

WIDCOMBE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting
held on April 19th 2012 at Widcombe Junior School

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed every one to the meeting, making particular mention of representatives from other groups and Roger Nunn, Chairman of Greenway!.

Apologies were received from Peter and Sheelagh Garner, Peter Metcalf, Alasdair and Elizabeth Campbell, Sue Bricknell, Joe Spibey, David and Janet Kemp, Sian Lewis and Eva Lewis. The meeting was attended by 66 members of the Association.

2. Chairman's Remarks

Paddy had included a full report in the Newsletter, so his remarks expanded on this.

i) Rossiter Road: Richard Wales gave a report. He had attended a Steering Group meeting earlier in the day. Following the public consultation in February, the WA had responded that, among other things, the engineering standards were too strict and that the crossover needed radical redesign. There is now a new design for the latter, including a right-hand turn into Lyncombe Hill for traffic travelling from the west. Cabinet members on the Steering Group favour mini roundabouts at the White Hart junction but traffic modelling (using an assumed 10% increase in traffic flows) has indicated a risk of gridlock in the evening rush hour, so they are proposing that the infrastructure for lights should be put in place should these be needed in the future. Richard and Mike Wrigley supported this. If the cabinet are in agreement, and it is supported by the leading group on May 7th, the scheme should go ahead on this basis. (Plans were displayed at the meeting.) Richard was asked about the Council officers' views and replied that they wanted lights. Mike Wrigley had recommended that the urban planners should be involved with the engineers in the design process from the start. It was asked when work might start. The detail will take some time to draw up, so it will be some months before this happens.

Alan Langton asked for applause for Richard's and Mike's skill and hard work.

Richard praised Peter Hendy, as well as Mike, for his contribution. Paddy thanked Richard for his work and his report.

ii) Localism: Alan has taken this on and is a member of the FoBRA sub-group dealing with this subject. His article on this is in the Newsletter. Andrew Gordon-Duff has written a guide to Localism which can be read on the website. WA would prefer not to be a Local Forum but remain a pressure group on the outside. However, they will continue to work to ensure the interests of Widcombe are paramount.

iii) Beechen Cliff Stabilisation: WA had convened a meeting in January involving local residents groups. A Steering Committee was set up with the aims of securing the management of the cliff in perpetuity and helping and assisting the National Trust to acquire the surrounding fields. B&NES has budgeted £500k and a further £500k will need to be raised to provide the endowment for the NT. Paddy has made the WA enthusiasm for this scheme clear to both the Council and the NT.

iv) Beechen Cliff Sports Ground Lights: These have been operating since October and there have been concerns raised by local residents about both the amount of light and behaviour of those using the pitches. The Nash Partnership has been engaged to look at ways of modifying the lights. WA recognises the benefits of the lit sports area, but will oppose any time extension beyond 6pm that the school may apply for unless the light spillage and behaviour issues are resolved.

v) Two Tunnels: The survey on the sustainability of the bank was not to requirement so the ramp will not be included in the package of work, expected to be completed by October 6th. It is intended to add this later.

vi) EEW: A full report will be available on the website. Paddy mentioned the LEAF grant, part of which enabled EEW to have a weeklong exhibition held at premises in Widcombe Parade.

vi) Social Club: WA continues to be supportive of the Club. In a purely private capacity, Chris Rogers is working on the business plan for the redeveloped club.

A public consultation on the redevelopment is to be held on May 2nd and 3rd. The Association will comment on the plans with Widcombe's best interests at heart.

3. Treasurer's Remarks

Full accounts were available to those present.

Jeremy reported that the Association is in good financial health. We have a small excess of income over expenditure. It has been a good year for income as we have received some grants, some donations and income from events. Consequently the Association has been able to make some donations to local causes, the largest of which being £3000 to Widcombe Rising. The £6 subscription covers administration costs and represents good value for money. There are no plans to raise subscriptions at this time.

Accounting for the expenditure of the LEAF grant to EEW will appear in the 2012 year end accounts.

There were no questions from the floor.

Jeremy thanked Marilyn Phillips for her work on the accounts.

4. Adoption of Accounts

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Liz Doyle and seconded by Andrew Gordon-Duff. The Accounts were adopted nem con.

5. Election of Examiner for Accounts

Marilyn Phillips was unanimously re-elected as Examiner for Accounts.

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following were all elected nem con to the committee:

Rajen Doshi	Member
Hilary Furlonger	Member
Alan Langton	Member
Richard Wales	Member

7. Amendments to the Constitution

The following amendments were proposed by Richard Wales, seconded by Helen Peter and passed unanimously:

New article 7.2 to read:

Any 2 or more full members of the Association wishing to raise an item of business (Member's Business) for discussion at a General Meeting of the Association shall (in addition to their right to requisition a special General Meeting of the Association in accordance with article 7.3.2 below) be entitled to have such Member's Business added to the agenda of the next General Meeting provided that not less than 14 clear days written notice of such Member's Business is given to the Secretary.

New article 8.4 to read:

Agenda and Business. The Chairman shall have the discretion not to allow any item of business to

be considered at a General Meeting that has not been included in the agenda of that meeting.

8. AOB

Roger Nunn queried whether the Two Tunnels path would be completed to plan. He had concerns about noise and security. Patrick Tulley, Senior Engineer for Sustrans, will be speaking at the Greenway AGM on May 9th and Roger issued an invitation to those present to attend.

Alan Langton reminded members of the Lyncombe Vale Open Gardens event on July 8th. Chris Rogers invited local groups who are organising Jubilee events to contact him if they would like to arrange for Lady Margaret to attend. He might also be able to organise some music. WA is not formally holding a Jubilee event.

Following the meeting, Ralph Oswick, President of the Widcombe Social Club, gave an informative and interesting talk about the history of the Club and the plans for its future redevelopment.

The evening concluded with wine, nibbles and conversation.