



# LONGBARN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

"Working together for our Community"

Registered Charity No. 1170309



## Minutes of Resident's Meeting held 23 May 2024 at Padgate Village Club

1. **Welcome:** Bob warmly welcomed everybody to the meeting.
2. **In memoriam – Geoff orange RIP:** Our chairman, colleague & friend sadly passed away on 1 May. Our thoughts & prayers are with his equally dedicated wife Wendy, their daughter Rebecca & her husband John, & granddaughter Morgan.

Until the last Geoff was a totally committed upholder of community values & dedicated his life to central & local government & as our Chairman for LRA. Geoff followed in his father's footsteps with both having been Lord Mayor of Warrington.

A long-lasting list of achievements had been created by Geoff to ensure Longbarn would be as good as it can possibly be. All the initial LRA meetings attracted in excess of 50 – 60 attendees. In the recent past these numbers have diminished as over 90% of the area's problems have been resolved over the years; the remainder are mainly not in our remit to be able to resolve, although our utmost efforts continue to be exerted on the parties responsible, thanks to Geoff's leadership.

Geoff will be laid to rest on Monday 3 June at Walton Lea Crematorium at 12.40pm, followed by a celebration of his life in Padgate Village Club.

The funeral cortege is due to leave Geoff's house at approximately 12.10pm ~ many residents have intimated their wish to stand on Harpers Road to thank Geoff on his way with his final journey.

After the service at Walton Lea, PVC's staff have agreed to help out in any way they can & indeed are creating the refreshments, for the celebration & thanks for Geoff's life. LRA is funding these as a small token of our appreciation for all Geoff & Wendy's efforts over many years to make Longbarn a nicer & safer place to live in, for all residents.

*May he rest in peace*

3. **Our new Chairperson & Vice Chairperson:** At our Management Committee meeting held 21 May we proposed Bob McLaughlin as our new Chairperson; & Katy Wallace as our new Vice Chairperson who will bring a whole new perspective to the role & will hopefully be able to attract the younger element of our residents to our LRA adventures. The posts will be ratified at our next Trustees' meeting scheduled for 16 July. In the meantime we wish Katy & Bob all the best in their new roles.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 November 2023:** Minutes were agreed with no matters arising.

**5. Planters on Harper's Road:** Our 22 planters have been cleared & restocked in the last week due to the dedication of our 16 resident volunteers, all ensuring a brighter & more attractive Longbarn. With a particular, 'Thank you' to Bob McLaughlin for buying & collecting the plants & compost, & Dave Allen for his muscle in helping Bob shift & carry & distribute many large bags of compost and plants.

By last Saturday at 11.30 pm all planters on Harper's Road were resplendent. Just sad to say that first thing Sunday morning some mindless idiots had vandalised one of the planters ~ again a big, 'Thank you' to our people for putting the matter right, immediately.

**6. Our memorial bench on Harper's Road:** Our bench on Harper's Road was out of sorts with loose joints & weathered woodwork. But not anymore! Joints tightened, woodwork sanded & treated with many coats of preservative, & put back solidly in place, the bench is now good for many years to come. With huge thanks to Bob Heap for an outstanding refurb job. 👍

**7. LRA Bowling Green:** Despite over £6,500 being spent on the bowling green by the bowling club & LRA, it went from pristine to swamp after 3-4 weeks solid rain (When the bowling green was re-laid following completion of the Harper's Green development the builders, Anwyl construction, did not provide for sufficient drainage). Bob McLaughlin & Howard Klein are working hard to have our bowling green restored to its former glory. In terms of next steps a meeting will be held with our greenkeeper (Geoff Lee) & Tom Anwyl (construction company owner) on 4 June. Tom Anwyl has promised LRA that the green will be fully restored, tho this won't happen as quickly as LRA would like. Watch this space.

**8. Hogweed in Longbarn:** It has been reported that there are numerous outbreaks of hogweed on the estate. This is a nasty growth that causes burns to the skin. The proliferation of the weed has been reported to our local landowners. Paul will post an article on our social media alerting residents to the health & safety risk posed by the weed.

**9. Cyclists & e-scooters in Longbarn:** A resident & our LRA Management Committee colleague Steve Taylor has voiced his concern about the proliferation of these vehicles around Longbarn, & the potential risk to residents, especially on our New Town Estate. Steve's suggested the installation of convex mirrors as a medium-term solution. Paul has invited Steve to provide him with photos of suggested sites for the mirrors, where greatest danger to residents is posed. LRA will then contact WBC to explore possibilities, for mirrors & signage, backed up with posts on our social media. In the meantime LRA would like to advise all residents to be extra vigilant when out & about on the estate as there have been several reports of very near misses with both young & old alike.

**10. Double yellow lines on Station Road South:** With road resurfacing recently completed on Station Road South, the road markings have yet to be re-laid, causing a significant increase in problems due to parked cars, with buses on occasion unable to negotiate the entrance & exit to Harper's Road. We have been in touch with both the Parish council & WBC to have the lines reinstated with immediate effect.

## **11. AOB**

- Our **LRA "Forget Me Not"** Club, for people living with dementia, has started successfully with sessions taking place in conjunction with WBC, in Padgate Community Centre, on Thursdays 10.30am until 12.30pm. The events are attracting 20 folk ~ 10 people suffering with dementia enjoy cognitive stimulation therapy & their 10 carers are entertained in a separate room.
- **Finances** are in good shape with huge thanks to our accountant, Nicola Taylor
- **Social activities** are being reviewed, including coach trips (bearing in mind that the costs of coach hire have dramatically escalated). And our Footloose in Longbarn' dance classes, Afternoon Tea & Seated Exercise Classes continue successfully.

- **Big Quiz nights:** Conventionally a hugely popular event & with a suggestion from the floor that ticket prices are set at £5 per person & folk bring their own food, it was agreed that we would again start to fund-raise with these events at the suggested price
- **No Police in attendance** ~ tho we were contacted by the police with their apologies
- **No WBC council member** in attendance ~ tho the councillor Una Gillham had contacted us to explain her absence.
- **Padgate Walking Day:** Local media have published today that Padgate Walking Day has been cancelled this year because, of the six schools usually participating, only one school would be willing to offer any volunteers to help marshal the event. Councillor Sue Emery is to invite our local schools & churches to attend a meeting to try to reinstate this historic event. Padgate Village Club had booked a refreshments stall for the day ~ this may have to be cancelled
- **Our LRA D'Ukes of Longbarn** ukulele band meets most Thursday evenings at Padgate Village Club, & performs at numerous charity concerts across the local community (eg, Church, Mother's Union, care homes & Forget Me Not Club) with donation for St Rocco's encouraged on each occasion.

Our next Residents' Meeting will be held Thursday 15 August, at 7.30pm at Padgate Village Club.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**Address:** C/O Kassia Academy, Fallowfield Grove, Longbarn, Warrington, Cheshire WA2 0QQ

**Email:** [lrsecretary15@gmail.com](mailto:lrsecretary15@gmail.com) **Telephone:** 07544 733661

**Member of National Organisation of Residents' Associations**



**"Working together for our Community"**