MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH CHIEVELEY RESIDENTS

Held at Newbury Showground Offices, Newbury, 25th November 2013

Present:

NDAS: Mr Simon Carter (SC), Mrs Rhona Tucker (RT), Mr Mick Crockford (MC), Mrs Mary Hopkins (MH)

Chieveley Residents: Mr Eric Friend (EF), Mr Trevor Thompson (TT), Mrs Anilee Armitage (AA), Mrs Diana Ash (DA), Mr Paul Inskip (PI), Mrs Hilary Cole (HC), Mr David Cowan (DC)

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| **1.** | Welcome and Apologies for Absence  Mr Simon Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Apologies were received from Mr Michael Jackson, Mr Rob Crispin, Mrs Ali Brown, Mr George Bucknell. | **ACTION** |
| **2.** | **Notes from meeting held on 22nd April 2013**  Everyone present had received the notes. |  |
| **3.** | **Matters arising from the Notes from the meeting held on 22nd April 2013**  Item 5 should read Church Commissioners and not conditioners.  Mrs Ash asked about the size and numbers of advertising signs as there seemed to be a large number of signs for various shows, in particular the All About Gardening Show. Mr Simon Carter said that he believed that Council regulations should apply to all parties. Mrs Hilary Cole confirmed that letters had been sent to all show organizers concerning the rules about signage. |  |
| **4.** | **Report from Show Office on County Show**  Mrs Mary Hopkins presented a report on the 2013 Royal County of Berkshire Show and added the following comments:  The road closure had been put in place and access and egress to the Show had gone well.  Mrs Cole said that the PA system could be heard in Chieveley on Saturday morning.  Mr David Cowan said that he thought that the Show had been very good and well organised. Mrs Ash agreed.  There had been some problems with drivers approaching from the flyover having to turn round because they had been incorrectly directed. Mrs Hopkins advised that this matter had been raised at a recent contractors’ meeting and that the issue would be addressed in 2014.  Mrs Ash said that she felt that some signage to free car parks had been unclear. |  |
| **5.** | **Lettings Update**  Mrs Hopkins handed out a list of events for 2014 to those present, together with her business card as a point of contact.  The number of events planned for the showground in 2014 is currently 19, marginally less than 2013.  Mr Carter asked for any comments. Mr Trevor Thompson said that at the time of the Showman’s Show both A34 slip road lanes were turning right and that he had witnessed some road rage. Mrs Cole said that she believed that this was a Highways Agency matter, not one for West Berkshire Council. Mrs Cole will speak to the Highways Agency about this.  Mrs Ash said that on 14th April there had been very long queues for entry to the Aztec garden and dog show at 11.00 a.m. Mr Carter said that this could have been as a result of the wet conditions which meant that access was not as good and that it took longer to get people in as a result.  Mrs Ash said that on 20th April the speakers were very loud before 9.00 a.m. Whilst it was expected that residents would have to put up with some inconvenience with PA systems and roads over the Show period, it was not expected at other events. |  |
| **6.** | **Society Building**  Mr Carter explained that the application for the building was now in the judicial review process.  Mrs Cole said that she would prefer not to comment on the progress of the Society Building as she represented West Berkshire Council.  Mrs Cole advised that there was no issue with the S106 planning agreement anymore. The agreement had been entered into with the local authority to mitigate any harm with the number of events, and type of events being held on the Showground. Mrs Cole said that the S106 was limited to the whole curtilage of the Showground.  Mr Cowan advised that Councillor Cole had been consulted as a ward member and had received the Parish Council views. Since then no other party has contacted the Parish Council and no Parish Council points that were made had been taken into account. Mr Cowan confirmed that the Parish Council were supporting the judicial review.  Mr Cowan raised the matter of the D2 Planning Permission saying that in the event that there is no Show the building area only reverts to agricultural land, not the rest of the showground and this could leave the showground open to exploitation by other businesses. Mr Carter in reply said that in the event that the Show does not continue then the building has to be taken down and the land (i.e. the whole showground) has to be reverted back to agricultural use.  Mr Carter said that the Society was frustrated; it had tried to communicate with all parties and the current situation is a delaying tactic by Growth Financial Services and to accept two more parties and the Councillor of the Parish Council. This process will cost a lot as West Berkshire Council will defend the case. |  |
| **7.** | **Any Other Business**  Mr Friend asked for reflectors to be put on the Trencherwood gate post. Mr Carter said that there were some there but that they were damaged when there was a break-in.  Mrs Ash thanked the Society for her tickets to the Show.  Mrs Cole said that 2014 was the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I and asked if the Society had any plans for this. Mr Carter said that the Society had started thinking about it, the emphasis should be around reflection and recognition.  Mrs Tucker said that Help For Heroes is the chosen charity for the 2014 Show.  Mrs Ash expressed concern about members not receiving their members’ packs before the Show. Mr Carter said that the Society was moving to e-ticketing as a way of getting tickets to members. |  |
| **6.** | **Date of next meeting**  The next meeting will be held on Monday 28th April 2014 at 6.30 p.m.  The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m. |  |