

# Lenton Drives and Neighbours Residents' Association

Minutes of Members' meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016, 6:00pm, The Lenton Centre

## Present:

- Committee (Kate Loewenthal: Chair, Martin Kinsella: Treasurer, Virginia Rochester: Secretary)
- Police and Community Protection Officers
- Members of the Association

## Apologies:

- University Off-Campus Manager, Melanie Futer, and over a dozen residents who couldn't make the meeting due to short notice.

No.	Item	Actions
1	<p><b>Introduction to the formal association:</b></p> <p>Kate extended a welcome to all, and said that she extended this welcome to students as residents of the area.</p> <p>Kate introduced Martin and Virginia, and told everyone about the formal organisation and why we are forming a residents association. There was an explanation of the name. Kate introduced the aims of the Residents' Association:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>Seek to improve the environment of the Lenton Area by tackling concerns to do with noise, anti-social behavior, waste and HMOs;</i></li><li>2. <i>To co-operate with agencies, including the Council, the Police, the universities and businesses to strengthen the community spirit;</i></li><li>3. <i>Represent the views of the majority of the residents affected by the issues as set out above.</i></li></ol> <p>Membership: Kate confirmed that giving contact details to the association makes people a member, there is no membership fee. If people do not want to be a member they can, at any time, ask to have their details removed from the list.</p> <p>There was a straw-poll of people's interests in Lenton, as residents, as families, as people caring for vulnerable people, as people who have lived in the area for a long time. Many people had been students themselves or were currently students; Kate emphasised the fact that we are not an 'anti-student' group but a group trying to bring all members of our community together.</p>	
2	<p><b>HMO/Planning meeting:</b></p> <p>The committee members and other residents with background in planning and law had attended a meeting earlier in the week with Council Planning and HMO Licensing officers. An email would be sent round members giving the detailed answers to specific questions members had raised for that meeting. Not all questions had been asked due to time constraints, but Kate was going to ask the officers the remaining questions by email.</p> <p>One of the things that had been of particular interest was that the HMO License required landlords to have a plan of action when anti-social behaviour occurred at their property, and that information about 101 calls regarding licensed properties were passed onto the HMO team and then onto landlords.</p>	<p><b>KL:</b> send round detailed answers to residents' questions on Planning and HMO Licensing.</p> <p><b>KL:</b> Questions that were not addressed in the meeting to be emailed to council</p>

	<p>A new housing policy for the city was due to be shortly published and we asked if we could be consulted on it.</p> <p>Additional Questions were raised by members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When planning permission is given in retrospect, for example for extensions or change of use, why is this granted?</li> <li>• How often are HMOs inspected?</li> <li>• As part of the inspection, is the number of residents living at the property checked to ensure they do not exceed the maximum granted by the license?</li> <li>• How does the inspection process deliver enforcement?</li> </ul> <p>Members were informed that there is to be an open Nottingham Action Group (NAG) meeting focusing on HMO Licensing and the details will be sent round.</p>	<p>officers.</p> <p><b>Committee:</b> ensure that additional questions are asked to council officers.</p>
3	<p><b>Feedback from the Police and Community Protection (CP) Team:</b></p> <p>Inspector Rob Wilson spoke of the move of the police and CP staff to Byron House from Canning Circus Police Station. In the monitoring of crime trends in our area, there had been reductions in crime, violence, burglary and bike theft. He has stopped events happening on the Lenton Recreation Ground that the students had planned as he felt they were inappropriate. He spoke of his almost daily contact with the University of Nottingham. He identified that most students were good for the community, for example getting involved in volunteering, and it was only a minority causing problems. He spoke of Operation Graduate which aims to prevent crime, promote community safety, and consideration for the community.</p> <p>101 Calls: Insp. Wilson said to ring 101 when there are lot of people and very loud noise. For nuisance problems which are not severe, ring 9152020 during office hours. On 101 calls there is sometimes a delay to get through but this is due to lack of resources, 999 is the priority to answer. 101calls are always logged even if the police cannot attend at that time, and they do follow up calls the next day with CPOs. Extra funding has been given by University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University to mitigate the negative impact of students. The amount could not be divulged.</p> <p><i>Question from member:</i> Do police have powers to close down parties? At some parties, the police seem to just drive by and not enforce anything.  <i>Response:</i> The police cannot guarantee that they can close parties down as it depends on resources available at the time and the other calls in the city.</p> <p>Senior Community Protection Officer, Wayne Hobbs, spoke of the large number of CP warning notices that were issued last term. Subsequently only 2 of these warnings were breached.</p> <p><i>Question from member:</i> Why can't we just say 'no parties' in our area?  <i>Response:</i> the difficulty with this is a definition of a party. People have the right to have gatherings in their homes.</p> <p>Wayne talked about the process that Community Protection goes through when problems are reported or they see problems. They first give 'words of advice'; if the behaviour continues they then give a CP Warning; if this is breached they then give a CP Notice. Once a CP Warning is issued, the information is also given to the respective university and if breached, the</p>	

	<p>universities will fine their students.</p> <p>Operation Twilight: this initiative is where there will be dedicated vehicles and officers responding to 101 calls at the weekends and on Wednesday nights. These cars are self-deploying and will pick up calls that police don't have resources to deal with. The cars will be patrolling when not responding. Officers will also be patrolling on foot.</p> <p>There are huge numbers of students going into and coming back out of the city in the early hours, especially on Wednesdays. Example given of Rock City venue where there is a 4,000 capacity. There is a CP presence on Wednesday afternoons to talk to students coming and going into town.</p> <p>If we hear of house parties being set up, or see loud sound equipment being installed, we should let CP know as soon as possible on the 9152020 number so that CP can act before party starts.</p> <p>CP are aware of and are preparing for the key pressure dates such as Freshers' Week; they are also visiting properties where there has been problems in the past to ask them not to have loud parties. The ultimate sanction if a CP notice is breached is that a property can be closed down, and no one is allowed in for 3 months except the owner.</p> <p><i>General discussion amongst members:</i> Why do we have to educate the students behaving like this (i.e. the loud, noisy ones)? <i>Response:</i> This may be the only way forward. Kate gave the example of a student who had been given a warning and sent round to apologise, and was willing to engage with the community events we have coming up.</p> <p>One member suggested that as it was the Student Union who are fostering the big nights out at the venues, can we access funds from them to mitigate the consequences of drunken big nights out? Or could we ask venues to contribute? There is a levy posed on pubs and clubs open after midnight – can we ask for a portion of this?</p> <p>Discussion of University fines - £200 maximum each resident. A Freedom Of Information request from last year showed that of fines issued to students, only 10% were in the community (the rest were on university property). Questions from residents of why fines were not put towards CP funding.</p> <p>Wayne suggested the best way to contact the Community Protection services, if it was not an urgent or severe problem was through the 9152020 number (office hours but there are plans to extend this to later) or the Twitter account @NttmCanningCPOs</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> <b>Committee:</b> ask SU for funds to mitigate loud behaviour late at night. Or ask for funding from pubs and clubs levy. Ask university if fine monies can be given to CP services.</p>
4	<p><b>Community Engagement Programme:</b> Kate encouraged members to engage with the students moving in around us. We should be welcoming but also pointing out the effect of noise and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p><i>Question from member:</i> If there are up to 80% of the community who are students, how can we get round them all?</p>	

	<p><i>Response:</i> we should try and concentrate on our immediate neighbours, but as part of the community engagement programme we are trying to reach out to more.</p> <p><i>Suggestion from member:</i> Why don't we get the lettings agencies involved in giving information to the students about the community as part of welcoming them to their new home?</p> <p><i>Response:</i> Kate is already looking at this</p> <p>Programme: There will be a table outside the various local Sainsburys and Tesco shops on Mondays and Tuesdays 4-7pm to engage with students and share information about the area. It would be great to have residents there as well as the agencies to share information about the impact noise and litter has on our lives.</p> <p>There were places to sign up at the meeting, and there would be sign up information online.</p> <p>Some of the leaflets that were going to be given out were shown; it was also pointed out that Iffat Iqbal (Neighbourhood Development Officer) has asked for feedback on the leaflets – we do have the opportunity to change them if we don't think they are right.</p>	<p><b>Action: KL</b> to pursue looking at involving agencies in a message about living in the community when students first move in.</p>
5	<p><b>Feedback from the University and Students Union:</b> Kate said that Melanie Futer was not able to make the meeting. We were planning as a committee to meet with the university agencies, and other agencies later in the autumn.</p> <p><i>Questions from residents:</i> How many students are there in city, and how many of those live in our area? (Both universities).</p>	<p><b>Action: Committee</b> ask universities for student numbers, and what proportion live in our area</p>
6	<p><b>Waste Management:</b> There was not enough time for this item</p>	
7	<p><b>Date for next meeting:</b> We are trying to organise a meeting for late November or early December at a date to be confirmed, but not on a Thursday as many people could not make a Thursday due to other engagements.</p>	<p><b>Action: Committee</b> communicate next meeting date when finalised.</p>