

26



Graig & Penllyne Residents Association



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November 5th 2009

Dear

INDIVIDUAL LETTERS -

Mr. Reade

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Winchfield Pathway

We were disappointed to hear from Mr Reade (as attached) declining the offer made to you all to meet informally with members of the Residents Association, to discuss the Winchfield pathway.

The Residents Association Committee believe that they have taken a fair and open approach to this in trying to ensure that the needs of all members of the community have been reasonably represented. Further details of the processes undertaken and communications made and received, regarding the proposed pathway, are being put onto the village website, providing a fuller account of the situation. This documentation includes the regular communication of the various stages of development since its inception, 18 months ago, in the Newsletter (see attached) that is delivered to all members of the community. We were therefore surprised at the concerns raised so late in the process over 12 months after the initial consultation.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate a number of points, which we might not have been fully explained previously.

- The Residents Association Committee is made up of members of the village 6 of whom directly overlook the Winchfield and who therefore have a vested interest in this themselves.
- The initial questionnaire and consultation event was supported by Rural Communities, a voluntary organisation established to support such initiatives. They provided independent advice on the design of the questionnaire and helped manage the consultation event in determining villager's priorities.
- Throughout the process full updates were communicated and following the planning application only 2 responses were received by the local council
- Expertise was sought on a number of aspects. On the potential for flooding we were reassured by engineers that this would not be a problem.
- In response to concerns about the possibility of increased crime we took advice from our local community constable and others who from previous projects felt this was unlikely.
- We took guidance from the council and others on the dimensions and the materials etc of the pathway and used this to create the proposal. To be inclusive of all needs 1.7mtrs width is recommended by

Sustrans as the minimum that can safely allow two wheelchairs to meet or be used side by side with a 2 mtr size being preferred and allowing for the natural encroachment 1.8mtrs was settled on .

- We were advised that planning permission would not be granted for a direct linking pathway on the east side away from the Winchfield house, as we would not be allowed to make a new opening in the hedge .
- We wanted to ensure that any pathway did not impinge in any way upon the existing full size football pitch and this has been accounted for in the plans.

The 3 proposed motions you have tabled in your request for an EGM have evoked an angry and robust defence of Barbara from others in the village. As an Association we have a responsibility to ensure we take account of the needs of all members of the community and in doing so want to ensure that we maintain the strong community spirit and if at all possible, avoid further animosity. We feel that the EGM and in particular the personal nature of the motions, has potential to lead to further confrontation and deterioration of relations.

In recent weeks it has become evident through both conversations with individuals who originally supported the motions and from other correspondence, of the desire to find a compromise. The Residents Association Committee have therefore given this careful consideration and would like to suggest the following compromise and avoid the necessity for an EGM;

1. The pathway should not be linked but become two separate items, one just within the main Winch Field and the other in the play park area
2. The pathway width is reduced to its minimum taking account of advice ensuring that it allows prams and wheelchairs safe access and adequate camber.

I would encourage you to consider this fully before returning the attached form in the envelope provided by November 15th 2009. Please indicate whether you find this is an acceptable compromise or if you still wish to pursue the original motions to an EGM. It is important that you return the form as we will otherwise assume **all non responders as accepting the proposal.**

Should there still be a wish to pursue the EGM route (as per Constitution) then we will make all necessary arrangements to determine a date as soon as possible on Barbara Whitehouse' return in mid November. The EGM will address the original 3 proposed motions as per the letter of the 16th October and will accept the majority vote on the day as a final conclusion to this matter.

I hope that you will all accept this as a positive attempt to move forward and look forward to your receiving your response.

Yours Sincerely,

Helen Howson

Please circle your preference below and return in the enclosed envelope:

I accept the proposed compromise as set out with no further action through an EGM

I do not accept the proposed compromise and wish to take this to an EGM

Name (s) Address

.....

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Signature(s)

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