

# MINUTES

Barden Residents Association Meeting

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

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## In Attendance

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Mark Hood (Chair), Lucy Athey (secretary), Fran Long (treasurer), Jo Young, Megan Le Goubin, Greg Fox, David Hibbs, Cathy Chadwick, Diane Morgan, Joanne Murphy, Sara Brown, Joff Brown, Jo Young, Julie Hadaway, Warren Nel, Sarah Hardcastle, Karl Hardcastle

## Approval of Minutes & Apologies

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Mark Hood (chair) called the meeting to order and the previously circulated minutes from the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March were approved. Apologies from Helen Kirk, Jon Sidaway & Ross Butcher.

## Save Our Boatyard Update

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Those present were saddened to hear that the boatyard dwellers' right to appeal has been refused marking an end to legal challenges to the eviction. Mark has written to Mr Mockford on behalf of BRA to ask questions about the feasibility study but has yet to receive a response.

## Conservation Area Proposal

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We have yet to hear back from TMBC planning officer Jane Peet regarding this as the Elections have set many things back in the council offices.

## The Nelson Arms

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We are currently awaiting confirmation that the sale of the pub has gone through to a couple who have experience of running a CAMRA award winning pub elsewhere. We have passed on the ideas that we had when discussing running the pub as a community. The new owners apparently plan to have a 'meet the landlord' event for local residents to put any concerns to rest.



## River Lawn Development #KeepRiverLawnGreen

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Since the last meeting two months ago a Facebook page has been launched with over 1800 members plus there is a Twitter account @KeepRiverLawn and a website [www.keepriverlawngreen.com](http://www.keepriverlawngreen.com). There is a small planning group steering the campaign which has widespread support across the town and from local newspapers The Courier and Times of Tonbridge and also the Civic Society. Mark recommended that those on Twitter and Facebook should like and share posts to keep spreading the word.

The council denied permission to hold an event on River Lawn but the family protest went ahead on the 7<sup>th</sup> May and was a great success with an estimated 450-500 people attending to hear music from local musicians and speeches from supporters including the Liberal Democrats, Green Party and Conservative councillor Richard Long. BRA ran a pop-up tea rooms at the event and raised £139.90.

A TPO (Tree Preservation Order) is being applied for every tree on River Lawn; we are especially concerned about the tree adjacent to the Teen & Twenty as it is very close to the borders of the plot being sold to Assura. There will be another event highlighting River Lawn campaign on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June (to coincide with the Jo Cox 'Great Get Together') from 12-2pm preceding the event at the Chequerboard at 3pm. This will help show that River Lawn is being used by local residents. We are also entering the Tonbridge Carnival as a Barden Residents Association walking float. The theme is 'families' so we will parade dressed as Sylvania Families to highlight the local wildlife that could be displaced if River Lawn was built on. Any members of the Barden Residents Association are welcome to join in.

There has been some support from local councillors; Councillor David Cure has come out on our side in the local press and writing to constituents and Councillors Peter Bolt and Richard Long both attended the protest to talk to those present.

Concerns were raised about the drinkers in the area, this is an alcohol-control zone but unfortunately with police numbers being cut they aren't always able to police this area. It was noted that if this was overlooked by the proposed flats it could feel more intimidating. Since the Weir was reconstructed the area has become very neglected and the light that previously stood at the area has not been replaced. When the plans were announced to improve the Weir they made note of improving the surrounding area and adding flower beds – which has not happened.

**All present voted for Barden Residents Association to nominate River Lawn, Lamberts Yard Scout Hut and the former CAB building as "Assets of Community Value".**

## 20mph

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Mark spoke to Councillor Richard Long who agreed we don't currently fit within the criteria for the Speedwatch programme. As previously discussed many other areas in Tonbridge are 20mph zones including Slade and the Meadow Lawn area, we understand this is because they have schools in their locality but we also have many children in Barden who walk to these schools and should be protected for all their journey. Fran to contact Katie Cullen at KCC as when she spoke to her at the Tonbridge Bicycle Users Group she informed Fran that KCC have a target to introduce several 20mph zones per year. It was suggested that Barden locals write to councillors Michael Payne and Richard Long as individuals regarding the 20mph zone.

## Parking

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Local residents Andrew Thistlewood and Nigel Durman have been in touch with Andy Bracey at TMBC regarding the parking issues and have a meeting set for 7<sup>th</sup> June to try and resolve these. Our recent Freedom of Information request has exposed that the scheme is massively oversubscribed by local and business permits. A lengthy discussion was had regarding business permits, particularly focussing on how TMBC should not issue any more of these.

Sarah Brown informed us that Jenners the builders will be taking down a periphery wall in November/December time which will put 7 or 8 parking spaces out of action for two weeks. It was proposed that AT and ND ask for parking restrictions to be lifted in this time at their meeting. It was also suggested they ask if the 5 spaces at the rear of the station and the spaces by Jimmy's café be converted from 1-hour parking to D-Zone to help alleviate problems.

## Litter Blitz & Station Flower Beds

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A Litter Blitz & tidy up of our area was held on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**. Litter was collected by volunteers from the station end as far as the railway bridge, unfortunately due to the number of volunteers we were not able to cover the bottom of Barden on this occasion (although previous efforts have always concentrated on this area). Two of the raised beds by the station were cleared and pruned and are now ready for replanting. Concerns were raised that the Wildlife Garden beyond the bridge was not focussed on, although since the last Litter Blitz Fran has planted two fruit trees there and also cut back some brambles. It was agreed that the next Litter Blitz & garden should start at this location. The next event will be on the evening of **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, from 6:30** onwards.

## AOB

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- Sarah Brown has had a meeting with Jenners regarding the lorries parking on the pavements while they wait to access the site to make deliveries. The site manager has a courtesy agreement with the 25 contractors that deliver to the site that they only deliver between 10am-4pm however as building work has progressed this will need to change to 9am. The lorries are meant to wait at Sovereign Way and not come to the site until called. The site manager is appreciative of our patience and has offered a hamper for a raffle or a tree to plant. Sarah asked Mark to reiterate that she and Jo have kindly volunteered to pass on messages to Jenners and be a point of contact and locals should be aware that this is all they are able to do. Mark to post on the FB group regarding this.
- Barden in Bloom – this will be repeated following the success of last year and will be judged at the end of July.
- It was previously agreed that the Facebook group should be restricted to those who have paid the £2 annual household fee. All members will be sent a copy of the membership form which they can stick a £2 coin on and return.
- Caistor Road residents are taking part in the Big Picnic event on 8<sup>th</sup> July and welcome all local residents.
- It was suggested we do a mail drop to get more Barden locals involved in the group who may not see the noticeboards or be on social media.

## Next Meeting

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Meetings usually alternate on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to enable as many people as possible to attend.

The next meeting is;

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017**