

# Rivermead Resident's Association

## Minutes of meeting held on 28th January 2013

### **Present**

Maria Cooke (Chairman), Nicki Puckey (Secretary), Gill Catchpole (Vice Chair), Tim McCormick (Vice Treasurer), Marilyn Ash, Mark Madden, Christine Girolomini

### **Guest**

Councillor Gordon Wheeler

### **Traffic concerns/developments**

Cllr Wheeler kindly attended the meeting to discuss the traffic concerns regarding Wilford Lane and the removal of the pedestrian crossing refuge, and to give advice relating to having another crossing installed.

Cllr Wheeler kindly gave the RRA a grant cheque for £200 towards costs in producing the spring newsletter and to aid communication with residents.

The main traffic concerns are the removal of the crossing refuge and any existing plans to replace it. Is there going to be further provision to ensure pedestrian safety?

Cost is not normally a factor in providing pedestrian crossings, it is more a factor of public safety. The most favoured replacement option would be a button crossing.

The Sainsbury's and GP surgery applications have both gone through the Council planning procedure and have been granted approval for development. Both applications narrowly won approval from local Councillors (not Cllr Wheeler). The majority of the Councillors who voted in approval of the schemes do not live in the area and are therefore not affected by the increased traffic. Also, if the applications had been refused at the planning stage they would have both gone to appeal and then would have very likely won the appeal stage, which would be very costly. Therefore approval was granted at the first stage.

Wilford Lane is narrow and will be adversely affected by the large increase in traffic flow. A traffic survey was done recently, but was carried out in the Christmas holidays which were the wrong time of year to get accurate figures as the students were away and traffic is naturally lighter during holiday times.

No provisions have been put forward/planned by Sainsbury's to aid traffic flow. There are concerns that West Bridgford town centre will be affected. Also the tram is due to cross Wilford Lane every 3 minutes once completed. There are concerns for the access of emergency vehicles along Wilford Lane, which are frequent, and the safety of the school children. The headmaster of

the school is not responding to any correspondence regarding traffic concerns.

Other developments:

- The old school site - demolition work was stopped due to roosting bats in the building. It is owned by a religious sect who do not communicate with the outside world, so it is very difficult to obtain updates/information about the site clearance. There have been plans put forward for a development of the site but no details can be released yet, but it is not expected to have any large impact on traffic load.
- Gresham playing fields – the site is up for sale, a planning application has been put forward for a new Cadet building and a modest office block

Once all the developments and the tram works are completed it is likely that coming out of Rivermead car park to turn right against the flow of traffic will become near on impossible and drivers will be reliant on the goodwill of people stopping to allow them onto the road. There are no plans to apply any weight restrictions to the road. The County Council boundary ends where the tram works are to be installed. There are currently 6 crossings between the small roundabout at Gresham fields and the Wilford Village turn off, and 0 crossings between the small roundabout and the top of Wilford Lane (passing Rivermead). We need to try and implement a pedestrian crossing at our end of Wilford Lane, where there are currently none.

Some of the reasons the refuge was removed: when the school closed the main use of children crossing the road from getting off buses disappeared, lots of buses used to stop near the refuge and offload school children. The refuge was too near parked cars and became dangerous for lorries to pass. The houses along that part of Wilford Lane do not have garages so double yellow lines would not be put in place.

Some of the reason for crossing the road outside Rivermead: between Little Bounds and Beeches there are bus stops, the shop, the post box and the phone box which all give reasons/needs for people to cross the road.

Replacing the refuse would be an acceptable/reasonable action but so far nothing has been put forward. There are Council elections in May and potentially the new head of the Council may have different views of budget spends in this area.

Compton Acres has a local action group which regularly meet and discuss/put forward relative issues to the area and they have the same concerns as we do about the impact on the traffic due to the developments and the tram. It was put forward that some of us may attend the next meeting, and Cllr Wheeler will let MC know when this is.

Petition

It was suggested that we could organise a petition, with residents of Rivermead and local residents along Wilford Lane being asked to sign it to

request that a replacement crossing is provided along our section of the road. Cllr Wheeler can put this petition forward at the next Council meeting which will be minuted and acknowledged and duly processed. It is best to act now rather than delay any action, the road is not safe to cross at the present time and will definitely not be safe to cross in the near future.

#### Actions

- CG will write again to Kenneth Clark MP.
- A petition will be organised
- Cllr Wheeler will bring the issue of the necessity of a pedestrian crossing to the next Council meeting.
- Cllr Wheeler will begin the dialogue with other Councillors at this meeting and has had 2 such crossing installed in the past which involved petitions and has had 2 speed signs installed in the area.

Cllr Wheeler was thanked for his input to the meeting and for his help and information, and left the meeting and would be in touch with MC further.

#### **Petition**

The petition will be drawn up and either put on the noticeboards for residents to sign or a door to door procedure will be undertaken to gain signatures. Also other residents along the lane will be visited. It could also be placed in the shop as this will be affected by the traffic increase.

If the campaign for a pedestrian button crossing is not successful it was put forward that speed bumps may be a plan B, but it wasn't felt likely that this would be a viable option that would be approved by the Council on such a major road.

#### **AOB**

CG had news regarding the safety barrier at the jitty site by the old school site which runs down to the river. Funding is being sought to lengthen the safety barrier.

MC had received a letter from Freshwater regarding her front door which is not the original door. Any doors which have been replaced over the years have now got to be replaced with 30 minute fire doors with closing hinges if they do not meet these requirements. It is now necessary for all the external cupboard doors etc to have a fire/smoke barrier installed around the openings. All flats are to be visited and the barrier installed and doors checked.

A thank you card is going to be given to Peter and Geoff for all their help in gritting during the recent icy weather – GC will action.

The recent games evening didn't have a good turnout, largely due to the adverse weather conditions. More notice of these events has been requested by some residents so the posters advertising the social evenings will be put up on the noticeboards sooner.

MM will investigate petition gathering rules and produce a logo for the spring newsletter.

Members were asked to bring along 20 quiz questions each to the next meeting in order for the quiz night questions to be compiled.

**Date of next meeting**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm flat 108.

**Addendum**

The next meeting of the Compton Acres Local Action Group will be on Tuesday 16 April, 7pm at South Notts College on Greythorn Drive.

Response from NCC:

To include the crossing in the highways capital programme will need a decision by Transport and Highways Committee - we do regularly propose updates to the programme due to changing needs etc such as this within the finite resources available

The first step is to have a look at any technical constraints and I will arrange this and ask that you are kept informed. We can then decide best course of action

*Some progress and I shall keep you informed. I suggest you still press ahead with the petition (as discussed) – Cllr Wheeler*