



Minutes of Roussillon Park Residents' Association General Meeting 29 April 2022

Gerry Cleaver -in the Chair
Fiona Steele – Minute Secretary

Notified Apologies: John and Sam Carney, David Coke, Peter Day, Anna Miller, Lynda and Nigel Murray, Graham Parr

1 Presentation by Maureen Corfield

Gerry Cleaver, in the Chair, welcomed residents to the meeting and introduced a presentation by Maureen Corfield (MC) who in 2021 had been elected as a Councillor for the North Ward of Chichester City Council in which Roussillon Park sits. MC has been very active in getting to know her constituents, and in talking to them, has identified a major concern about widespread speeding in the area. As a consequence she has been promoting a campaign to introduce a wide-area 20mph speed limit in Chichester, supported by her own research into the effect of such an introduction elsewhere in the country (particularly Bristol and Edinburgh); and noting that London has a commitment to eliminate death and injury on its roads by the widespread introduction of wide-area 20mph limits by 2041.

MC went on to provide a persuasive list of reasons why such a measure should be introduced in Chichester, citing proven reduction in road casualties, improved quality of life for residents such as better air quality, noise reduction and a generally safer environment for all – pedestrians, cyclists, mobility vehicles, as well as motorists themselves. She quoted evidence that the cost of implementing a wide-area 20mph limit is far outweighed by savings to the public purse from the reduction achieved by reducing road casualties (such as less involvement of police, medical staff and council workers). She countered objections that such a scheme would be harder to enforce and would be subject to non-compliance by motorists by describing the experience of Bristol showing that such objections do not hold water in practice.

MC then took questions from the audience such as why not increase the number of speed cameras (good but not as a static device), why not more prosecutions (police resources are limited), and why it is not already happening in Chichester (the reason for MC's campaign). With the support of local politicians and the public, MC is

urging West Sussex County Council, which has the wherewithal to implement such a scheme, to pursue its introduction as part of its current road safety study.

MC thanked RPRA for providing a platform for her campaign and would welcome any other support which residents could provide such as joining SpeedWatch and/or helping to get a 20mph default implemented. She also provided a useful hand-out summarising some of the key issues. If anyone would like a copy of the handout and to know more about the campaign please contact Maureen at m.corfield@chichestercity.gov.uk.

In thanking MC for her informative contribution, GC hoped that Roussillon residents would also become involved, particularly in SpeedWatch.

2 Report from the Residents' Association Committee

2.1 Committee Membership

GC noted that this meeting was one of the two General Meetings organized for widespread residents' attendance, the other being the AGM (last held in November 2021). Since the latter meeting Robert Johnson has resigned from the Committee and Joanna Hooker and Tony Brandt have joined. GC hoped that more residents would express an interest in the work of the Committee, either as a full member (elected at an AGM) or co-opted for special interests on an ad-hoc basis. The Committee has a rotating chair which role is currently undertaken by GC who is also the RPRA Treasurer.

2.2 Banking

RPRA's funds have historically been held in an HSBC account but this is no longer sustainable because of the high fees charged for handling the Association's modest funds. Protracted and rather bureaucratic negotiations have led to the account being assigned to Santander although the transfer of funds still needs to be finalized.

2.3 Events

Sadly the traditional 'Carols on the Green' pre-Christmas event had to be cancelled in 2021 as a result of COVID restrictions, but GC hoped that as many residents as possible would be able to attend this Year's Picnic on the Park, scheduled for 5 June. This coincides with the weekend earmarked for the main celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and will have a strong Jubilee theme. Extra sponsorship for the event has been obtained from RMG, Hastoe and the Gardening Contractors and this is enabling more attractions to be offered. Further information will be circulated soon but the Committee would very much appreciate any help residents can provide in the lead-up to the Party. Please contact GC on ggcleaver@btinternet.com

3 Estate Matters

David Coke (DC), the lead member of the Shadow Management Company (Shadow Manco) was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting but his report was presented by John Bushby, another member. Given the significance of the subject matter for residents, an edited version of this report follows these minutes.

In the subsequent discussion, traffic issues featured strongly, such as speeding around the estate, inconsiderate parking by residents, visitors and not least by delivery vans parking on the pavements. Children using scooters and bicycles have also been seen to be both a danger to traffic but also to themselves, and also quoted was inconsiderate use of Charlotte Avenue as a school rat-run. The supposedly forbidden use by non-residents of the MOD entrance off the Broadway as a cut-through to the Broyle Road to avoid the tricky exit at the end of the Broadway was also cited as an issue. JB will refer all these complaints to the Shadow Manco for consideration by its Car Parking Working Party.

The question of the timing of the handover of the management of the estate from ZeroC to residents has still not been settled but JB noted that it could happen by the end of this year

4 Any Other Business

Gardening Group

The excellent work of the Residents' Gardening Group in enhancing the appearance of the Park was mentioned several times during the meeting, and GC, to wide applause, took the opportunity to compliment the members and particularly Lory Lloyd on their achievements. Notably this year 251 hedging plants have been planted along the northern border of the estate (with funds from the Chichester City Council) as part of the estate's 'greening' initiative and to provide a wildlife corridor.

GC thanked residents for attending and the meeting closed at 20.30

FS 010522

Estate report for RPRA General Meeting 290422.

Presented by John Bushby on behalf of David Coke

The Shadow Manco, for those of you who don't know, is in fact a group of nine volunteer residents who were either on the original Steering Group in 2017, or have joined since as directorship candidates. Our job is to make every effort to achieve the best possible results for everybody at Roussillon. This can be tricky because the Roussillon Park Management Company (set up and controlled until handover by ZeroC), which should be doing this for us, has always proclaimed itself as a dormant company which has delegated all its work and powers to a managing agent – in our case RMG. We, as the Shadow Manco, have no power and no funding, so we are always working from a semi-detached position, trying to sub-manage for the benefit of all householders; the frequent changes of RMG's property manager only create more problems and delays.

Fortunately, however, RMG has, especially in the past three or four years, started to take on board some of our suggestions. This applies particularly to the annual Estate Budget, which is our most important work here, and which is why we have two finance sub-groups – one to look at budget strategy and the other to scrutinise all expenditure. Unfortunately, we inherited a situation in which the Estate Fee had been kept artificially low, so as to help sell houses to first buyers. This has led inevitably to rises in some areas of the budget, especially our contributions to the vital Capital Reserves, which is why we are trying to maintain other budget lines within or below inflation. This is partly why it was felt that Mr Pentreath's proposal (which was circulated with the recent edition of the Roussillon Post, and in an RMG circular) to extend the palette for our door colours, with its potential for legal fees, should be withdrawn.

On the other hand, we do have a duty of care to the common areas of the estate (roadways, garden squares, trees, surface drains, perimeter walls, playgrounds, street furniture and the like), which is why we are currently looking at an item which might seem trivial, but which is our responsibility. This is a stone plaque, currently sunk into the grass of Rendell Gardens. This plaque was preserved when the 1939 Sandhurst Block of the old Roussillon Barracks was demolished, and it should have been incorporated into one of our new buildings. It includes the crowned monogram of King George VI, and the date 1939. However it was not incorporated into a new building, but was located in that part of Rendell Gardens, where it is now suffering damage, mostly from natural causes, because it is lying flat, and partly from the grounds team mowing around it. If it is left where it is, the plaque will continue to deteriorate, and will lose any meaning it ever had. As a result, we and the Garden Group are considering moving it to the shrub-bed just inside the main Entrance (by the Keep), where it would be seen by more people, and where it would be set opposite the stone plaque of the Royal Sussex Regiment, giving it some context. We will try to pay for this within this year's budget, so it will not add to next year's.

Another imminent subject is consideration of our next contract with the Chichester Community Development Trust (CCDT). The current agreement expires at the end of July 2023, so a working party to look at this will need to be set up, so that the CCDT can be involved in the discussions and can be notified well in advance of any changes. If anybody here is particularly interested in the subject and would like to help, please let David Coke know (decoke57@gmail.com). Indeed, if anybody here is interested in any aspect of the management of this estate, please do get in touch – we always need more residents to get involved.

The work of the Car Parking working party continues behind the scenes. This job is made more difficult because half of the estate believes there's no problem, while much of the other half believes that their own very local problem is the most important. We can say definitively that there are problems with parking, and that they are worsening, and that if anything is going to be done to improve things, it has to be done estate-wide. Because of the clear objection among householders to the idea of commercial parking enforcement, this option is right at the bottom of the list of possible remedies. It is, however, hard to see acceptable solutions that would answer all our various different problems without at the same time spoiling the environment here. But the working party is doing just that – working on it.

The residents' Garden Group has, as always, been performing miracles with our green spaces – they have the fullest possible support of the Shadow Manco, and, we hope, of everybody here too.