

ACRA

Alliance of Christchurch Residents Associations

Minutes of the meeting on **Tuesday 12th June 2012 at 7.30pm**

1. **Present:** Liz Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Rob Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Ken Clay (Friars Cliff); Brian Smith (Highcliffe); Debbie Stephens (SAMRA); Malcolm Burton-Smith (SAMRA); John Pendrill (West Christchurch - Chairman); Jim Biggin (West Christchurch - Secretary);
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Andy Glaser (Friars Cliff); Mike Collard (SAMRA);
3. **Reinstatement:** the reinstatement of Malcolm Burton-Smith (SAMRA) following a change in his personal circumstances was welcomed
4. **Acceptance of Minutes:** the minutes of 13th March 2012 were accepted
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - 5.1. **St Catherine's Hill Management Plan:** Jim Biggin reported that the public consultation had produced 197 responses (approximately 50% from people living on the Hill; 25% from other residents of West Christchurch; 25% from further afield). Whilst many regarded this as satisfactory WCRA did not, particularly the low response from those directly affected. The responses showed that 75% of respondents broadly accept the plan; people living near the Hill put hydrology as their most important aspect – a view not shared by those living out of the immediate vicinity. The plan will now be amended to reflect the feedback received before being passed through a process of formal adoption.
 - 5.2. **Localism Act 2011:** Jim Biggin reported a discussion with CBC Executive in which it became clear that enabling orders were still required to bring this legislation to life. Such orders were due to appear during the summer.
6. **Navitus Bay Wind Farm:** Jim Biggin reported the discussion that he and John Pendrill had with CBC and the meeting he and Malcolm Burton-Smith had with Navitus. Following those meetings Jim Biggin had produced a discussion paper for ACRA members to consider. This discussion gave rise to the following points:
 - 6.1. **Economics of the proposal:** the distinctions between wind, tidal and say nuclear power are not really understood. On the face of it the need to have a permanent gas based back-up to a wind farm makes very little economic sense. In addition to running costs the set-up costs (including traffic disruption and post-installation clear-up) have not been quantified. *It was resolved that* Malcolm Burton-Smith will try to produce a paper on this topic despite his concerns that relevant, accurate data may be difficult to obtain.
 - 6.2. **The technology:** it was agreed that we lack the expertise to sensibly consider this aspect. *It was resolved that* each member organisation will canvass its members to see if we can find somebody who could help us to define and understand these and other related issues.

- 6.3. The environment-the sea and marine life:** it was agreed that this does not directly affect us as Residents Associations
- 6.4. The environment-birds:** Brian Smith (Highcliffe) declared a personal interest in this aspect. He indicated that such research as is currently being undertaken is not particularly thorough and that available resources are stretched. He undertook to keep us informed of developments
- 6.5. The environment-on land:** Brian Smith (Highcliffe) reported that the underground trench carrying the cables from the shore to Mannington will be 60 meters wide and 2 meters deep. It will come ashore east of Barton Golf Club and head first north and then west around New Milton to Hinton. It will cross the A35 at The Cat and Fiddle and head north west through the Brockhamtons, by-passing Sopley to the east before turning west again to cross the A338 near the Ski Centre on Matchams Lane. A north westerly route will then take it through Hurn Forest, across the A31 west of St Leonards and on to West Moors and so to Mannington – some 35 kilometres in total. Most of the land affected appears to be just inside the Hampshire border and will thus be the concern of Hampshire Council and The New Forest National Park. As such we are probably not directly affected although there is likely to be severe traffic problems whilst the cable is installed
- 6.6. The environment-Christchurch:** the main impact would appear to be visual with a forest of turbines appearing on the horizon, clearly visible from the shore and the cliff tops. It is not clear if sunlight reflected from rotating turbine blades could be a problem. This topic would appear to be our major area of concern.
- 7. Treasurer's Report:** ACRA funds amount to £111.93
- 8. Core Strategy Consultation – Soundness of Plan:** Jim Biggin reported that the current national and local financial situation would make the implementation of large parts of this plan unlikely in the foreseeable future
- 9. Update Meeting with CBC:** John Pendrill reported a constructive meeting that covered the following topics (A fuller note of what was discussed can be found at www.wcresidents.co.uk)
- 9.1. CBC autumn road show:** each member should communicate directly with CBC if they wished CBC to organise such an event. It was noted that a presentation on the new waste collection procedures would probably best be carried out by The Dorset Waste Partnership.
- 9.2. Localism :** see 5.2 above
- 9.3. The management of local trees:** this related to trees on pavements and those in resident's gardens that are covered by TPO where residents view the current situation as unsatisfactory
- 9.4. The current financial situation:** CBC indicated that some change would have to occur to council services and their mode of delivery for councils to continue to function within their current financial structures and constraints

9.5. Christchurch Hospital: CBC told us they are doing all they can to ensure positive change to the delivery of health services in Christchurch. In their view the best way to do this is to involve all of Dorset - a strategy that is supported by the hospital. They have therefore referred the matter to the Joint Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee;

9.6. Navitus Bay: see 6 above

10. Delegate to Bournemouth Airport: John Pendrill reported that:

10.1. A new Managing Director, Paul Knight, has been appointed

10.2. The search for new routes continues

10.3. A schedule of drop-off and pick-up charges levied by competing airports has been produced. A copy has been posted to www.wcresidents.co.uk

11. Druitt Hall: Liz Evans (Christchurch Citizens) and Rob Evans (Christchurch Citizens) reported that the hall will be demolished in April 2013

12. Borough Grass Cutting: Jim Biggin drew attention to the reduction in this service which is part of the cost cutting measures. If local residents wished to help by undertaking this function themselves, that would be much appreciated

13. Pizza Express: Christchurch Citizens reported that the new Pizza Express had opened in the town centre

14. Next Meeting: Tuesday 11th September 2012 at The Hall on the Hill, West Christchurch at 7.30pm

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