

SMART (St Mary's Association of Residents)

Minutes of meeting 20th April 2011

Welcome

Two guests were welcomed, Keith from Sandwell Traffic Dept and Richard from Bearwood Traders association

We also welcomed two new members, Carolyn and Sophie

Those present are not recorded in total on the minutes in order to protect personal information, as requested by group members.

Apologies were received from Caroline, Nigel and Lyn

Matters Arising

Traffic

John and others summarised the various concerns about traffic management. These involve the fading of the yellow box, the confusing nature of the pelican crossing signals, the location of the crossing near to the St Mary's Rd junction and the tendency of the 443 bus to 'layover' at the end of the road, causing disruption.

Keith informed the group that South Staffs water will be relaying the water mains along the Bearwood Rd soon. There is no point repainting the yellow box until after this has happened.

Keith informed the group that the speed bumps are nearly completed. If there are problems with them we should get in touch with the council traffic dept.

The junction

Alternative solutions were discussed. Robin suggested a public consultation; Cllr Steve Eling suggested a complete re-planning of the junction to include traffic lights with a pedestrian phase. Keith informed us that this plan would cost approximately £250 000. He also explained that there have been no accidents involving pedestrians since the current format has been in place.

If we would like to pursue the matter of the alternative junction with lights, we can ask Steve to do this through the Highway Programmes. Robin will write to Steve about this and we will discuss it further at our next meeting.

Planning appeal, no 6

The owner has lodged an appeal against the council's decision to refuse planning permission. This will be dealt with by the planning inspectorate.

Traders Association

Richard Marshall Chairman of the Traders' Association explained to the group that the Traders' Association is made up of 30-40 businesses in Bearwood. The purpose is to be proactive in promoting Bearwood. As part of this they plan to take part in 'Britain in Bloom', having hanging baskets and flower tubs on the High St. These will be provided by Webb's. The Councillors are supportive and there will be a 'deep clean' in May. There is a planned route to show off the attractiveness of the area (not involving our road) but we can all do our part.

The bins at the back of Subway will soon be enclosed by a fence.

If we have any other suggestions we can contact Richard by email (via Bearwood Blog)

Dog Fouling

There was a discussion about the 'shock' posters as used in Hastings. The posters, if used, would only be a part of the strategy.

Bus Parking

The group discussed the obstruction issue caused by the 443 bus, which parks near the junction for up to 30 minutes a time. Keith will let parking attendants know that they can ticket the bus. Steve expressed the view that layover should only occur on the bus station and Keith agreed to address this with the parking contractor.

Robin will write to the CEO of Diamond buses to address the layover and the behaviour/abusive language of the bus driver.

Logo

Annie will relook at this.

AOB

Ade suggested we should think about a social activity we could take part in as a group, maybe joining in with larger functions such as the party in the park.

Annie reported that tenants of a property further up St Mary's had caused a commotion in the street. The landlord concerned has now evicted the tenants.

Next meeting 22nd June 6.00pm

Items for the agenda please let Catharine or Robin know.