

Derby Road Fund

**Committee Meeting 19 June 2019 at 7 pm
Held at 25 Derby Road**

Present:

Sean Mitchell (Temporary Chairman)
David Moro (Treasurer)
Paula Benham (Minutes Secretary)
Gillian Vooght
Jamie Harcourt
Julie Mills

Apologies:

Shirley Rennison
Simon Scadden

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 8 May 2019 had been approved at the interim meeting on 3 June 2019. No minutes had been taken at this meeting as it was purely to discuss the format of letter and questionnaire to be sent to residents in relation to the pinch point six month trial. It was agreed to add the review.

Matters arising:

A discussion took place with regard to incorporating data collected from the surveys on traffic carried out by JH and SS on 4 and 11 June between 7 and 9.30 am and it was agreed that these figures should be included. The statistics would be kept simple. **JM**

It was noted that when DR and GR PP were both closed 44% of traffic tried to go through from both ends (approximately 120 cars, possibly this percentage proportionately creating £22,000 worth of road repairs). SM suggested that these costings should only be mentioned briefly in the PP poll and that JM should also include the base line.

A week later, when both roads were open, 143 residential cars were recorded with 27 non residents passing through without stopping. This represented 19% of residential traffic and was divided between DR and GR. **GV** would forward SS figures from the surveys to JM. JM may adjust the percentage of the total figures after we discussed the proportion allocated to QAS and MC. QAS pointed out that the lighter traffic may have been because of school exams.

In his absence SS had written to draw attention to the fact that the opening and closing times of the PP should be strictly adhered to. It was agreed that a gentle reminder be given to the PP rota volunteers. (GV) JH observed that when both roads were closed on the same day the traffic was much reduced, with drivers now checking on the PP signs. It was thought the PP was having a positive effect.

JM would distribute the review letter and questionnaire to committee members for comment and response by 24/25 June, these would then be printed by **DM** and delivered by **SM** at the end of June.

SM Closure days queried whether our dates were in common with GR but **DM** explained we only closed on half their number of days as it was thought it would have been too much during our first trial period. We don't close on bin days or weekends as they do. Whether there had been a pre-agreement with regard to same day closure with GR hadn't occurred this time as their annual dates had already been decided. Richard, chair of GR agreed to close to coincide with DR during our trial period.

It was agreed not to pursue the IL matter any further. However, should any aggressive comments be forthcoming from the Poll, the suggestion to approach our Community Policeman might be a good idea.

As there had been no response to our request to all residents for a new chairman, **SM** suggested that all the years SS had spent in the diplomatic service would make him an ideal chairman and once he'd had time to settle in he might be approached? If, in the future, we didn't have a chairman the idea of using a property management company was discussed, together with the impact on the Fund. It could be costed out and the name of a referred company would remain on file.

The AGM Minutes had not been posted on the DR web page, although GV had requested this of QAS. **DM** explained that DRF paid a monthly charge but the yearly fee had been paid by QAS, despite requests to bill DRF. **JM** said that as long as we had the necessary password she was able to convert documents to pdf format and would test the system out. We could then add and delete items of interest ourselves without troubling T [REDACTED]. **JM**

In the event JH knew someone who might charge us £10 p.a. to handle the web pages.

With regard to our request for a yellow box at the end of DR/PR, [REDACTED] from RBC had rejected this as he felt traffic leaving DR didn't create a

significant impact on traffic flow. However, [REDACTED], our local counsellor, had suggested a no left turn sign might be installed “No left turn except authorised vehicles”. GV would contact him again and report back.

[REDACTED]: JM hadn't been to visit her yet. JH suggested applying to have 3 or 4 lower branches removed from the tree as a start; these were around 12-15' up so could let in the light she desired. A tree surgeon had commented that her insurance company might support her application for removal and Mr C [REDACTED] would pass this on. SM wondered who we needed to approach in this regard. GV and Mrs [REDACTED] had a meeting with [REDACTED]. JM would approach her this week and report back.

GV had discussed the removal of the compost heap alongside S [REDACTED]'s house with PC; the Council very rarely cut the grass and to date N [REDACTED], an 80 year old had kept it mowed.

JH had installed verge posts for [REDACTED] and was more than willing to do the same for any resident who asked. No need to return to this matter.

JH had photographed the overgrown trees, shrubs and verges remaining outside Mander Court and DM had had correspondence with [REDACTED] at SH Group who had agreed to action the work immediately.

The management company of Greycoat Court also don't look after their verge. [REDACTED] of 4 DR had looked into purchasing this strip of land but at £10,000 it was deemed too expensive. It was agreed to discuss this further.

With regard to Mr & Mrs M [REDACTED]'s original request for assistance with excess surface water in their entrance, GV confirmed she had received quotations of between £14,000 and £3,500 to improve the situation for two soakaways. However, in a letter received from them on 12 June they now appear to be unconcerned about it.

SM thought the M [REDACTED] had been confused with their recollection that the gas contractors had agreed to level off the road outside their house, as this wasn't normally in their remit. However, the M [REDACTED] were more than happy to wait for the next resurfacing of DR to solve their issue.

In their letter the M [REDACTED] had pointed out they had a right of way over DR but DM confirmed that this was not vehicular access but on foot. PB had replied to cover all their concerns and they appeared satisfied with the Committee's efforts.

JH was asked to look at the foliage around the base of the trees outside 33 DR and PB raised concerns about obscured visibility caused by their tree in GR.

Mr A [REDACTED] would be informed that the meeting in July would be solely to discuss the results of the PP Poll and he would be invited to the following full meeting.

PB

SS had corresponded with Grundons in connection with their access to Mander Court to recover medical waste and it had been agreed they would, in future, always come in from the Peppard Road end.

Constitution:

The main purpose of this Constitution was to inform prospective purchasers/renters of properties in and off DR of their responsibilities when moving into a private road. It was felt estate agents and solicitors could not be relied on to inform clients of their obligation to contribute to the DRF. Our solicitor had stated the need for this Constitution. A discussion took place on where the onus to pass on this information lay. Properties with debts attached would have this liability carried over to estate agent or purchaser.

Item 5.2 SM queried the number of members on the committee and this would be discussed at the next full committee meeting (date to be arranged on 15.07.19).

Item 5.5 It was felt that by keeping the odd numbers there should be no conflict if the chairman was required to make a casting vote.

It was agreed the Committee would read and comment on the proposed Constitution.

Any Other Business:

It was agreed that a sign “As a courtesy please give priority to pedestrians” would be a good idea. JH had forwarded a photograph of the school children forming a crocodile on their way to swimming to emphasise the need for such a sign.

In order to discourage ‘the boy racers’ the installation of more smaller humps was discussed: these would not go right across the road for safety reasons where pedestrians were concerned, but would be placed in line with trees to discourage motorists from driving round them.

In future, **PB** would hand out a printed Agenda at the start of the meeting, having already circulated one on-line and would also print a fair copy of the Minutes of the previous meeting for each member (again after members had received an on-line copy for comment).

An interim meeting to discuss the PP Poll was arranged for Monday 15 July at 25 DR.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.