

# **Bramcote CAT Meeting 7 September 2015 – The Official Unofficial Minutes**

The Meeting was chaired by Councillor John Doddy. Councillors Jan Gould and Martin Plackett were in attendance. John Heery, the Executive Headteacher of White Hills Park Federation was present to give a report on the schools development plans. There was no police representation to report on crime in Bramcote. There were no officers from Broxtowe Borough Council to report or take minutes.

## **Items from the Last Meeting**

1. Barrier on Town Street. Waiting for report back
2. Posts on corner of Chesham Drive and Eastcote Avenue. Bob Pattison observed the broken posts had been removed but not replaced. He expressed concern about this as any car parked over the verge was a serious hazard on the bend.

## **Bramcote Hills Golf Course.**

John Doddy reminded the meeting of the situation. In October 2014 the owners submitted a planning application for a retirement complex of potentially 138 residences. This was of considerable concern to local residents as the golf course is Protected Open Space, is an important wildlife corridor and there potential for flooding from the drainage proposals. The application still has not been put to the Planning Committee as the Planners are waiting for a wild life survey from the applicant. There has been no indication when the survey will be submitted.

The site is an eyesore particularly on the Thoresby Road frontage. Officers from Broxtowe Borough Council have been in touch with the owners regarding the problems but no action has been taken to date. The Council have mown the edge of the frontage but have not undertaken any further work.

*Stop Press: Martin Plackett now understands the owners will have their contractors on site within two weeks.*

Mike Johnson reminded everybody that well over 100 people at a residents' meeting opposed the development plans although there were 12 abstentions from the vote who could possibly have supported the plans. He felt the site should be protected as it is an important wild life corridor. He said that residents were also doing their own wild life survey.

John Doddy said that it was unlikely that the application would be considered at the October Planning Committee Meeting. It was likely to be at the end of the year.

John Doddy observed there was a danger that the plan would go through on appeal as Broxtowe Borough Council was not meeting the housing requirements of the Core Strategy. He undertook to keep residents up-to-date.

## **Boundary Commission Changes**

New boundaries have been proposed for Bramcote which will be split between two new divisions for Nottinghamshire County Council elections. The proposals are to ensure that electoral representation is fair and equitable across Nottinghamshire. It is a numbers exercise. There has been a consultation a final decision will be taken on the proposals at the County Council Meeting on 11 November.

Stan Heptinstall, County Councillor for the current Bramcote and Stapleford Division of Nottinghamshire County Council, spoke strongly against the proposals as they split Bramcote between 2 Divisions.

John Doddy confirmed these changes only refer to County Council electoral divisions. We still live in Bramcote!

## **A52 Sherwin Roundabout Update**

Jan Goold outlined the work she has been undertaking regarding the roundabout which currently gives a very poor impression of Broxtowe when entering via the A52. In early July she had a meeting with A One+, Head of Highways England, a representative of Anna Soubry's Constituency Office and Paul Summers, Head of Environment at Broxtowe Borough Council. A five point plan was put forward: 1. Removal of weeds. 2. Improvements including more planting. 3. Securing the weed membrane. 4. Regular Maintenance. 5. Liaison with Broxtowe Borough Council to ensure the work is completed. This plan was agreed with Highways England.

Sponsorship of the roundabout was discussed. Organisations are interested. However traffic management is difficult and A One+ wanted a large sum of money to carry out the work which deterred the possible sponsors.

The subsequent remedial work was poor. Highways England agreed this was unacceptable, that the weeds should be removed and there should be planting of more shrubs. This should bring a short term improvement.

Jan Goold is proposing in the longer term that there is a change of contractor for the maintenance and that Broxtowe Borough Council should be the new contractor. They are happy to do this work. Highways England have to be persuaded this is the right route. Three Government Ministers, although not involved in the negotiations, are supportive of this proposal.

Residents asked about the cost of the work undertaken by A One+ as the general feeling was that a lot of taxpayers' money had been wasted. No information was available.

There was concern about the height of any shrubs planted and that they might obscure visibility on the roundabout.

Other Highways Issues;

1. Peter Hillier wrote in with a long list of problems regarding maintenance on the A52 from Bardills to the Priory roundabout.
2. Bob Pattison should that weed treatment of the paths and gutters on Bramcote Moor was urgently needed. He felt that Broxtowe Borough Council was poor in dealing with this problem.

## **White Hills Park Federation**

John Doddy outlined that the White Hills PARK Federation of Schools was set up in 2006. It became an Academy in 2012 and Paul Heery became Executive Headteacher in 2014. Paul Heery spoke about the performance of the school and development plans.

### **Performance**

Alderman White School and Bramcote School latest Ofsted Reports

*Alderman White School and Language College*

See <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/138832>

Chilwell Lane, Bramcote, Nottingham, NG9 3DU

Inspection dates 26–27 November 2014

Overall effectiveness

Previous inspection: Not previously inspected

This inspection: Requires improvement 3

Leadership and management Requires improvement 3

Behaviour and safety of pupils Good 2

Quality of teaching Requires improvement 3

Achievement of pupils Requires improvement 3

Sixth form provision Requires improvement 3

There is a follow up HMI Report dated 30 April 2015 which shows senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified in the November 2014 inspection.

*The Bramcote School*

See <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/138837>

Derby Road, Bramcote, Nottingham, NG9 3GD

Inspection dates 21–22 April 2015

Overall effectiveness

Previous inspection: Requires improvement 3

This inspection: Requires improvement 3

Leadership and management Requires improvement 3

Behaviour and safety of pupils Requires improvement 3

Quality of teaching Requires improvement 3

Achievement of pupils Requires improvement 3

Mr Heery agreed the Ofsted judgments were accurate at the time and recognised the areas where the school needed to improve. Action has been taken to improve the situation. Significant changes in staff and leadership are having a positive impact and the school is recognised to be improving. Pupil numbers are healthy. Every student who wanted to go to university has gone. The Federation has ambitions about the schools serving the community in the best possible way. Mr Heery guaranteed the next inspection report will be a good one and he believes the right pupils, policies and ambitions are now in place. The results next year will show improvement showing a significant step forward. He is confident that the pupil cohort coming through will deliver this.

Mr Heery clarified that he is not saying that new school buildings are need to get improvements in performance. These will come from improved teaching and management.

John Doddy asked if funds were available in the Academy to recruit the right teachers and management. Mr Heery pointed out that rolls had fallen for some time by 50 per year. As each pupil brings approximately £5000 of funding this was a great concern. However pupil numbers are now increasing.

Mr Heery said he recognised the need to recruit well and had recruited 12 new teachers for this year.

The discussion was opened to the floor:

1. A question was asked whether there was any difficulty in recruiting the 12 new staff. Mr Heery said no. He said he had recruited 2 new maths teachers and science teacher.

Recruitment had been from teachers who had trained at the school and on the recommendation of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent Universities. He also noted there had been recruitment from teachers who lived locally but who had been travelling some distance to work. He pointed out that last year he did not recruit maths teachers as the candidates were not good enough.

2. Stan Heptinstall who has been a long term governor/director of the Federation said he was impressed with the improvements being made.

## **Development Plans**

Historically the school was earmarked for funding for redevelopment but this ended when the Government cancelled the scheme.

School building are in a poor condition. As an example the boys changing room at Bramcote School is unsafe to use and has been closed. The buildings don't have an indefinite shelf life.

The question is how do you raise funds for redevelopment when public finances are tight and when new school funding is going into areas where there is pressure on numbers? Mr Heery has been trying to identify funding but significant amounts are not available.

The schools do have a large amount of land owned by Nottinghamshire County Council and leased to the Academy on a 125 year lease. Mr Heery estimated the schools have 3 times more land than they need. The proposal is to sell some of this land to fund the school redevelopment. This in itself is difficult as a substantial sum of money is needed to fund the planning process and the school does not have this money. Mr Heery is therefore seeking to negotiate a deal with parties who are interested. He said he was anxious to work with the community and is willing to explore possibilities but needs to press ahead.

Points raised:

1. A resident observed the Bramcote School that surely Bramcote School could be repaired and properly maintained. Mr Heery said the issue was much wider than one of maintenance. The science labs for instance were very dated and new ones that met modern standards were needed.
2. It was pointed out that the school did not actually own the land it is proposing to sell. Mr Heery recognised this as a hurdle but would seek to get an agreement from the owners, the County Council, when he had firmer plans and proposals. He said this sort of financing sale had happened in the past and the County Council were sympathetic.
3. Martin Plackett set 2 challenges for Mr Heery.
  - a). He said the playing fields on Moor Lane and Coventry Lane were a superb resource and he invited Mr Heery to talk to Broxtowe Leisure and Cultural Services about making better use about this resource.
  - b). He said he was very supportive of redevelopment of the school buildings but was not at all happy with selling the playing fields to do this. He suggested Mr Heery should look for private sponsorship to fund the work.
4. The situation regarding the signs prohibiting access to the playing fields was discussed. Mr Heery said he was advised by the County Council to install them to meet the terms of his lease. He regretted having to do this. He denied this situation was triggered by the Village Green application covering the Moor Lane playing field. Mike Johnson said the signage was in equitable as there had been free access to the playing fields for over 50 years.

5. A Latimer Drive resident said he was not against the school redevelopment but was opposed to any development on the green belt. He observed that more people were using the Coventry Lane playing fields than before the signs were installed.
6. Bramcote Archery Club is now using the Coventry Lane playing Field. This is let on an annual basis according to Mr Heery. The Club is using the Moor Lane right of way for vehicle access and did so for their recent tournament. The safety of this was queried. Councillor Stan Heptinstall confirmed they are allowed to do this a number of times a year and have agreed to provide signage and safety stewards to warn walkers.
7. A resident suggested, perhaps with tongue in cheek, that the old 9 hole golf course and Coventry Lane playing field should be combined into an 18 hole golf course.
8. Mr Heery was asked which playing field would be proposed for development. He said it was likely to be the Coventry Lane playing field. Moor lane was more valuable to a developer but there are access problems.
9. A resident asked if the school would have been better remaining under County Council control for funding. Mr Heery said the answer was no. The current funding climate is the problem.
10. A resident was concerned that the Primary School would be seriously affected by building on Moor Lane. It occupied a superb site and had won an international award when first built. As a consequence she preferred Coventry Lane for housing.
11. A resident said they couldn't see any justification for building houses on the green belt. Mr Heery said this was a complication factor in his proposals.

## **AOB**

### **1. Green Belt Consultation**

It looks as this will be discussed by Broxtowe Borough Council's Cabinet in October or November before being submitted to the full Council. There will then be a further consultation.

### **2. Bramcote Leisure Centre**

Steve Austin said he had heard a rumour that Bramcote Leisure Centre was being 'privatised'. Martin Plackett said the Leisure centre was not being privatised but the financial management of the Leisure centre was being outsourced to a separate company. This would save the Council Tax payer a six-figure sum. He went on to say the Council will continue to manage the Leisure Centre and users and staff will see no difference. Any future development plans will not be affected.

## **Next Meeting**

7.00pm Monday 30 November 2015.