

MINUTES

Barden Residents Association

Wednesday 22nd June 2016

In Attendance

Mark Hood (Co-Chair), Debbie Burkin (Co-Chair), Lucy Athey (Secretary), Fran Long (Treasurer), B McCort, Warren Nel, Julie Bowie, Karl & Sarah Hardcastle, Harry Elliott, Emma Kibble, Daren Fry, Diane Morgan, Joff & Sarah Brown, Ann Wilson, Averil Langridge, Jo Young, Megan Le Goubin, Trina Winfield, Gill Sargent, Rebecca Cobby, Cindy Parkhurst, Jill Watson

Approval of Minutes & Apologies

Mark Hood (co-chair) called the meeting to order and welcomed the large number of residents attending. The previously circulated minutes from the meeting on 27th April were approved. Apologies from Louise Norman, Molly Laughton-Zimmerman, Kevin Savill and Sally McKay

Noticeboards

Local estate agents Wood & Pilcher have generously offered to purchase two noticeboards for us and a third one is kindly being funded by Tonbridge Juniors Football Club. One will be by the train station rear exit, another outside Barden Stores and we hope to place the third over the railway bridge to benefit the residents further into the Barden area. The boards will strictly be a way for us to communicate and will feature minutes, agendas, meeting poster plus local events and competitions we are organizing. They cannot have any non-residents association business on them although we will obviously feature a thank you to our generous sponsors who have purchased them.

Picnic in The Park

Planning is underway for our family picnic in the park on **Saturday 2nd July**. TMBC have contacted Mark regarding safety concerns and whether we need insurance. Mark has reassured them it is a low key family gathering, only advertised in our local area and not on social media other than our private group and will also be sited around Tonbridge Juniors (so away from the main part of the park). He said his contact seemed fairly relaxed, they are mainly concerned about unsecured gazebos so it could be we do not allow them at all in order to placate them. They have also been in touch with Karl Hardcastle as he is our main contact for the clubhouse. A discussion was had about the feasibility of/need for doing a full risk assessment with planning pack, however as Fran pointed out we are trying to raise funds at the picnic and the insurance needed would wipe out any small profits. Karl also made the point that many of the general public use gazebos in the park, including a local church group who often have half a dozen.

A rough schedule for the afternoon;

3pm start, Jez Gold to perform at 3.30pm, the Barden Band (name tbc!) to do two sets at 4.30 and 5.30, rounders at 6pm. Face-painting, barbeque and raffle ongoing.

Road Closures

Mark reported that when the recent High St roadworks caused Avebury Avenue to be closed temporarily contractors were dangerously telling drivers to travel the wrong way up Barden Road (a one-way street) with no signage to warn traffic at the other end. Another resident on the same evening was more safely asked to wait on the roundabout. Mark wrote to Kent Highways and councilors Chris Smith and Richard Long voicing his concerns over lack of proper notice and signage and received a slightly confused reply referencing our 20mph campaign. Mark has asked Richard Long to attend our next meeting to discuss the 20mph campaign.

Sadly, Peter Bolt (who is highly regarded by Barden Residents Association for all he does in the area) has had a local resident be rude, untruthfully claiming they are from B.R.A. Mark will write to Mr Bolt to apologize for/refute this and also invite him to our next meeting.

20mph Petition

Numbers are building on this as more streets are covered though there are a few more that need to be targeted. We have had a copy in Barden Stores and also now have one in An Enchanted Cake or Two on Barden Road. Well over 100 have also signed the online petition to add to this.

A discussion was had over the use of speed guns used by residents to track speeders, Mark filled in all present with the complex details (mainly we would need to form a committee and also pay for a training course). Debbie reminded all that if we see anyone obviously speeding we can phone 101 so they can log the concern. If repeated a number of times then the police would pay them a visit. We will also invite PCSO Coe to our next meeting.

Litter Blitz

Unfortunately, the last #LitterBlitz had a very low turnout due to it being the only sunny day after a very wet half term! Those who were able to attend mainly concentrated on the area by the garages (owned by Russet Housing). Now that we had permanent access we were able to clear all remaining rubbish and work began on clearing the brambles and weeds. Eventually this will be our bee-friendly garden and wildlife area. There will be another Litter Blitz on **Sunday 7th August** at 10am where we hope to cover a much larger area.

Parking Restrictions

Letters should be going out shortly from the council about the forthcoming new zones. Following the consultation period there will now be two zones; D1 – all streets from High St end down to Preston Road, D2 will cover the rest of the Barden area. The other main change is that D1 residents cannot park in D2 and vice versa. Debbie voiced her disappointment that unfortunately out of the 592 households only 92 people replied.

A resident has concerns over people parking on the pavement in Clare Avenue which makes it very difficult or impossible to pass safely on the pavement. She has contacted the local police but they have so far been unwilling to help.

A lengthy discussion was had over the new parking zones and the weighting of problems between D1 and D2. Hopefully as they have also increased the times of the parking restrictions this will hopefully deter more commuters from parking in D1. Mark to contact the council to see if we can find out how many business permits have been allocated as this is a big problem in D1. According to the TMBC website, new build properties with own parking should not be allocated a permit in addition to their space.

Hanging Basket Competition

Only a month to go until this is judged so get planting! Vouchers will be awarded to the winners.

AOB

Enterprise House

Sarah and Joff Brown have an ongoing party wall dispute with Russet Homes. Sarah has been in touch with the site manager about many concerns caused by work starting on the site; including work starting earlier than the 8am allowed by their planning permission and continuing later than 6pm, Saturday work is only meant to be if considered essential and recently Avebury Avenue was blocked causing a tailback. The site manager has said he will write a newsletter to keep residents informed, this will be posted through doors and he has said we can post it on our Facebook group. Sarah Brown and Jo Murphy have been keeping a written and photographic log to present to him. Sarah kindly offered to run a log for residents which she can then pass on to the manager every few weeks. Any complaints should be forwarded on to Sarah as our main point of contact (rather than multiple complaints or concerns being raised by individuals).

Anti-Social Behaviour

There have been reports on the Facebook group about Nelson Avenue, where there has been late-night vandalizing of cars. As of yet the police have been unable to do anything due to lack of evidence although the identity of the vandal is known to residents. There is also an unsafe driver from Audley Avenue causing a lot of problems for concerned local residents who are concerned for the safety of elderly and young residents. Mark pointed out that we aren't a neighbourhood watch group but asked for suggestions of action. Hopefully if PCSO Coe is able to attend our next meeting this can be discussed.

To be followed up

Railway Announcements

Debbie Burkin spoke on behalf of Gladstone Road resident Kevin Savill who is very concerned over the increasingly loud announcements from Tonbridge Station which mainly cause a problem for shift workers during the daytime. This is also a problem for a resident in Preston Rd, as the streets are close to platform 4 and it seems to be worse with 'live' announcements as opposed to the pre-recorded ones (which are a little quieter). Debbie Burkin will speak to a contact (a resident who also works at the station) to see if something can be done about the volume and voice our concerns.

Next Meeting

8pm, Wednesday 31st August at Lambert's Yard Scout Hut