

Minutes of Meeting on 1 February 2011, 6 p.m.

Present: Cllr Robert Rams, Patrick Moriarty (Deputy Head, JCoSS – Chair), Joseph Ajuwon, Sally Clinton, Karen Miller, Cllr Joanna Tambourides.

Apologies: Cllr Barry Evangelis, Heather Sterry, Vicky Rose

1. Ways Forward for the Group

After a brief review of the history of this group, Mr Moriarty outlined the proposed ways forward, which were agreed. The group will function as:

- A forum of discussion for JCoSS' interface with local community
- A channel for requests and suggestions for our social action projects
- A base group for consultations re travel plan
- A focus point for issues regarding building works etc in short term

It will now be hosted by, and under the auspices of, the School. Mr Moriarty will Chair meetings and, for the time being, write up minutes. These will be circulated to the group for comment and then posted on the website.

Mr Moriarty reiterated that this group does not take the place of any Open Meetings that may be desirable in the future, nor is there any expectation that residents should take responsibility for defending the school's decisions.

It was noted that the minutes of our previous meeting had been withheld by the minute taker and cannot therefore be posted on the website.

2. Building Works

Mr Moriarty outlined the current position re works on the site

- Phase 2 is under way, to construct a permanent car park for staff cars, and the all-weather pitch. The pitch is still full size but the "run-off" round the outside has been reduced in size to allow for the caretaker's house.
- Letters had been sent out to residents from the School (and also from Ardmere – the School had not had sight of this before delivery). There was some doubt as to whether the JCoSS letter had gone to all intended houses. Mr Ajuwon would check this [*now confirmed*].
- This Phase 2 works is a smaller project, with a less pressurized time frame, on-site contractors' parking, fewer lorries. The School acknowledges the inevitable disruption to residents but hopes there will be much less impact than the main build.
- Working hours were clarified: 08.00-18.00 Monday to Friday and 08.00-13.00 Saturday, with no work on Sundays or Bank Holidays. To avoid risk to children at the beginning and end of school, there will be no weekday site traffic 08.00-8.40 and 15.50-16.30 (13.10-14.40 on Fridays until the end of April). The project should be complete by early June.
- There will be no incentive for contractors to park on neighbouring roads, and it is difficult to police legal parking on public highways, but steps will be taken to monitor this and action will be taken if it occurs.
- The problem of construction traffic coming down Fordham Road was raised – this road is unexpectedly narrow at the Mount Pleasant end. Mr Moriarty would raise this with Ardmere.
- As separate project, and not under the control of JCoSS, the playing field behind the JCoSS building will be renovated from May/June onwards. This is land leased from LB Barnet by East

Barnet School (shortly to become an Academy). The project will improve drainage and construct changing facilities.

- The fields will be used by JCoSS and East Barnet, and a formal agreement is currently being finalised
- JCoSS will seek to ensure East Barnet contacts residents to explain the works before they begin, but recognises that complaints are likely to come to JCoSS in the first instance!

3. Travel Plan Consultation

- A questionnaire had been delivered to local streets (Hertford Close, Westbrook Crescent/Square/Close, Lawton Road, Armstrong Close, Baring Road, Castlewood Road, Northfields Road, Linthorpe Road, Grove Road, Fordham Road/Close. There was some doubt over whether letters had actually arrived in Fordham Road
- The small handful of responses so far had been inconclusive and in some cases wanted more parking on site but fewer cars. Most wanted the school to encourage use of coaches and public transport. [*A couple more responses have arrived since the meeting, one asking the school to **discontinue** private coaches and questioning the original decision to build the school at all*]
- The majority view is in line with the school's analysis. JCoSS is also looking into the possibility of free "600" route public transport buses for our students.
- The plan for 2011 will probably be largely as per 2010. JCoSS is aware of need for longer term planning & a future open meeting may be helpful, but it is too early to do so at this stage.
- Residents requested that JCoSS traffic should in all cases come over the bridge at Fordham Road, not go past Livingston School. Mr Moriarty would send this message home to parents, staff and the Coach Company [*now done*].
- The suggestion was made that only Y7 students should be allowed to be dropped off at school. However, the risk is that parents would still drive and this would simply encourage drop-off on neighbouring roads
- The possibility was raised of a shuttle bus between High Barnet, New Barnet and Cockfosters Stations. However, this is what the 384 bus does already (and it is free for younger students) A discussion took place about requesting a more frequent 384 bus service, not least at peak times. This might encourage more students to use public transport. Cllr Rams would investigate setting up an online survey on this topic.

4. Any Other Business

- It was suggested that JCoSS put up signage at the far end of the access road on Open Days, to show it is private land. The area is often used for weekend parking by people using the ponds on Hadley Common, and this would ensure that a request to move doesn't come as a surprise to them.
- The area under the bridge looks a likely spot for anti-social behaviour potentially there. The Safer Neighbourhood Team should be alerted to this [*now done – they were already aware*].
- It was suggested that residents be able to suggest items for the agenda: items can be submitted when the notice of meeting is sent out.
- A "Friends of Victoria Park" Group is being established to access funding for equipment etc: it would be good to invite them to talk to this group and/or the School in the future with a view to possible social action opportunities.
- All is currently quiet on the proposed Asda/Tesco developments. Tesco have planning permission for an Express store, and have meanwhile tidied and secured the derelict buildings they own. There is no movement on the Asda development.

Next Meeting

It was proposed to follow the dates of JCoSS Governing Body meetings, and the next date was set for Tuesday 5 April at 6.00 p.m. at the School.