



# LONGBARN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

"Working together for our Community"

Registered Charity No. 1170309



## Minutes of LRA Residents' Meeting held on Thursday 18 August 2022 at 7.30pm in Padgate Village Club

**Present:** Eric & Margaret Acton, Sid & Marjorie Charlton, Robert & Pat Colquhoun, Vinny Harrison, Howard Klein, Linda McKay, Sue & Bob McLaughlin, Tony Murphy, Geoff & Wendy Orange, Mary Robinson, Jim Smith, Nicola Taylor, Thomas McMath, Claire Barrow, Roland Green (Parish Councillor), Colin Chorlton, Paul Adams

Geoff welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies:** David Pearson, PCSO Neil Potter

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of our last meeting held 7 July were agreed. There were no Matters Arising.
- 2. Financial report:** Management Committee members had been provided with the latest statement of accounts to 30 June 2022. No issues had been raised, & the accounts were now presented to residents with an explanation of recent spend activity.
- 3. Warrington Borough Council ~ £150 energy rebate:** Following a query from a local resident, Geoff explained that the energy rebate is available to residents living in accommodation bands A-D. It's paid into bank accounts automatically if residents pay their Council Tax by direct debit. Otherwise, residents must complete an on-line claim form ~ [warrington.gov.uk/rebate](http://warrington.gov.uk/rebate)  
If you've tried to complete an application form but experiencing difficulties, or for any other questions about the rebate, visit ~ [2022energyrebate@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:2022energyrebate@warrington.gov.uk)
- 4. LRA defibrillator:** Installed in March 2021, outside Raj's shop on Pasture Lane (LRA successfully bid for a grant from WBC's Community Initiatives Fund), the device has provided 3 life saving events since then. The device is presently out of order for up to 6 weeks whilst we await installation of new defib pads & battery. In the meantime there is also a defibrillator at Harper's Green, on Harper's Road.
- 5. Land Trust ~ renewal of License to Operate:** Geoff announced that the renewal of our License to Operate (essentially providing LRA with permission to cut grass on Land Trust land!) was signed on 10 August 2022.
- 6. Activity Zone:** Next dates for our community activities, mostly run here at Padgate Village Club, are ~
  - Quiz Night ~ Friday 9 September (7.30pm for 8pm start). Tickets £6 including hot & cold buffet. For tickets phone 01925 820647 (answerphone)
  - Afternoon Tea ~ Held alternate Fridays at Padgate Village Club (2-4pm). Next 2 sessions 19 August & 2 September, where we'll entertain you with tea & cakes & bingo & 'Play Your Cards Right.'
  - Seated Exercise Class ~ Held alternate Fridays at Padgate Village Club (2-4pm). Next 2 sessions 12 & 26 August.

- 'Footloose in Longbarn' dance class ~ Our weekly dance studio held at Padgate Village Club. Next event Tuesday 23 August & every Tuesday thereafter (1-2pm).
- Weekly bingo sessions at Harper's Green ~ Open to all Longbarn residents, every Wednesday starting at 7pm. 5 games for £5.

- 7. LRA Bowling Club:** The bowling green adjacent to Harper's Green was re-turfed & a new storage unit provided free gratis by Anwyl Construction in 2020. LRA secured bowling green as Asset of Community Value with WBC in 2021. But the bowling green has fallen into disrepair during COVID & Lockdown, & will cost a significant amount of money to bring bowling green up to scratch. Bob led a discussion on the work required to bring the bowling green up to scratch, costs involved, the many health & wellbeing benefits of crown green bowling, & the potential grant aid available to fund the refurbishment. Culminating in the exam question ~ is there sufficient demand across our community to warrant significant investment in bringing bowling green up to scratch? The general consensus is that there is ~ Paul invited residents to drop him a line (at [lrasecretary15@gmail.com](mailto:lrasecretary15@gmail.com)) so that he may gather evidence to support grant applications, later. Having taken soundings at our recent Management Committee meeting, & at this meeting, we'll now finalise our approach at our forthcoming Trustees' meeting scheduled for 6 September & subject to their decision, we'll go hunting for grants.
- 8. Road Safety on Harper's Road:** Car parking remains a problem around Longbarn, but especially on Harper's Road as parents drop off their children at Christ Church School, with some 'near misses' reported in recent weeks. We're collaborating with our local MP, borough councillors, WBC, & Christ Church School & their Board of Governors. School is publicising the 'Park and Stride' scheme (using the Station House car park) to new parents & advertising the parking opportunity in their newsletter on a regular basis. 3 separate WBC surveys have been undertaken on Harper's Road at the junction with Station Road during June 2022 ~ the criteria for the justification of a school crossing patrol has not been met. In turn Geoff invited residents to let him know if any are prepared to be volunteer school crossing patrol persons.
- 9. Community Clean-Up Day:** An organised litter pick around Longbarn on the last Sunday of each month, our next litter pick will be held on Sunday 24 August. Residents are invited to meet at Raj's shop in Pasture Lane where 'grabbers' & hi viz jackets will be provided, plus refreshments for kiddies. And if volunteers wish to take photos of their involvement for publication in our next Newsletter, please email them to [lrasecretary15@gmail.com](mailto:lrasecretary15@gmail.com)
- 10. Speakers for 29 September 2022 Residents' Meeting:** Geoff provided a 'heads up' signalling guest speakers invited to our next residents' meeting ~
- NHS ~ Katie Horan (Senior Engagement & Equality Manager)
  - Greencore Foods ~ Richard Martin (General Manager)
- 11. Parish Council Community Fun Day:** Being held Sunday 4 September, noon-4pm, at Bennett's Recreation Ground (Blackbrook Avenue). LRA will be mounting a stall to showcase our activities, alongside entertaining stuff including face painting, kiddies competitions, cakes & refreshments. If you're feeling community-spirited & are able to spare a few hours to help out, please phone 01925 820647 (answerphone)
- 12. Police open day ~ Saturday 20 August:** Being held Saturday 20 August 12-4pm, at their new Police premises at 40 Ruislip Court, Padgate, Warrington WA2 0TZ. The Police say, "Our aim is to get out there and let the community know where we are and that we are here to help." PC Panda will be there along with other activities such as bike marking.

### 13.AOB:

- We reflected on the fact that the number of residents attending these meetings has never really recovered back to previous numbers, post-COVID & Lockdown. Bob suggested we may be victims of our own success ~ LRA has resolved many long-standing issues with local agencies & maybe there's less for folk to turn up & discuss these days. In turn, if numbers don't increase, Bob thought maybe it's time to move from 6 to 12-weekly meetings. Food for thought. In the meantime we have 2 guest speakers at our next meeting & we'll see if they generate an increase in turnout.
- A session provided by The D'Ukes of Longbarn (our local ukulele group) at Warrington's Irish Centre Cultural Day was recently showcased on Sky TV. Coverage of the event is also on YouTube, & we closed the meeting by showing the footage.

The meeting to a close at 9.15pm.

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