

ACRA

Alliance of Christchurch Residents Associations

Minutes of the meeting on **Tuesday 13th September at 7.30pm**

1. **Present:** Liz Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Rob Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Ken Clay (Friars Cliff); Andy Glaser (Friars Cliff); Malcolm Burton-Smith (SAMRA); Mike Collard (SAMRA); : Debbie Stephens (SAMRA); John Pendrill (West Christchurch - Chairman); Jim Biggin (West Christchurch - Secretary);
2. **Apologies for Absence:** none
3. **Absent Without Apology:** Highcliffe
4. **Acceptance of Minutes:** the minutes of 14th June 2011 were accepted
5. **Matters Arising**
 - 5.1. **Dorset Police:** John Pendrill's exchange of correspondence with Chris Chope MP regarding the extended closure of local roads following a road traffic accident was reviewed and the MP's contact with The Highways Agency noted. His remarks to the effect that the Association of Police Officers is not subjected to democratic control were considered to be troubling. *It was resolved that* John Pendrill should reply drawing attention to the fact that the situation regarding fatal accidents on motorways had been changed so that greater emphasis is now placed upon keeping the road closed for the shortest time possible and asking Chris Chope MP to lobby for that concession to be extended to all dual carriageways.
 - 5.2. **Snow Clearance:** attention was drawn to the legal opinion obtained from CBC regarding the risks involved in residents clearing snow from paths and pavements. The opinion can be read at www.wcresidents.co.uk
 - 5.3. **Canford Bottom Roundabout:** it was noted that this is a Central Government initiative related to the Olympics that is being pushed through against considerable local opposition in the Ferndown-Wimborne area. Individual members were left to reach their own conclusions about joining in any demonstrations.
 - 5.4. **Southampton Cardiac Unit:** Mike Collard reported a supportive response to his letter to Chris Chope MP. The Health Authority are now reflecting in purdah
6. **Treasurer's Report:** ACRA funds amount to £111.93
7. **Delegate to Bournemouth Airport:** John Pendrill reported that:
 - 7.1. The redevelopment remains on schedule and is nearly complete. A covered walkway is planned linking Arrivals and Departures
 - 7.2. The unpopular £2.50 blanket access charge is raising revenue
 - 7.3. The frequency of operation of the shuttle bus will not be increased until the number of flights increases. Efforts are being made to set up flights to South Africa, Australia and The Middle East

- 7.4. The Olympic Games is expected to cause an increase in traffic related to executive jets
- 7.5. The private access road has been upgraded at no cost to tax payers
- 7.6. A new recreational area embracing the local SSSI is planned
- 7.7. The size of the Industrial Estate is to be significantly increased without any improvement to the local roads
- 8. **Druitt Hall:** Malcolm Burton-Smith reported that there has been no progress on the redevelopment of Druitt Hall. Some people are now questioning, given the number of local halls, whether the redevelopment is really required but at least one other member expressed the opposite opinion.
- 9. **Druitt Gardens:** Malcolm Burton-Smith reported that there have been issues related to the new cycle track in Druitt Gardens in terms of objections to the mixing of pedestrians and cyclists on a single path. Liz Evans reported legal problems related to existing covenants and restricted rights of way

10. Member's Current Issues:

- 10.1. SAMRA reported that: the new "Lights Out" scheme is not popular and the financial case for taking this path of action is opaque, involving a DCC PFI Scheme. On the face of it the set-up costs when combined with the financing costs appear to ensure that no actual cost savings will be made
- 10.2. Christchurch Citizens reported that the new Travelodge planned for the Town Centre is broadly welcomed. The Chairman highlighted that it will bring to an end a twenty year waste of tax payer's money
- 10.3. West Christchurch reported that: the final draft plan for the Management of St Catherine's Hill is now expected by 1st October with the plan going to CBC Councillors in November and the public consultation being held in January-February 2012

11. Meeting with CBC Autumn 2011: members requested that CBC be asked to comment upon:

- 11.1. 2012 Budget
- 11.2. The progress of The Localism Bill and how they perceive it interacting with "The Big Society" and Health and Safety laws
- 11.3. The progress of the Unified Waste Management Scheme
- 11.4. The progress of The Core Strategy - Local Development Plan
- 11.5. The functioning of CBC Planning Department with particular reference to (i) research (e.g. late discovery of access problems at Druitt Gardens) and (ii) retrospective permissions (e.g. the Indian restaurant in Bridge Street and the selling of take-away meals)

12. Meeting Councillor Spenser Flower Autumn 2011: members requested that Councillor Flower should be asked to comment upon:

- 12.1. DCC 2011-12 Budget shortfall

- 12.2. DCC 2012-13 Budget
- 12.3. The Fire Service Budget with reference to the white elephant centralised control centres that are appearing in various places
- 12.4. The Icelandic Funds
- 12.5. The financial aspects of the "Lights Out" scheme
- 12.6. The financial aspects of the Unified Waste Management Scheme

13. Boundary Changes: the proposed changes to Christchurch were noted

14. Next Meeting: Tuesday December 13th 2011 at The Hall on the Hill, West Christchurch at 7.30pm

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