

# RIVERMEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012

### 1. Present

Maria Cooke, Gill Catchpole, Nicki Puckey, Christine Girolomini, Peter Walsh, Mark Madden, (Tim Gregory could not attend due to cycle accident.) Apologies received from Marilyn Ash.

### 2. Wilford Lane crossing

Following concerns about the removal of the crossing refuge by the old Becket School, CG had written to Kenneth Clarke MP about the safety concerns for pedestrians. A reply was received stating that a survey was to be carried out to monitor crossing demand. The state of the old Becket school site is also an issue, and Kenneth Clarke has stated that he is going to refer the matter to the head of the church, who own the land. Also the tidying up of the area of Wilford Lane outside Rivermead has been referred to the Council's environment department. Some tidying up has been done, but there is still more to do to make the area pleasant. The safety railing at the end of the alleyway by the side of the old school which has been shortened has been addressed by CG meeting a member of the Council and explaining the safety concerns. More response regarding this is also awaited.

### 3. Lighting and decoration works

The lighting works have not yet started but should commence soon. An electrician company have been on site for a few days and it is assumed they are surveying the works. The decoration works should commence straight after completion of the lighting works. The colour choices have been given to Freshwater, which were met with a positive response.

### 4. Cleanliness audits

The new cleaner is Amanda, who has settled in well and seems very competent. The cleaning audit was satisfactory. The gardens are fine, although the holly bush around Yale needs to be clipped back.

### 5. Car parks

Two letters received from Freshwater regarding the car parks and the refurbishments planned. These are to be carried out in the first week of October and both garages vacated of all vehicles and belongings by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September. The letters were not very comprehensive in their information and various questions were to be asked via email to Freshwater, including 1) how long will the refurbishment take and how long will the car parks be isolated from residents' use?, 2) what about vulnerable items and items not covered by insurance if they are not stored in the garage?, 3) is it possible to do one garage at a time due to the obvious complications and chaos envisaged when all the cars parked below ground have to be parked in the car park around the site?, 4) how will deposits be refunded and then paid for again, could the original deposits not be retained by Freshwater?

MC to email Freshwater. *(At the time of typing a reply had been received – both garages to be refurbished at the same time to save time and costs. Some vulnerable items may be possible to be stored in an area of the garage that will not impinge the*

*contractors and their work – contractors will be asked about this. The new key entry cards should all be allocated to those residents who have requested/paid for one by the time the garages are closed for use on 30<sup>th</sup> September ready for use when the garages open again. It is envisaged that the works will be completed by Friday 5<sup>th</sup>).*

## **6. AGM**

The AGM has been set for Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October. It was proposed to have an agenda for the AGM to try and tempt residents to attend, to include – 1) information regarding decoration works, 2) colour schemes, 3) Walton and Allen latest situation, 4) completed garage works and thoughts and 5) the pedestrian crossing issues and responses received at the time of the AGM. Also a resume of the achievements of the Residents Association over the previous year.

MC indicated that she would be standing down as Chair at the AGM and so nominations would be needed for this position.

## **7. AOB**

Ideas were discussed regarding the goals and ambitions of the next Committee for 2012/2013. Topics covered were the continued use of the noticeboards to keep residents informed of current issues, achieving an increased number of members and introducing activity nights on a monthly basis (to include knitting, book club, games night, wine appreciation).

For the £5 subscription to the Association it is to be investigated whether discounts could be offered at nearby companies/shops, ie. The Beeches, Embellish Beauty and The Ram wool shop. CG will make enquiries.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

To be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September in flat 108.