Peake, Sarah Walter
2. Minutes of the last Meeting 5th December, 2016

The Minutes were signed as a correct account.

3. Matters Arising
 - i. Wincheap Playground

Ed has now received a proposed schedule of work for the Wincheap Play Area refurbishment project and Rebecca from the Council says they are more or less on schedule. The public consultation period looks very short at 11 days – almost not worth doing, especially as it is scheduled after the tenders have been made. Here is the schedule:

Write up assessment	Completed
Liaise and site visit with engineers and contractors for pre-tendering purposes	Mid-Dec
Draft brief	End Dec/early Jan
Tender	Beginning of Feb
Tender deadline	End Feb
Assess tenders and shortlist	By 3 rd March
Public consultation period	6 th -17 th March
Consultation feedback to shortlisted companies	By 24 th March
Deadline for final submissions	By 7 th April
Assess final submissions and choose winner	Week commencing 10 th April
Award contract	Mid-April
Lead-in time for order of equipment	6 weeks
Pre-contract meeting	TBC
Start date for works	Early to mid-June
Completion date for works	Early July
Opening event	Mid-July, prior to school summer holidays

The back wall entrance and the trees do not fall within this schedule. John's friend has not yet had time to look at the trees but will do so.

- ii. Litter Campaign and our own litter pick

Pat attended the Litter Roundtable meeting on 19th January and reported back.

Various RAs gave details of litter picks they had carried out, but it was agreed that such action days are not a permanent solution to the problem, which can only be achieved through awareness-raising.

This led into Cllr Ben Fitter-Harding's update on the Council's Communications Campaign. A new Head of Communications is taking up the post soon and will be continuing the initiatives already started, such as the Hubbub website, which showcases ideas on tackling litter from all over the world.

Cllr Fitter-Harding said the budget for litter-related issues has been protected for 2017-18 and an extra £20,000 has been set aside for tackling graffiti.

The Council's Litter Action Guide (of which we have copies) will be updated and the latest version can be viewed on the CCC website.

There will soon be bi-weekly meetings between Serco and the Enforcement team to respond better to grot-spots etc. reported by residents. The Council plans to take a tougher line in future and is recruiting more Enforcement Officers, who will be undergoing training and in post by June. There will be covert surveillance equipment installed in fly-tipping spots and zero tolerance of litter, as currently in the city centre. The problem remains identifying and prosecuting offenders.

The Council will be raising public awareness, especially by going into schools and working with the universities. There will be a bin amnesty and a big campaign on the correct disposal of waste when students are moving out of a property.

Increased enforcement and street-cleaning will also include imposing fines on people leaving bins on the pavements and on dog-walkers who are not carrying at least two plastic bags for picking up dog waste.

Offenders who are doing Community Payback will be used where appropriate for litter-picking etc.

Spraying weeds on paths and roads is a KCC responsibility, but is the responsibility of the City Council and property owners on pavements.

We are encouraged to report all problems to Serco on freephone 0800 031 9091 or, better, use the online form, which will soon be monitored by Council officers with a map to pinpoint the location of the problem.

If Serco fails to respond to complaints, we should inform the Council (email: Christopher.PAINE@canterbury.gov.uk) as that will mean they are not meeting the Key Performance Indicators in their contract

As outlined in the Guide, hoops for sacks and litter picks are available from the Council (email: Christopher.PAINE@canterbury.gov.uk)

Pat outlined the following ideas for dealing with litter in our area:

- Ask Christchurch for student volunteers to help us and coordinate with our student community champions when they are appointed;

- Use volunteers to take on specific roads to litterpick regularly, rather than having quarterly organised litterpicks;
- Take part in the Great British Spring Clean 3rd-5th March, although the Council won't be able to provide enough equipment if all RAs choose this particular weekend;
- Inform Rick Norman about graffiti hot-spots email: richardnorman@gn.apc.org;
- Take advantage of the fact that the Council will remove graffiti free of charge with the permission of the owner of the property affected up to three times a year, provided it is no larger than 5 metres high. Research shows it is important to remove graffiti promptly to prevent recurrence. In answer to a question about cost-effectiveness, it was stated that applying anti-graffiti coating to a wall is very expensive.

Nick has organised a community litter-pick for next Saturday, 28th January from 10.30am to 12pm and residents have been informed and invited to take part. We will be meeting outside Wincheap School. Nick has planned routes for groups of four to litterpick. We will cover Station Road East if we have enough people. Sian will provide tea and coffee at the end and we will leave the sacks at Wincheap School. John will inform members and invite them to take part.

Action: John

Nick noted that the Council forms to complete for a community litter pick are horrendously complicated and off-putting.

It was established that the developer is responsible for keeping public spaces clean in new developments such as Homersham. Residents pay a service charge for this.

Wincheap subway: Nick says that the graffiti will be cleaned and anti-graffiti paint applied, the lighting will be improved and the drainage addressed.

Dog waste bins: there are none in the Homersham area. This needs to be brought up at the next meeting of the Litter Roundtable.

iii. Former Lotus House New Application KE/PR/16/5806

Different opening hours have been applied for this time, but still up to 3am and 3.30am some days. John and Nick have submitted objections. The meeting to consider the application is on Tuesday 31st January at 11am at the Guildhall meeting. Nick will be attending but John can't. Only those who have submitted a response will be able to speak on the day but, if someone would like to represent WinSoc, John can email the Council to permit them to speak on our behalf.

iv. Quinn Estates – new meeting

This will take place on Thursday, 26th January at 2pm at the Thanington Resource Centre. Gillian hopes to attend and will inform John if she cannot. We felt it was important for WinSoc to be represented.

There is no detailed application yet from Quinn – we don't know what the houses will look like or

where they will be. (This is for an extra 400 houses on land by Cockerling Farm beyond the 750 already planned by Pentland at Thanington Park.)

It was considered that infrastructure is the main problem. We need coordination between the two developers on this and a viable plan. Nick felt this should precede any further discussion with either developer.

Action: Gillian

v. Former Roger Britton Site Application CA//16/02655

The application for variation of conditions 15 and 20 of the planning permission – those that pertain to site contamination and archaeology – was passed and these conditions will not now have to be fulfilled before demolition can take place.

4. Canterbury Clean Air campaign

The founding meeting for this pressure group will take place on Wednesday, 25th January at 7pm at the Friends Meeting House. Volunteers will be sought to stand on streets such as Wincheap and monitor the pollution levels with devices from which the data can then be downloaded and used to request the Council set up an action plan for dealing with air pollution in the city.

5. Obituaries

Ena Blake, founder member and stalwart of WinSoc, who wrote the column for Wincheap and Thanington in the Kentish Gazette (John will inform members as soon as details of the funeral are available); **Peter Vaughan**, British actor (Grouty in *Porridge*, Aemon Targaryen in *Game of Thrones*); **John Glenn**, American astronaut and senator; **A. A. Gill**, British writer and critic; **Rabbi Lionel Blue**, British Reform rabbi, journalist and broadcaster; **Ian McCaskill**, BBC weatherman; **Zsa Zsa Gabor**, Hungarian-American actress and socialite; **George Michael**, English singer and songwriter, rose to fame in the pop duo Wham!; **Rick Parfitt**, English singer, songwriter, rhythm guitarist for Status Quo; **Henry Heimlich**, American thoracic surgeon and medical researcher, inventor of the Heimlich Manoeuvre; **Graham Lay**, British antiques expert; Betty Gleadle, stage name **Liz Smith**, English character actress (Nana in *The Royle Family*); **Richard Adams**, English novelist (*Watership Down*); **Carrie Fisher**, American actress (Princess Leia in *Star Wars*); **Debbie Reynolds**, American actress, mother of Carrie Fisher (Kathy Selden in *Singin' in the Rain*); **Allan Williams**, British businessman and promoter, first manager of The Beatles; **Peter Sarstedt**, British singer and songwriter (*Where Do You Go To, My Lovely?*); **Clare Hollingworth**, English journalist, first war correspondent to report the outbreak of World War II; **Buddy Greco**, American jazz and pop singer (*Up, Up and Away*); **Graham Taylor**, English football player and manager; **Antony Armstrong-Jones, 1st Earl of Snowdon**, British photographer, husband of Princess Margaret; **Victor Lownes**, American executive of Playboy Enterprises in the UK; **Gene Cernan**, American astronaut, the last man to walk on the Moon; **Johnnie Walker**, Concorde test pilot; **Rachel Heyhoe Flint**, English cricketer, captain of England when they won the inaugural Women's Cricket World Cup in 1973; **Gorden Kaye**, English comic actor (René in *'Allo, 'Allo*).

6. Any other business

- i. The Canterbury Area Members' Panel has recommended the Council's Policy and Resources Committee plan a Canterbury Car-Free Day, although it considered the International Car-Free Day of 22nd September may not be the best one for this event. Much detailed planning will be required but it was felt the main point of having such a day is to show up the issues to address for the future reduction of car use in our city.
- ii. Drug dealing has been reported in Martyrs Field Memorial Gardens. Nick said the police are aware that gangs are coming down from London and recruiting schoolchildren to deal for them in Canterbury. The only thing we can do is keep reporting this kind of activity to the police.

7. Date of next Meeting

Monday, 6th March, 7.30pm, at 6, Victoria Rd, CT1 3SG (thanks to Ed)