

Bramcote CAT Meeting 1 June 2015 – The Official Unofficial Minutes

All change following the election. The meeting was chaired by Councillor John Doddy, Conservative. The other new Conservative Councillors, Martin Plackett and Jan Gould were present. PC Peter Farrell gave the police report as PC Sarah Warren, Bramcote's Beat Manager was unable to attend.

Councillor Doddy started the meeting by explaining that no bookings for the June CAT Meeting had been made prior to the election and so there had been a rush to make arrangements. He went on to say that the previous Council had started a review of CAT Meetings as a large number were held across the Borough and they were costly to run when hall charges and manpower costs were added up. Residents strongly confirmed that they found CAT Meetings extremely useful and felt that communication with their Councillors would be severely hampered if CAT Meetings were discontinued. Councillor Doddy indicated he would continue the meetings but savings would have to be made. Suggestions were: Filming the meeting and publishing the recording online instead of minutes by Paul Nathanail. Minutes produced by a resident rather than a Council employee. Fewer meetings. Overall views and proposals are being collected to be put to the Council Members for a decision.

Sue Sambells then briefly spoke about the Stapleford Priority Setting Meeting (includes Bramcote Ward) which is run by the police. Councillors and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators attend. Crime figures are discussed and priorities for the police are set for the coming quarter. The next meeting is on Tuesday 14 July. See <http://bramcotetoday.org.uk/policing/pact-meeting-minutes/>

Action Points

1. Hazard at entrance to Nurseryman Pub on Wollaton Road. Ian Tyler, when Councillor, has confirmed that Notts CC will repaint the road Keep Clear signs.
2. Speeding continues to be a concern. A camera van has been seen on the A52 by Cow Lane.
3. Planning Department Public Notices left in position when expired. Planning Department Officers have been asked to remove redundant notices. It is in order for members of the public to remove the notices when they have expired.
4. Gateford Close weeds. These have been treated. A Borough wide road weed treatment will start shortly.
5. Ewe Lamb Lane/Marshall Drive road surfaces. Ewe Lamb Lane is inspected monthly and defects have been repaired from the last inspection. The next inspection is due. However only complete resurfacing will cure the problem. A works order has been placed to repair the potholes on Marshall Drive. Paul Nathanail suggested that residents should be allowed to carry out small repairs themselves. This could not be sanctioned for health and safety reasons. George Read said part of the problem was that the repairs were inadequate and generally failed because the edges were not properly sealed.
6. Sherwin Island. An eyesore! Councillor Martin Plackett outlined the correspondence that has taken place between Anna Soubry MP and Highways England over the state of the roundabout. Martin also persuaded Broxtowe Borough Council to express their concerns to Highways England. As a consequence of all the correspondence, Highways England agreed to weed the roundabout on the night of Friday 30 May. This was done but it was totally unacceptable. Anna Soubry has now got Highways England to do the work again and report back!

Martin Plackett went on to suggest that a site meeting would be a better way forward and we should ask for this.

Peter Hillier said that AOne+, the contractor for Highways England, did the work on the roundabout and it was supposed to be low maintenance. The only good point about it was that visibility was better. His view was that the island should have been better managed in the first place.

Adrian Manhire felt that AOne+ were not giving value for money from their contract with Highways England.

Questions were asked about how much the job cost including the very poor job on the verges up to Bardills' Island. It was felt the contractors should pay damages.

7. George Read said the barrier between the road and the pavement at the top of Town Street was in very poor condition. He requested maintenance works.
8. A resident expressed continuing concern about the Arundel Drive/Thoresby Road junction and its use for U-turns. An island was not possible because of the available space it was suggested a no U-turn sign might help.

Police Report From PC Farrell

PC Farrell gave this report as our Beat Manager, PC Sarah Warren was unable to attend. He said since the last CAT Meeting there have been:

7 thefts from motor vehicles. (Often vehicles were insecure).

1 theft of a motor vehicle.

No dwelling burglaries.

2 burglaries from outbuildings/sheds.

1 robbery. 2 teenage boys were robbed by 2 teenage boys

PC Farrell asked residents to complete the crime survey and if speeding is a problem to say where it

Residents Issues.

1. Bramcote Hills Golf Course. The earliest this will be considered is at the Development Control Committee is the July Meeting after a wildlife survey has been submitted. Otherwise it will be September.
The Bramcote Hills Open Space Protection Group is conducting its own survey and is seeking logs of birds seen on the Golf Course or in adjacent gardens. Send details to Mike Johnson via Bramcote Today.
2. Japanese Knotweed has been reported as growing near The Lawns. It is the responsibility of the landowner to control it. Specialist firms will treat it. If it is growing on public land, it should be reported to the Environment Agency.
3. Peter Hillier asked what was happening at 104 Derby Road where the property has been left in a very poor state. (Editor: See Planning Applications 14/00799/FUL and 15/00347/ROC Demolish existing property and build new one).
4. Chesham Drive/Eastcote Avenue junction. Mike Johnson requested that the rotten wooden post that stops parking on the verge be replaced.
5. George Read wanted to know when the next verge cutting would take place as all the verges in Bramcote are in a sorry neglected state. Councillor Martin Plackett said that Broxtowe Borough Council was contracted by Notts CC to undertake 5 cuts per year. 1 cut has been done and the second was scheduled to start on 18 May. It started in South Broxtowe on 27 May and could take up to 4 weeks to complete. (Editor: Bramcote Moor verges were cut this

morning, 2 June.) Steve Austin said the schedule should be reviewed as the second cut was not soon enough. Grass starts growing quickly in the Spring but then slows.

6. Weed killer treatment of road and pavement weeds is scheduled to start this week according to Martin Plackett.
7. Ian Radmore requested a statement on the latest poor Ofsted Report for the Bramcote School from Paul Heery.
8. Longer term planning issues:

The school development plan entails selling part of the surplus school land to fund rebuilding. It is possible this will be the field by Coventry Lane.

A Village Green application has been submitted for the land bounded by the schools, Moor Lane and Derby Road to Notts CC. Broxtowe Borough Council will be commenting on any development issues to Notts CC.

The possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan was raised. As there is no Bramcote Parish Council, a Neighbourhood Forum would need to be created which is representative of the wider community. A Neighbourhood Plan would form the basis for planning decisions in terms of non-strategic issues. The Green Belt is Strategic but a Neighbourhood Plan could have an influence.

Paul Nathanail said that Bramcote Hills Community Association's Planning Sub-committee is intending to hold a workshop for the community on what should be done with the land occupied by the schools/playing fields and Leisure Centre.

The Community Association will be having a stand at the Hemlock Happening. Come along and get badges for your children!

Date of Next Meeting

Councillor Martin Plackett has confirmed to Bramcote Today that the next Bramcote CAT Meeting will be held on Monday 7 September at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall, Church Street, Bramcote.

NB This is my report of the meeting and does not constitute an official minute. It is written from the notes that I took at the meeting.