

THE WIDCOMBE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Autumn Meeting held at Widcombe Junior School on Thursday 27th October 2011

Welcome and Apologies About 70 members attended. No Apologies were received. The Chairman welcomed everyone including invited guest Roger Nunn, newly-elected chairman of Greenway.

Chairman's Report

Two Tunnels:

Chairman Paddy Doyle gave an outline of the Two Tunnels Project and remarked that all interested parties had been consulted throughout. In 2009, WA and Greenway had held a public meeting with Sustrans to discuss the scheme. Following a Two Tunnels Steering Group meeting on July 8th 2011, all parties were informed that access to the pathway would have to take the form of a ramp in order to conform with the Disability Discrimination Act. At the end of July a joint statement was issued by WA, Greenway and the Lyncombe Vale Residents Group which stated that all parties were broadly supportive of the scheme, conditional on the access being constructed, advertised and signposted solely as a way for local residents to get on and off the route. Paddy thanked the Lyncombe Vale Residents Group for distributing a questionnaire to homes in Lyncombe Vale and for sharing the results. WA view remains as promulgated in the joint statement.

Voluntary One-Way System:

Paddy thanked Chris Rogers for his work on the voluntary one-way system to operate in the Lyncombe Vale area during Paragon School drop-off and pick-up times. Local residents will shortly be leafleted about this.

FoBRA:

WA is an active member of FoBRA. This is a body which will undoubtedly become increasingly relevant as the effects of the Localism Bill are felt. Andrew Gordon-Duff and Chris Rogers had both attended a seminar on Localism.

Streetscape:

A particular problem has been the rough sleepers at the Lyncombe Hill end of Widcombe Parade. It had been suggested that all the shrubs be

removed. However, this did not find favour with some of our members, nor with the Parks Department. Helen Peter is organising the planting of some prickly shrubs to fill in the gaps and deter this use of the area.

Events:

Sarah Lewis has stepped down from her work with the Events Committee. Paddy thanked her for all her very hard work and wished her and Nic every good fortune for the future. Chris Rogers has taken over the new team of twelve members.

Garden Club:

Paddy thanked Alex Nash for her on-going work with this very successful group.

Energy Efficient Widcombe:

Paddy commended the work that Ozzie ffield and this group are doing. He had attended the EEW workshop on October 26th and recommended the next two workshops to the members. WA is pleased to support EEW.

Rossiter Road Report

Julian Williams gave a presentation of where the scheme stands at present. Progress is slow. 80% of those who responded to the public consultation were supportive in principle. The main problem is that the design is too complex; Councillors Bellotti and Symonds also hold this view, but support the scheme in principle. It has been drawn up to satisfy a speed limit of 40mph whereas a limit of 30mph would seem appropriate for this area. A right-hand turn into Lyncombe Hill has not been included in the design, despite this being important to local residents. An independent consultancy will be reviewing the design and it is hoped they will report by December 15th.

Projected timetable is as follows:

Jan 2012: Decisions re design

February 2012: Budget approval

April 2012: Commencement of procurement process

July 2012: Work starts

November 2012: Completion

Following Julian's presentation, the Chairman expressed his regret that Julian would be shortly leaving the Committee and the area. He had done sterling work for the Association and would be greatly missed. He also made a further appeal for volunteers for the Committee.

Treasurer's Remarks

The Treasurer assured the members that we are in good financial shape. We have around £8,4000 in the bank including £111 earmarked for Abbey Cemetery. Our excess of income over expenditure is currently £6,080 although about half of this represents the unspent part of the grant, which WA holds on behalf of EEW. Membership subscriptions will remain unchanged for 2012.

Election of Treasurer

Jeremy Boss was nominated by Liz Littlewood and seconded by Liz Doyle for re-election for a second term as Treasurer. He was re-elected nem con.

Amendment to Constitution

An amendment to the Constitution whereby Para 5.5 should have the first usage of the word 'Association' amended to 'Committee' was proposed by Paddy Doyle and seconded by Liz Doyle. This proposal was carried by a majority.

Presentation by Peter Brown

The Chairman introduced the speaker, local artist Peter Brown, who entertained and informed us with his presentation about how he goes about creating a painting.

Social end to the evening

The evening concluded with drinks and a chance for members to talk to the speaker, the WA committee and each other.