

The Wincheap Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of The Wincheap Society at 7.30 pm on Monday, 5th June, 2017 at 40 Scott Avenue (Thanks to Gillian)

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

1. Apologies for absence: Eddie Peake, Ed Craven, Debra Johnson
2. The Minutes of the last Meeting 24th April, 2017

The minutes were signed as a correct account.

3. Matters Arising

- i. Playground

An outstanding task is to send a letter on the back gate and making the Wincheap entrance more attractive. Ed is awaiting some data before writing the letter.

Action: Ed

- ii. Quinn Estates meeting 3rd May, 2017

Gillian reported back on the meeting.

Quinn produced copies of their latest Location Plan and Indicative Masterplan, both of which can be viewed on Planning Application CA/17/00519.

Of more interest was a large plan of which there was only one copy, they retained, of the entire Thanington and Wincheap area. It was marked in blue lines for new or enhanced roads and dotted red lines for cycle/pedestrian paths. It was not unlike the plan produced at the last meeting, but with boxed comments for certain points on the plan, and no inclusion of KCC's Drawing 5269/GA01. The "relief road" through the Wincheap industrial estate was shown as before.

KCC Highways and CCC had refused to attend because CA/17/00519 is being considered, but Quinn will be meeting with their representatives on Monday 15th May. KCC and CCC have said they will come to future meetings of the current type. The point was made that the newly elected councillors will need to be brought up to speed.

As for the road interface with Pentland's development, there was no change from the

last meeting. There was discussion of Quinn's eastern exits: via Cockering Road into the existing residential streets. Quinn insisted that the A2 slip road entrance/exit would work, but had no drawings (they were "being drafted"). Later they said they had done the planning for this and for the connection with the A28, and "it will work".

There was much discussion of the Wincheap roundabout and the "tunnel", but to no new effect. Points raised at the last meeting were raised again.

Quinn Estates are already talking to house builder(s) including CCC's.

The planning application is now up for comment.

iii. Clean Air

There will be a meeting of the Canterbury Clean Air group at 7pm on 28th June at the Old Sessions House, Christchurch University. Pat is unable to attend but has suggested to Ashley Mills (Coordinator) that particulates on Wincheap should be next to be monitored and that there would be volunteers from WinSoc.

iv. Finance

The cheque for £25 to our web designer bounced even though we know we have thousands in the account waiting for the resurfacing of Hop Garden Way. John went to the bank to investigate and was told the account had been blocked because there had been no activity for one year. Now it has been unblocked.

For the new cheque signatories we need to fill in forms and give a mobile phone number. John has talked to someone at the bank who will send forms which don't need a mobile.

There is still no news on when Hop Garden Way will be resurfaced.

Action: John

v. Additional Committee Members

Barney Parsons has been coopted onto the committee and was present at today's meeting.

vi. Website (see later)

vii. Slip Road (see later)

viii. Great Get-Together

A reminder that this takes place in the Westgate Hall on Sunday, 18th June, 12 noon to 3pm.

ix. Dean and Chapter

Our letter has not yet been answered.

4. Website

Pat has taken over administration of the website from Michael and has updated it. It was created in 2011, however, and lacks some of the features we would now like to have, such as the option of adding new buttons and classifying campaigns under headings. The domain name comes up for renewal on 23rd August. Pat will contact Matt Smith (the site designer) and find out whether features can be added and if we will be contacted about the domain name.

Gillian suggested she set up a blog with the cycle routes and then provide a link from the WinSoc site and Canterbury Society. She will let us know how much it will cost.

Action: Pat, Gillian

5. Slip Road

On 6th May John and Gillian sent a letter to KCC and CCC commenting on KCC's Drawing for the proposed 4th slip road. (The letter can be viewed on winsoc.org.uk, under Campaigns: A2/A28 coastal-bound off slip Schedule - WinSoc comments and queries.) Accompanying the letter, they sent a schedule of detailed points about the Drawing. (This can be viewed on winsoc.org.uk under Campaigns: A2/A28 coastal-bound off slip Schedule - WinSoc notes and queries.)

On 15th May John received an answer from Colin Finch, Principal Transport and Development Planner (Canterbury & Swale) Highways and Transportation, to the effect that KCC had not produced the Drawing. However, he also made some comments on certain points in the Schedule, as follows:

1. Forward visibility is usually assessed using a band between 0.9 & 1.5m height.
2. The pedestrian/cycle connections between the A28 and Great Stour Way route should be improved, rather than compromised, by any forthcoming scheme.
3. Refer to answer 2 above.
4. The designers would have to model the use if this junction with the inclusion of the full allocation of housing within the local plan, which would include the Thanington sites.
5. As above, modelling of junctions would include use by Heavy Goods

- Vehicles.
- 10 b. The strategy for Park and Ride in Thanington includes an extension of the current provision at, or immediately by, the existing facilities.
 - 10 e. Refer to answer 2 above.
 11. Refer to answer 2 above.
 13. Any junction design proposals would be fully modelled to assess their impact and flow.
 15. A “Desire Line” is generally seen as an alignment that people would ordinarily choose between two points.
 17. Modelling for the A2 coast bound off-slip would include the expected movements from the development at Thanington Park and any impacts on the A2 “North bound off-slip”.
 18. As above, modelling of the A2 coast bound off-slip would model movements through a signalised St Nicholas Road junction.

On 19th May Gillian sent an following email to Mr Finch on John’s behalf giving him the link to the Drawing on the KCC website: democracy.kent.gov.uk at Decision 17/00025. The Drawing is in the third document on this web page, Appendix (third Drawing). She asked him what was going on at KCC regarding plans for both the A2 4th slip road and access to the proposed Thanington Park and why he did not know of this Drawing.

Gillian informed Mr Finch that, as stakeholders, members of the Wincheap Society Committee had attended meetings called by both Pentland Homes and Quinn Estates. At the last two meetings with Quinn Estates we had been shown plans for a gyratory system involving traffic from the A2 4th slip road being directed through the Wincheap Industrial Estate to the junction of Simmonds Road with Wincheap, and Wincheap itself being converted into a one-way system. At the last meeting with Quinn Estates on 9th May, Gary Heard of Peter Brett commented on the WSP drawing that the roundabout [at the north end of Ten Perch Lane] was too big, and he had made it smaller.

We were therefore keen to hear from Mr Finch whether Mr Heard was in fact involved with KCC in producing drawings for the slip road and Thanington Park access. In response to comments that the proposed additional slip road situated west of the northbound A2 into Thanington Park and accessed southwards from the A28 was physically unfeasible, as well as adversely affecting adjacent existing houses, Mr Heard had said, “I’ve done the measurements, and it will work.” It thus appears that the access plans are in fact being prepared not by KCC and Highways England but by the developers.

On 22nd May Gillian and Nick issued a Press Release to the Kent Messenger Group, but have heard nothing back from them: winsoc.org.uk under Campaigns as Road Plans:

KCC Right Hand vs KCC Left Hand - WinSoc Press Release

On 26th May Mr Finch emailed a 3-page letter to John, the first paragraph of which is:

“I am writing further to your email of 19th May and must firstly apologise, you are of course correct in that the drawing had been included as an appendix of the Environment and Transport Committee on the 13th March. This meeting had occurred prior to my employment and regrettably for whatever reason, this information had not been made available to me at the time of responding to you. I am now though fully aware of it and hold my hands up to the error. Certainly it would never be my intention to mislead.”

The rest of his answer contains two interesting statements:

“The drawing had been borrowed from Canterbury City Council” and “Mr Heard is a Peter Brett Associates consultant working for both the Cockering Farm development and Thanington Park development. KCC Highways have, and will continue, to feed into the development of the schemes. At this point in time the lead for the scheme is the developers of the Thanington Park site, not KCC.”

Mr Heard of PBA has acted for, i.e. been paid by, one assumes, CCC over the barracks conversion.

Mr Finch’s letter seems to indicate that PBA is now being paid by Pentland and Quinn concerning the 4th slip road and also appears to be acting for them over the access points to Thanington Park.

Heard’s comments in the last Quinn meeting, that he had changed the KCC Drawing to make smaller the large roundabout at the north end of Ten Perch Road, AND that the proposed north-south slip road off the London-bound A2 slip road “will work” lead one to suspect that the public audited/private unaudited division of labour re these highways has been obliterated. He is probably doing all of it.

We will write a letter to CCC, copied to KCC, to ask what is going on.

Action: Gillian, John

6. Cycle Routes

Gillian has also produced a detailed report on the cycle routes which will go up on the website as soon as they can be put into an acceptable format. It will also be sent to Spokes.

Pentland have closed down a public right of way. Gillian will write to KCC about this.

Comments on the cycle routes include the fact that Hop Garden Way is not lit and has bad potholes so is not suitable as a cycle path and that there is no way for cyclists to get across Wincheap to get to the East Station.

Action: Gillian

7. A.G.M.

John will see if we can hire the Jubilee Hall for our AGM on 14th July. Barney suggested David Sharma could talk about Howfield Manor as our guest speaker. He will ask him if he could do this.

Action: John, Barney

8. Obituaries

Roger Moore, English actor (James Bond, The Saint); **John Noakes**, English TV presenter (*Blue Peter*); **Peter Sallis**, English actor (*Last of the Summer Wine*, voice of Wallace in *Wallace and Gromit*); **Roy Barraclough**, English comic actor (Alec Gilroy in *Coronation Street*)

9. Any other business

- i. Report on Higher and Further Education Community Group Meeting 10th May 2017

This was the first meeting of this Working Group since the HE/FE Impact Review carried out last year, in which WinSoc participated, especially in the Social Theme.

The Group is chaired by Velia Coffey, Deputy Chief Executive of Canterbury City Council (CCC) and includes other CCC officials, six representatives of residents' associations appointed by the Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Associations (ACRA), representatives of the universities and their student unions, as well as those of landlords' associations. Pat Marsh represents WinSoc and Ed Craven is her substitute if she cannot attend a meeting.

One of the key aims of the Group is to have oversight of the implementation of the HE/FE Impact Review's action plan. This action plan was the main item on the agenda of the meeting on 10th May.

The actions related to the Economy Theme have the aim of making Canterbury a desirable and accessible location for new and high-value business, employing more graduates from Canterbury universities and colleges and using local suppliers.

The actions related to the Social Theme range from addressing the particular funding challenges the Council faces as a consequence of being a university city (student HMOs do not pay council tax) to helping students feel a part of the local community and so

engaging with and contributing to it. CCC is to appoint a designated officer providing community support in student-rich communities to act as a single point of contact and coordinate operational activity.

WinSoc's particular concern is with seeing the appointment of student community champions by Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU), who will liaise with WinSoc and local residents as a bridge between them and student residents of our district. Apart from helping to deal with problems over bins and excessive noise, we hope they will get students involved in actions which we organise, such as litter picks. These champions are apparently now being recruited and should be in place for the next academic year.

The actions related to the Physical Theme have the aim of improving the appearance of homes and streets in communities where a high proportion of students live.

It emerged during the meeting that any resident can find out the landlord of a property by paying a fee of £4.00 to the Land Registry. However, this will probably not include contact details.

ii. On-street parking on Wincheap

Signs say Mon-Sat 8am-6.30pm so parking is permitted on Sundays, but what about bank holidays? It was thought bank holidays are not included with Sundays if not stated on the sign.

iii. Amendments to Constitution

At the AGM we will propose a change to the catchment area of WinSoc: just state Wincheap and its environs without named roads.

We could also change the quorum for committee meetings (currently five).

Action: John

10. Date of next Meeting

Monday, 3rd July at 7.30pm at 53, Wincheap (thanks to John)