

Lenton Drives & Neighbours Residents' Association Members Meeting 21st September 2017

Attending:

Kate Lowenthal (Chair)
Virginia Rochester (Secretary)
Councillor Sarah Piper
Des Storey, Senior Community Protection Officer
Georgie Caunt, Community Protection Officer
Members of the Association

Apologies:

Melany Futer, University of Nottingham

Acronyms:

UoN - University of Nottingham
CPO - Community Protection Officer
PSPO - Public Space Protection Order
ASB - Anti-social behaviour
CPNW - Community Protection Notice Warning
CPN - Community Protection Notice
FPN - Fixed Penalty Notice

Item 1: Community Protection Information

Des Storey introduced Georgie Caunt - CPO for the Lenton Drives.

Des gave feedback on £30,000 given to Community Protection from the UoN: they have spent several weeks coming up with a plan on how best to utilise the funds and where to utilise staff and have come up with **Project Corridor**. An extra 5 hours of CPO time will be tagged onto normal finish time of 10pm on the main nights where there are issues: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday each week. Officers are working overtime to cover this. Officers will be on foot, on the Lenton Drives, Lenton Triangle and Derby Road. In addition, until 10pm, there will be on 4-6 officers enforcing the PSPO and confiscating drinks where appropriate. The officers have body cameras which they will use to give evidence to the UoN.

To report ASB or noise during these extended hours, continue to ring 101 and ask for an incident number which will mean the call will be logged. The call will appear on the officers' mobile devices, and will be responded to up until about 2:30am. If the operator does not log the call, residents should complain to Des. If the issue happens after 2:30am, (or earlier on other evenings) ring 9152020 from 8am to log the call. CPOs will update residents as to action taken when they can.

Several CPNW have been issued already in September, along with catching people carrying alcohol in the street and urinating publically. CPOs have generally been educating students about behaviour and security. The CCTV van is being used. They are working closely with the HMO Licensing Team to notify them when warnings and notices are

issued. Emails are being issued to landlords warning them of possible outcomes if more notices served - which can result in penalties for them.

Questions to Des and Georgie from members:

Q: Fixed Penalty Notices (e.g. for urinating on street) seem like a good idea, but how easy are they to issue?

A: They are easy to issue - but cannot be issued if the person is really drunk and not in control. They give perpetrator choice of criminal record/court appearance or paying a fixed penalty. An FPN also gets notified to the university.

Q: How long will the extra hours coverage last for?

A: Up to until at least Christmas.

(Des Storey left the meeting)

Item 2: Guidelines for Nighttime Noise

Kate introduced this topic saying that there had been some discussion amongst members about what to say when it was not appropriate to have lots of noise - and whether we should have a consistent approach. When is it appropriate for noise to come from parties for example? CPO Georgie said that 10pm is a good guideline as to when noise should cease and not be affecting neighbours. However, this could be any time when the noise is persistent, unreasonable & detrimental. She said that CPNWs last for 2 years on the property and on the people in the property.

There was general discussion amongst members and agreement that noise is too loud if it's disturbing people in neighbouring houses. The question was asked about what is persistent noise? CPO Georgie said that this depends on the situation, but this year in the CPO team they are issuing CPNWs straight away, rather than giving a verbal warning for a first incident. If officers are walking around the neighbourhood and hear inappropriate noise, they will go to the property and educate the residents even if no complaints are received.

Questions to Georgie from members:

Q: What about noise on the streets when people are coming and going?

A: Georgie said that this would be dealt with by street patrols, and they would take this seriously especially if perpetrators were repeat offenders.

Q: Are there powers to confiscate equipment?

A: Georgie said that yes, this has been done, but can take some time, as they need a court order, but has been done in Nottingham. - Could it be used for hired sound equipment for parties going on until 5am? Georgie replied that she couldn't see why not.

General consensus from members that noise was noise at whatever time it happened where it disturbed people in neighbouring houses. It was difficult to have guidelines on times of day as some people might have children going to bed early or other circumstances that meant noise disturbed them earlier than for other people.

Item 3: UoN 'Hello Neighbour' Campaign

Melanie Futer from the University of Nottingham sent her apologies and was unable to come at the last minute due to illness, so Kate told people about the UoN 'Hello Neighbour' campaign which had been running since the end of last academic year. There have been various communications in halls and across campus for students moving off-campus this academic year to make them aware of their neighbours.

Kate had several of the 'Hello Neighbour' posters connected with the campaign for members to take posters to put in their windows to jog student memories. Kate thought the message is good, but was still asking that the UoN Code of Conduct for students be amended to put the same emphasis on off-campus behaviour as on-campus.

A member raised the fact that Manchester Council have really been tackling student behaviour in their city and suggested we read their policy which has been posted to the Facebook group. Manchester University have had security firms tracking student behaviour and reporting to back to the University. Kate remarked that Mike Coles (Student Strategy Manager for Nottingham City Council) has visited Manchester to report on the practise there.

Item 4: Explanation of the imminent Annual General Meeting

Virginia, explained that the LDNRA formed as an association in August 2016. At that point, we formed a committee out of people who were available and willing to help get the group going. In our constitution there were 4 committee posts:

Chair of the Association - Kate Loewenthal

Chair of Meetings - Melany Pemberton

Secretary - Virginia Rochester

Treasurer - Martin Kinsella

Also in our constitution was the fact that we had to hold an AGM within 15 months. This needs to be in November 2017. It is important to hold this to make sure we are transparent and democratic as an organisation. Committee members who want to can stand again, and other people have the chance to be nominated for committee posts.

We want to increase the number of people on the committee to 6 named posts, by creating a committee member for HMOs & Planning matters and a committee member for Social Media to try and improve our communications. In addition, due to personal circumstances Martin Kinsella wants to stand down as treasurer so we are especially asking for nominations for these posts.

Virginia had drafted an AGM agenda for people to see, some information about being on the committee and how the nomination process works and some nomination forms which were handed out. A provisional date of the 9th November was set for the AGM, subject to the availability of the Lenton Centre. The information about the AGM together with documents such as the constitution would be put on the website.

Questions from members:

Q: Can we co-opt people onto the committee?

A: Yes, we can have up to 8 committee members.

Q: When the information is sent out about the AGM, can the constitution be attached, and nomination forms sent separately so as not to be overwhelmed by information?

A: Yes we can do this.

Comment: The group has been going for only 13 months and has achieved a lot over that time.

ACTION: VR to put AGM information and constitution on web site and email nomination forms etc with enough notice before AGM

Item 5: HMO and Planning matters

Cllr Sarah Piper outlined what's going on currently: she has arranged a meeting (2nd October) with the Portfolio Holder for Planning - Cllr Jane Urquhart - and other Planning officers, pushing for enforcement of breaches of planning in our area. Although the Planning Dept do reject inappropriate planning applications, the department are not good at taking landlords to court because of costs, and this is a matter still to resolve to make decisions effective. Another issue in our area is the number of houses going to Sui Generis status (more than 6 unrelated tenants) not being kept track of. These large households can cause issues because of the density of people. Sarah wants to look at options for tackling these issues - and if any members have ideas on this please email Sarah. One idea is through parking permit requirements. However, in recent decisions on appeals, the Planning Inspectorate are upholding the council decisions.

To add more weight, we can write to Jane Urquhart about the issues in our area. The HMO register is meaningless if the number of licensed tenants isn't the reality. The more information we can collect and the more evidence we can show, the better - please keep an eye on properties around you in our area.

Carl Towner from the Planning and HMO sub-group talked about what the group had been doing recently: the group has focused on HMO and Planning issues, with the idea that there is decent housing stock in our area, and not just a load of unregulated halls of residences. They have identified different layers to tackle with the amount of effort needed increasing as the layers continue down:

- Layer 1: Objecting to inappropriate planning applications, which is fairly easy and everyone in the group can do
- Layer 2: Spotting properties where change of use or extensions outside of permitted development are happening without planning permission or other control: this relies on us spotting things and raising them with the Planning and HMO group.

- Layer 3: The retrospective situation: can we wind back the clock where people have done things inappropriately - e.g. going to Sui Generis without permission. At the moment it pays landlords to build extensions, and the enforcement of planning rules are proving difficult. The group has a proposition, that when a property has been identified which is not appropriate to put a statement about that property to the local councillors, Planning Dept, and HMO Licensing Dept to get their comment on it for joined up thinking.

Carl apologised that the group haven't got as far as they wished due to personal circumstances but said that this is where they need everyone's help in finding out how many people are living in a property; whether they are unrelated; whether large extensions are happening. People should note the date, who they spoke to and a property address. The HMO register is updated monthly - link on the council website.

Item 6: Future Community Events

There is going to be a Community Street Party: Wednesday 11th October: 3:30-6pm on Park Road. There will be different activities: climbing wall, face painting, food, drink, etc, free BBQ. The aim is to build relationships in the community, show how many diverse people live in the area. The Students Union are asking societies to do entertainment, e.g. music. Primary are also involved. Park Road will be closed to traffic from just past Allington Avenue upwards. If anyone wants to help with baking that would be appreciated. There will be an information stall for students there - good to have people manning it.

Martinmass Fair: 14th October, 12:00-4pm. We are having a stall to raise our association profile - can anyone help to man the stall for an hour to half an hour?

Monday 15th October - information stall for students outside Derby Road Sainsburys.

AOB

- Have people seen the 'Welcome to the Community of Lenton' Banners on Derby Rd? We worked with Communications Dept at the Council on these banners and they are a big improvement to the 'Nottingham Welcomes Students' banners which appeared on Derby Road last year.
- Some garden bins are not being collected on Harlaxton Drive. The residents concerned are complaining about it, but if needed we can write on behalf of residents to the council.
- 20mph limit signs are going to be painted on the roads shortly after having had approval.
- Alcohol signage for the new PSPO coming into force in October going up shortly on Derby Road.

- Is everyone happy with the way we are working with a focus on both 1: noise/ASB/rubbish issues and 2: HMO/Planning issues? Some discussion that this is interlinked but both need to be tackled on a short-term basis and a long-term basis.