

St Stephens Residents Association

www.ststephensresidents.com

info@ststephensresidents.com

Public Meeting Minutes

November 18th 2016

Committee Members Present:

Val Budgen-Cawsey, Barrie Boundy, Andy Wood, Tessa Boundy, Tracey Ivell,

Committee Member Apologies: Ian Graham, Bryony and David Citrone, John Russell

Apologies : Mr and Mrs Sleeman, Mrs Brand, Mrs Knight, Bryan and Sally Johns

Val Budgen-Cawsey, Chairman, welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes of the last Public Meeting – Tracey Ivell read through the minutes. Alan Maizels proposed the adoption, Robert Cawsey second. Majority carry of the minutes.

Val asked the floor to adopt the Constitution and the Code of Conduct which had been presented at the first meeting . A paper copy was on the new website. Proposed and seconded. Majority to carry.

Val proposed that 2 new people be co-opted onto the committee who had shown an interest since the first meeting and who were from two parts of the St Stephens area that were not currently represented.

- Sue Craddock – Brookside, Gendalls Way
- Ruth Keithley – the lower part of St Stephens Hill

On a show of hands this was carried with a majority for the move and 1 absension.

Communications – Tracey Ivell, Secretary

- Asked for permission to put events on the website as many had requested to be able to see what was happening in the local area.
- Couple of incorrect emails – apologies to those people who did not receive
- Website and Facebook page up and running but still work in progress.
- Email addresses now:

- Val@ststephensresidents.com
- Barrie@ststephensresidents.com
- www.ststephensresidents.com
- info@ststephensresidents.com
- Community Notice Boards would be erected at Barries house at the top of St Stephens and Vals House at St Cuthbert Close .

Financial/Donations – Andy Wood, Treasurer

- £68.47 from first meeting donations collection
- Coffee Tea and Cake tonight – thank you to everyone who has made, donated and helped out. Donations of £3 if possible or whatever feel can give
- Banner – KCS print £55.62 which is reusable
- Bank Account set up at Lloyds Bank, Andy and Val are the 2 signatories at startup – with Barrie Boundy to be the third.
- Rotary Club had very kindly agreed to GIVE St Stephens Residents Association a grant of £500 to aid the startup of the group. The Treasurer, Alan Maizels, attended to present the cheque. He said that they run a charity shop in Southgate Street Launceston – and from that and other fundraising they give funds to local groups that can be seen to benefit the community. Many thanks to Launceston Rotary Group as this will enable us to get up and running and help with future projects.

Two proposals

- Purchase of a Christmas tree and lights for the St Stephens area to go on the green # by the Catholic Church car park by courtesy of Father David.
- Q – Why has that area been selected and why should the residents association pay for it?
- A – That area was felt to be in the centre of the Association area and a space where the banner would be seen as people drive past. The banner would say Merry Christmas from the Association would raise our public profile.
- Gentlemen said that specific residents already pay towards a tree at the top of St Stephens Hill and why should they pay for one at the top but get one paid for half way down.
- Committee didn't feel it had exclusivity over trees or want to "take over" certain arrangements that had been happening for years.
- At this point A resident, Peter Jones, very generously said that he would donate a tree and lights to be put at the spot half way up the hill. Andy said he would speak to Peter to arrange this and all thanked Peter very much for his kind offer.

- Another proposal to have a Christmas Social to meet and mingle with mulled wine and mince pies between 6pm – 9pm on December 17th at Launceston Golf Club. All within the Association area welcome. A friendly chat night but not a meeting. A Christmas Raffle would be held for funds. Majority agreed with 2 abstentions. Andy pointed out that this function would be using A local facility which we should encourage and that in the future we will use different venues within the association area.

Val then went on to give two short presentations to the floor:

1 . Golf Club Survey

- On entry all had been given a letter from the Golf Club about their wish to develop practice facilities which were lacking at present. The golf club is open to all and not just members and would like to be involved in the local community. Map on back of info showing proposals and a questionnaire that they would be grateful if completed and handed in at the end. This could help with Sports funding for the extra facilities. Rob from the Golf Club was present at the meeting and asked if there were questions. No raised hands. The completed questionnaires were collected and handed to the Golf Club.

2 . Launceston Matters

- There had been two open days at the town hall to ask people how they see the long term future of Launceston. There were questionnaires that people were asked to take and complete. Val is on the Connect Launceston group and their questionnaire was linked to the CORNWALL COUNCIL DEVELOPEMENT PLAN document which is their vision of what will occur in the Parish to 2030. Links to this document are on our website and Launceston Town Council had put in their response to the DPD. The plans on these documents are a clear indication of what will happen. Val handed out copied of the forms to be completed and handed into the town council office for those who missed the weekend event.
- Young peoples voice – places to play and that teenagers wanted a voice – something to expand for the association.
- Asking people what do you think – people are loathe to get involved until its on their own doorstep.
- Val had attended a St Austell planning conference and spoke to highways – She said 12000 pass over Newport Bridge daily with 30% being through traffic – 70% local journeys. Need to know how many travel up and down and out of different directions. – have to do evidence based survey – volume – air quality, safe crossings, noise, congestions, quality of life and building safety

AFTER A COFFEE AND CAKE BREAK THE MEETING EAGERLY AWAITED THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF RESIDENTS THAT HAD BEEN CONDUCTED AT OUR FIRST MEETING :

Our Initial Questions HIGHLIGHTED : .

44% SPEED
13% PARKING CONGESTION
12% HEAVY VEHICLE USAGE
8% SAFE PLACES TO CROSS
6% OVER USAGE OF SIGNS
5% VOLUME OF TRAFFIC
4% TRAFFIC NOISE
8% OTHER ITEMS

Speed – easy to think someone is speeding but maybe they aren't – need to do survey with speed guns.

Gentleman asked – Do people think that the speed humps have slowed traffic – mixed response. A Majority thought no and some thought more dangerous.

This is why we need to do the census and the speed survey.

St Giles does checks a lot.

Need to do AM and PM at strategic points

Need to do it in the New Year

Lady – Please do not do it during school holidays

Need to gather evidence so that we can move forward – prove what people think they see.

At the end we will gather name and contact of people who will help – a rota can then be generated of what and when. (sign up by sending an email to info@ststephensresidents.com too)

Gentleman – heavy good vehicles are a real problem – why was the weight restriction taken off – need a stop sign at the top of St Stephens Hill and traffic to come via Roydon Road.

Lady – The humps are abused. People travel the wrong way. They aren't safe as people go the wrong side over them and they need to be looked at. Why aren't they full humps.

Lady – Another lady said it was because of safety for buses and ambulances and that we were not like another road because we were the main route.

John Conway – St Stephens was declassified as the through route in favour of Roydon Road. There should be no restriction on St Stephens Hill in terms of bumps or other restrictions as it is a declassified road.

Jane Nancarrow – HGVs are a real problem on St Stephens and through Duke Street – none of the roads were built for vehicles of that size

Val – very important that we work through all these, gather evidence and deal with them in our own way – but we have to do the survey/speed survey to have evidence. We would all like a ringroad right around but that is a multi million pound cost item and would be very slow in coming. Need to tackle things as we can and at our pace.

VAL / Possibilities of Flashing signs or speed limiters. Think about St Mellion – took them a number of years to get but they did get there.

John Conway – Speed and Crossing problems have been here for years. The earlier work done pushed for much more but at least some got implemented – maybe not in the ways intended (e.g. the humps were supposed to be full bumps) and maybe not worked as well as originally thought they would but everything works at a snails pace and you have to start somewhere and get a bit more and a bit more and eventually we will get a better place to live.

Lady – Humps vs. Speed – people come up and drive straight at you on wrong side. People also do not obey the double yellow lines – why cant they be enforced – also why cant we have traffic wardens or speak to school headmaster to get enforcement of parents doing things that shouldn't be done.

Gentleman – Why is it two way at points and one way at points. Surely we should only go up St Stephens Hill and down Roydon Road. Lots of people either disobey (go illegally at points) or do not understand the ways that you can drive legally and then abuse those driving as they currently can.

Lady – How can we get the message across to people about what is/is not allowed on St Stephens Hill? Needs more communication to those from school but also many others who disobey what is currently the setup.

Lady – nightmare from St Josephs in a morning when parents come out of the school drive and go down the hill. Can parents only be told to go up the hill?

At this point Val introduced Mr Oliver Scott, the Headmaster from St Josephs School who was at the meeting, not only in the capacity of Headmaster but also as he lives in St Stephens, so he also wanted to participate as a resident.

O Scott – Has a 1,5 and 6 year old and has had them in the car when abuse has been shouted at him on a weekend when driving down the hill from his house by someone coming up the hill who hasn't understood that people currently can drive down. It is definitely an issue that does need more communication both to parents of the school and the wider community. In terms of parents only going uphill – at the moment they are only doing what is permissible by the laws put on that area of St Stephens Hill but the school wants to work with the Association to try and come up with solutions that

could make things better. The school has expanded its on site parking in the previous years and although they are always looking at ways to better that, they do feel that they are trying to help the situation and not hinder it.

Gentleman – what about the temporary classrooms – they do not fit in and have taken over carpark space, did you have planning permission.

O Scott – They are temporary structures that we can put there because of planning permission that we hold to demolish an old block and replace. We need to house the children while the new block is built and these temporary structures do that. They have been placed on the space that we used to park the school buses – extra parking has been created to park the buses for the time the structure will be there so there is no loss of parent parking in the overall picture (a storage shed was moved to unused brushland and a hedge removed to facilitate the buses).

Lady – Sometimes parking from parents is unacceptable on road, double yellow, zigzags and driveways. Abuse happens.

O Scott – Advise anyone that sees cars parked illegally – in front of driveways etc to take the registration and report that to school and police

Val – Any school cannot be responsible for the parents - they can send letters and ask to be responsible and follow the advice of the school. Sure that this is not just a problem for St Josephs.

Sue – Member for Association who lives close to St Stephens School – problems occur there too.

Adam Paynter, Councillor, – try and work with schools to ask parents to be responsible. St Stephens School has sent letters.

O Scott – St Josephs has too – will ensure another is drafted.

Val thanked O Scott for attending the meeting. Understands that the problems affect him as a resident and a business representative in different ways

O Scott – Wants to work with everyone to try and achieve the best outcome for the area. He has only lived in St Stephens for 5 years but the School has been there for over 100 years. Very important that business and residents work together.

Val – Important for all to remember that if you buy a house by a church you cant complain if the bells ring..... and living close to any school comes with its own challenges. However abuse or being unable to get out of your own property is not acceptable and what it is important to do is keep talking about these issues to come up with the best outcome for all.

John C – Zigzag lines outside every school have no legal significance – but feels they should be. Please can residents put pressure on zigzags to be prosecuted for ALL schools.

Adam P – budget is in to try and get more policing to enforce this type of offence but as with all things this is difficult. Adam has been doing his job for a number of years and the continuing dialogue is very important to let people know and keep things moving forward.

Question about resources here – the cost to police this type of thing. As residents can we try and sort it out ourselves so that money to police can be spent on crimes. Can we, through communication, help sort this out in our community?

What is the difference – Disabled can park on double yellow lines – no one should be able to park on zigzag in front of a school.

Many opinions given about people who park in wrong places, leafleting, putting up cones, people frustrated when not listed to by police. Associations need to say to all - please don't do anything that be construed as illegal – please don't touch other peoples cars. Please document – take photos – write down time and document what you see – much better to gather evidence as a group and try to get something done that way.

Val – does anyone have any other questions comments?

Val – Thanks all for coming, lovely to see everyone. Please let us know if you can help with the survey in the New Year. Will inform you about the social evening at the Golf Club.

SOCIAL EVENING – GOLF CLUB – Saturday 17th December – 6pm – 9pm

Traffic Survey – Please see the website for further information in regards to dates and helping out.

Next Public Meeting to be held Friday 10th February 2017 at 7pm at St Josephs School Hall