

EAST BROYLE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

(www.eastbroyle.org)

Notes of the 24th AGM

Wednesday 8th June 2011 at Chichester Baptist Church, Sherborne Road
Doors opened at 7.00 pm, meeting commenced at 7.30pm

1. Helen Carlton

The Chairman reported that Helen Carlton had passed away on 13 May. Helen was a founder member of the Association, its Chairman for 4 years and its President. She had been an ardent and stalwart supporter of EBRA and had served on its Committee for 20 years in either an elected or ex-officio capacity and will be greatly missed. Details were provided of the arrangements for the funeral which was due to take place on 16 June 2011.

2. Attendees: 91 members

3. Apologies were received from 21 member households

4. Welcomes: The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mike Hall our County Councillor. He also introduced Peter Budge and Simon Lloyd-Williams who are newly elected District and/or City Councillors as well as being EBRA members.

5. Notes of the AGM on 9 June 2010

The notes were approved as a correct record without amendment. Referring to the resolution that had been passed by the AGM in 2010 on the Local Development Framework (LDF), the Chairman said that while the work on the Core Strategy had been suspended as requested, the response to the other issues raised had been disappointing and that to date there had been no attempt by the Council to involve residents in the assessment of housing requirements although a new study on this had been underway for several months.

6. Amendments to the Constitution

The Committee had thoroughly reviewed the Association's Constitution which had been in place since 1987. All members had been made aware of this process and had been given the opportunity of viewing the proposed amendments on the EBRA website (see above) or having a hard copy. No suggested changes had been notified by members. The Chairman outlined the major changes that were being proposed. There was a debate about whether the amendment that enables the Committee to remove one of its members was appropriate, but an overwhelming majority of those present were in favour of the clause as proposed.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) the amendments to the Association's Constitution as recommended by the Committee be approved, and
- b) the amended Constitution shall come into effect on the 9th day of June 2011

7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on a very busy year and thanked everyone who had been involved in helping with the various activities that had taken place. Chris said that the three EBRA groups that have been established (Walking, Family History and Enhancement) have been flourishing and the quarterly Bulletin was clearly appreciated by many members. He thanked everyone involved.

With the cooperation of the City and County Councils it had been possible to organise 2 grit bins to be provided on East Broyle (which arrived just before the snow). These had proved so successful in the harsh winter of 2010-11 that it has been agreed that a further 9 will be provided in the coming months at other locations within East Broyle.

Chris also reported on the work of the Committee. The revision of the Constitution had been a major task and a watchful eye had been kept for any signs of the District reconsidering the Local Development Framework. Although work on this had been suspended in June 2010 there were indications a few months later that the officers were still involved. Early in 2011 a consultant was appointed to report on housing requirements. Requests from Chichester Residents' Associations Co-ordination Group to be involved had been rebuffed by the Council and Chris emphasised that the problems being faced a year

ago on the potential impact of housing development had not gone away. He gave details of the new LDF timetable that provided for formal public “consultations” commencing on 26 August and 13 January.

Much angst had been caused by the planning application for the [mobile phone mast](#) and cabinet at the entrance to Norwich Road. Chris outlined the background to this application and the extraordinary opposition to the proposal. There had been universal support for moving the installation into the hedgerow near the existing sub-stations but this had been resisted by the applicants. For technical reasons, District Councillors were not able to determine the application and the final decision was delegated to officers. On the basis that a previous application for the site had been approved on appeal the officers decided to approve the installation but to require the massive telecommunications cabinet to be screened with a hedge.

Details of the proposed hedge were made available to the Meeting and Chris reported that the Association had been asked for its comments on the plans submitted by the phone companies’ agents. It was agreed that the following comments should be made to the District Council ...

- (a) Plant Varieties – Only one of the 4 native trees proposed for the hedge is evergreen and it was considered that this would not give sufficient cover in the winter months. It was felt that the trees used should maintain their leaves and it was recommended that a mixture of holly and beech should be used (although, technically, the latter is not evergreen it still holds its old leaf during winter and makes a very good hedge plant).
- (b) Planting & Maintenance – It is essential that plants are laid and maintained as a hedge. If this is not done, the saplings will naturally grow into trees which will expose the cabinet behind the trunks.
- (c) Shape – The planting should be extended on both sides in a curve that stretches as far as possible to the footpath so as to give the maximum possible camouflage of the cabinet when entering and leaving Norwich Road.

Chris said the past year had been a challenging one and he thanked the Committee for all their help and support. Members thanked Chris and Lynne for their hard work.

Looking to the forthcoming year, Chris said that the major issue was likely to be the Local Development Framework. He emphasised that it was essential that...

- (a) the full impact of any housing development on the City is understood and its character preserved,
- (b) any development should not degrade the quality of life for existing residents
- (c) residents are actively involved in the consideration of both the data and housing options and that consultation is real, not contrived
- (d) we have public meetings so the Council can explain these very important issues.

He added that it was hoped that our new Councillors would help us achieve these goals.

The involvement on the LDF is likely to be time consuming and Chris said that he and Lynne need to reduce their commitments on other EBRA matters. He said that while they will be able to support the enhancement projects and the annual big picnic (which in 2012 will include the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations) they will not be able to organise any other activities. Therefore, unless someone (or a group of people) is prepared to take on this role there will be no coach trips or other events organised by the Association in the forthcoming year.

Chris did however draw attention to the fact that the 2012 AGM would be the Association’s 25th and that some form of celebration, possibly a cheese and wine party in September, was being investigated. He added that his goal remained to achieve greater community involvement.

In closing this part of his report, Chris made a plea for people to respond promptly to requests published in the Bulletin. He said that it would make his job much easier, and less time consuming, if members did not wait until the last minute to respond.

He raised two further matters before completing his report...

(a) **20’s Plenty Campaign**

Chris reminded members that the Association had been asked whether it would support this campaign. The Committee had been divided about the response and had decided to refer the matter to the AGM. Each member attending the AGM had been given a voting paper when they arrived and were encouraged to cast their vote at the meeting. A display of information had been provided which included the Campaign’s response to questions asked by EBRA along with two letters of opposition giving reasons for their views.

It was suggested that it would have been better to have had a debate on the subject before members voted but Chris responded by saying that the agenda had already been decided before the request was received from 20's Plenty and there was not time to hold a full debate. Relevant literature had been provided on the display boards to inform those who wanted more information; this he contended offered a balanced view. It was also suggested that all members of the Association should have been given the opportunity to vote but Chris said that the Constitution only provided for decisions to be taken at the AGM by those attending. An answer to a further question determined that the original 1987 constitution applied to the vote.

The result of the ballot was as follows...

In response to the question "Should the Association support the 20's Plenty Campaign?" **46 voted NO (56%) and 36 voted YES (44%)**, while 9 abstained.

(b) Increase in Subscriptions for 2011-12

Chris explained that the annual membership subscription for the current year had been increased from £2 to £3 per household. This was the first increase in 24 years and will help to fund the enhancement projects without significantly eating into our reserves. At the 2010 AGM it had been suggested that the subscription be increased to £5 but the Committee thought this was too large an increase in one year, especially in the current economic climate.

8. Treasurer's Report

David Russell (Treasurer) presented the accounts for the year to 31 March 2011. He explained the various entries and thanked the City Council for its generous grant of £450 towards the bulb planting. At the end of the year, the Association's reserves stood at £3,660.73 and there was a debate on the level at which these should be maintained.

It was agreed that the accounts as presented should be adopted.

9. Enhancement Group

Chris thanked his fellow members of the Enhancement Group for all their efforts over the past year. He reminded the Meeting that the Group had recommended that the East Broyle Sign project should be put on hold for the time being. During the year it had noticed that the fence at the end of Norwich Road was in a poor state of repair and, at our request, the Hospital authorities have undertaken to have this remedied. Similarly, one of the road signs for Carlisle Gardens was seen to be in poor condition. This was reported to the City Council who very quickly arranged for new posts to be installed. Chris also mentioned that the Group was examining the possibility of purchasing a few bird boxes for the trees on and around the village green.

He pointed out however that the bulk of the Group's work was concerned with planting and Lynne outlined its achievements over the last year. She showed photographs of the major community planting that had taken place in October 2010 when over 10,000 bulbs were planted. This involved many members and also pupils from Jessie Youngusband School. She thanked everyone who helped, the District Council Parks and Green Spaces team and the City for its grant.

Lynne then introduced the projects that the Group is proposing for 2011-12 and showed photographs of the areas involved as follows.

- Worcester Rd Bank (at the end of the cul-de-sacs near 89/91 & 111/113) – daffodil bulbs
- Corner of Worcester Rd & Norwich Rd opposite School Gate by tree – daffodil bulbs
- Norwich Road – in front of Hospital Fence – low level planting which would not interfere with the emergency exit
- Norwich Road – screening of sub-station at entrance – bushes

It was noted by a resident that the Leylandii tree at the junction of Worcester and Norwich Roads is believed to be a rogue planting. Investigation with WSCC had revealed that they did not give permission for it to be planted.

Chris explained that a resident had requested that some trees be planted in the highway verges in Worcester Road north of Durham Gardens. George Wimbush approached the County Council who recommended that 5 trees be planted although it could only include two in this year's programme but suggested that the Association may wish to fund more (at £120 per tree). George has contacted nearby residents to seek their views.

The meeting agreed that the Association should provide £400 to meet the cost of the Enhancement Group projects and up to £240 to be paid to WSCC for two extra trees (the tree funding will be reduced by any contributions from residents).

10. Elections of Officers and Committee

There being no further nominations, the election of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members was agreed.

The following were therefore duly elected...

Officers	Other Committee Members	
Chairman: Chris Lindsay	Vera Abraham	Sue Nash
Secretary: Mike White	Jim Green – Neighbourhood Watch Liaison	Judy Poulter - Planning
Treasurer: David Russell	Lynne Lindsay – Bulletin Editor & Membership	Peter Watkins - Highways George Wimbush - Trees

11. Appointment of Auditor

It was agreed to thank and re-appoint Dave Owens as the Association's Honorary Auditor

12. Open Forum

The following issues were raised...

- i. **Hedges** – It was requested that residents be reminded to cut hedges that overhang paths as such obstructions can be dangerous especially to disabled people (it was agreed a reminder will go into the Bulletin).
- ii. **Uneven Paths** – it was reported that some of the paths had been made uneven by tree roots which also caused problems for disabled people (an item on this will also be put into the Bulletin to encourage members to identify these so that a comprehensive report can be made to WSCC).
- iii. **Parking on Paths and Verges** – It was requested that residents be asked not to do this, or encourage others to do so, as it can cause an obstruction for disabled people and damage the verges/paths (it was agreed a reminder about this will go into the Bulletin).
- iv. **Grass Cutting** – It was suggested that the County and District Councils should cut their grass at the same time. As each council has a different number of cuts each year this would be difficult although Mike Hall suggested that under the Big Society proposals it may be possible, in the future, for communities to rationalise grass cutting.
- v. **Health Implications of Mobile Phone Masts** – a member asked about this and Chris referred her to the paper that was submitted as part of the Norwich Road planning application which explains the Government's view.
- vi. **Barriers** – It was suggested that barriers should be placed along the St Paul's Road kerb at the end of the twitten in Canterbury Close, to stop children accidentally riding or running down the hill into the road (a similar barrier exists opposite at the end of Duncan Road twitten). There was great concern about the current dangerous situation and it was unanimously agreed that the suggested barriers were an excellent solution and should be fully supported. Mike Hall suggested an application should be made to the County Local Committee to obtain funding for the works.

13. Volunteers

Chris reminded members that more volunteers were urgently needed to help with gardening and at events and invited those willing to assist to add their names to the list.

14. Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, the providers of the refreshments, the technicians and the Church for the use of the premises and equipment.

15. Next AGM

20th June 2012 at Chichester Baptist Church, 124 Sherborne Road.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 21.40