

Bramcote CAT Meeting 1 September 2014 – The Official Unofficial Minutes

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Ian Tyler. PC Karl Barlow, Bramcote's Beat Manager gave the police report and there was a presentation by Paul Heery, Executive Head Teacher, White Hills Park Federation on Bramcote Schools development proposals.

Police Report

PC Barlow said that dwelling burglaries were down and that there had been only 2 since the last CAT Meeting.

There were 5 shed break-ins. Thieves were stealing bikes. Make sure you lock them up securely.

Thefts from motor vehicles were up 68% while stolen vehicles were down 60%. Of the thefts from motor vehicles, one third involved force but the rest were from insecure vehicles. It is possible to jam the locking signal and PC Barlow advised drivers to listen for the clunk when locking cars and to make sure they are locked overnight. He did not think sophisticated devices that steal codes were being used.

Overall PC Barlow felt crime statistics were going in the right direction.

For traffic PC Barlow had been concentrating on motorists jumping red traffic lights and speeding. A number of tickets had been issued. His advice to motorists was to watch your speed. He will be checking for bus lane offences when schools go back.

The next beat surgery will be at 10.00am on Friday 5 September 2014 at the Meeting Place on Derby Road in Stapleford.

Bramcote Schools Development Proposals

Paul Heery introduced himself as Executive Head Teacher of the White Hill Park Federation which comprises the following schools – Alderman White, The Bramcote School and Bramcote College.

Paul Heery stressed there was no planning application to develop the schools. Consultation was at an early stage. There were no final plans and so no detail.

His vision was for a school with a true community basis. Provision for pupils was not as good as it should be. He wanted it to be based in the community. It was not there yet but was moving in the right direction. Talking about the school environment and current buildings he said they were not perfect to provide a high quality learning environment:

1. Alderman White had some good buildings and some poor ones. It was cramped and was not as accessible as it should be for disabled pupils/
2. Bramcote School is showing its age. The roof leaks. Pupils and teachers do a good job in difficult conditions.
3. Bramcote College had huge building issues which led to demolition of a building. The remaining buildings are widely spread. Class rooms are large in size and unsuitable for small tutor groups. The facilities are not appropriate.

In terms of vision something needs to be done.

Mr Heery wants to refurbish Alderman White School and rebuild Bramcote School on the Bramcote College site where there is a large amount of space available bringing the latter 2 schools together

but with separate identities. He wants better quality facilities for now and for the future and which fit with how students learn. Facilities for music, arts, drama including a theatre, science and sport to deliver the curriculum. He foresaw links to the community so they could use the facilities.

Mr Heery estimated the cost to be of the order of £20million. Unfortunately funding for large scale projects has dried up and other sources won't deliver the amount of money needed. The school replacement programme has stopped and the priority school building programme for new schools is focussed on primary schools where places are urgently needed. Bramcote schools don't have an issue with places and are unlikely to be considered a priority. There is a funding scheme for Academies but this only allocates relatively small amounts per annum largely for refurbishment. The solution the project is heading towards is to sell land for house building, the school being rich in land which had been transferred to the school on receipt of Academy status.

There have been helpful discussions with Planning Officers from Broxtowe, Anna Soubry MP, Nick Palmer, the Labour Party candidate and with developers although no tenders or offers have been sought.

The key hurdle for the project is to achieve outline planning permission.

The proposal is to only sell sufficient land to achieve the school redevelopment aims.

The Alderman White site will be retained rather than being sold to maintain a campus on the Chilwell side of Bramcote to serve that part of the schools' catchment rather than concentrating the whole school on Bramcote Hills and obliging pupils from Chilwell to cross the A52.

There are two significant areas of land being considered for sale:

1. The land containing the running track bounded by Moor Lane and the A52.
2. The playing field by Coventry Lane.

Both are Green Belt.

Although Mr Heery said no decision had been taken on which land would be sold, the displays shown at Bramcote College did show a preference for the Moor Lane site to date. The Moor Lane site is the more valuable of the two.

Mr Heery indicated a timescale of one year to draw up an outline planning application. He did promise further consultation as plans were firmed up.

Residents:

1. Were concerned about access to the enlarged school up Moor Lane and the additional congestion this would cause in Bramcote Hills at school start and finish times.
2. Were concerned about access for housing on the Moor Lane/A52 site. (Councillors major objection to this site.)
3. Loss of amenity/sporting facility on the Moor Lane/A52 site if housing built there.
4. Were concerned that Bramcote Hills Primary School would lose the benefit of being part of a large green campus. Paul Heery assured residents that the Primary School and Foxwood would not be disadvantaged and would have access to the new facilities.
5. Need for consultation at all at all feeder schools.
6. The number of sports pitches available to the school seems inadequate both now and in the future.

7. Queried the number of pupils attending the school, how many would attend in the future and whether the school development plan needs additional housing in Bramcote to support it.
8. Questioned the intake of pupils from the City
9. Suggested that greater effort be made to secure funding so fewer houses, if any need, to be built on Green belt. It was pointed out an election is approaching and politicians will wish to curry favour with voters.
10. Were surprised when the figure of 300 houses was mentioned for any housing development. Will this number mean that building will take place on both plating fields?

Ian Tyler said that Bramcote Leisure Centre would need rebuilding in the next 10 Years. The implication of this is that Broxtowe Borough Council would seek to do this with funding from any developer for the possible housing and would therefore favour such a development.

Ian Tyler summed up residents views that they were generally in favour of school redevelopment and the preference for housing was the site adjacent to Coventry Lane. *Note: A significant number of attendees at the meeting were from Moor Lane/Derby Road.*

Residents Other Issues

1. Road weeds and potholes. Ian Tyler was asked to raise the poor state of Bramcote roads with Anna Soubry MP.
2. Parking Issues on Moor Lane. Residents expressed concern about driveways being blocked by parents' car delivering and collecting pupils. PC Barlow said he would be doing more patrols on Moor Lane, Cow Lane and Wadsworth Avenue now that the new school term is starting.

Next Meeting

Monday, 1 December 2014. 7.00pm. Bramcote Memorial Hall.