

Barking Reach Residents Association Meeting

Wednesday 18th October 2017 Rivergate centre, 7:30pm

38 in attendance. Committee: Pete Mason, Nuno Amorim, Venilia Amorim, Fran Mitchell, Habib Qazi, Fatuma Ssesemba, Syed Islam, Pat Short

Apologies: Nabila Sherkhan, Marta Varesi, Rumina Sultana, Shabana Qazi

Meeting started at 7:40pm

Minutes and Matters arising. After a resident asked for clarification on pinnacle's complaint procedure, minutes from the previous meeting on 20th September 2017 were agreed.

BRL Parking Offer

Chair Pete Mason stated that about 90% of what the association asked for, BRL has conceded. Therefore, the association recommends the acceptance of the offer from BRL. He added that the new spaces will be visitors bays, which means anyone, both residents and visitors, can park in them. The association has asked BRL for the new bays that are situated directly outside residents' houses to be transferred to residents. Their existing bays, which are located away from residents' houses, will then become visitor bays. BRL will look at this. Parking enforcement for these is yet to be decided. The meeting then consulted with residents in each street as follows.

1. Lawes Way

A resident asked for speed bumps on the narrower part of Lawes Way (towards Galleons Drive) and a one way system. He was concerned about speeding and congestion. Proposed changes were agreed.

2. Sedge Gardens

Eight extra visitor bays will be added to the west side of the road, excluding the one where there used to be a tree. A resident mentioned that there needs to be enough space for residents to turn in and out of their own drives. Proposed changes were agreed.

3. Galleons Drive (between the bridge and Crossness Road – to the west)

Several residents complained that the traffic lights recently installed at the junction of Galleons Drive with Crossness Road would cause a lot of traffic and that it would flush traffic onto Lawes Way. A one-way system was suggested again to ease traffic. Pete Mason also mentioned that the parking spaces created for the houses on the south side of Galleons Drive, on top of the green ditch, should be given to residents as their own parking bays, transforming their existing ones on De Pass Gardens and Davey Gardens as visitor bays. It has been proposed to BRL. Residents have also suggested the use of visitors' scratch cards for visitor bays. Proposed changes were agreed.

4. Galleons Drive (between the bridge and the roundabout – to the east)

Peter Mason noted that this part of the estate doesn't form part of BRL's consultation because it is adopted by the council. However, it was proposed at a meeting that the association attended with BRL and John Hunter, a council transport planning development official that the council relaxes the double yellow lines without compromising road safety. Residents complained that drivers speed through the stretch of road between Harlequin Close and Mallards Road and suggested speed bumps, speed cameras and flashing mandatory speed limit signs to be installed to reduce speeding vehicles. The proposal for speed bumps was voted on and agreed by a large majority. A visitor has noted that these will only be installed by the council if an incident has happened, unfortunately. Pete Mason said the residents association will raise all proposals made with BRL. Proposed changes were agreed.

5. McAllister Grove, Middleton Grove and Gatward Place

Proposed changes were agreed.

6. De Pass Gardens, Chilworth Place and Davey Gardens

Proposed changes were agreed.

7. Harlequin Close and Drake Close

Proposed changes were agreed.

8. Minter Road Car Park

Proposed changes were agreed.

9. Robert Lewis House and Mallards Road

Proposed changes were agreed.

10. Argent House

There is a petition going in order to relax parking restrictions in areas that are not marked with either yellow lines or marked as bays.

A resident has suggested that the bus terminus could become a car park when it ceases to be used as a terminus, and also advocated that residents should campaign in newer areas of the estate. Committee member Fran Mitchell suggested that residents should fight to end the 24-hour parking restrictions.

Pinnacle Service Charge

A resident mentioned that there has been no bill for July 2017 to January 2018, which residents usually get around end of June. Residents that have not paid the service charge or have contested previous bills have received reminders. Treasurer Venilia Amorim has suggested that for those residents that wish to, they can contest the bills or reminders received so far at their own risk. The association encourages residents to contest the bills by requesting a full breakdown of their bills as per their own right. Residents that are not paying were urged to set aside the service charge money in a savings account, because if no fault can be found with the charges once they become available for inspection, they will then be due for payment.

Update on Lottery Project

Secretary Nuno Amorim attended a meeting at the Rivergate School where he met Matt Scott, the project manager for the Thames Ward Community Project. The chair and several residents also attended and MP Margaret Hodge hosted. Matt Scott talked briefly about his plans for the area, which are also the residents' plans. The association proposed to invite him to be a speaker at our next residents meeting.

Any other business

None.

Meeting closed 9.10pm