

Howe Green Community Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 14th July 2003 at United Reform Church, Howe Green

1 Apologies for absence

None

2. Minutes of last AGM held on 1st July 2002

Approved

3. New Borough Plan & Local Planning Issues

Mr Derek Stebbing of Chelmsford Borough Council Planning Dept. explained the current situation relating to the new Borough Plan. He stated that as a result of a change in political control at the elections in May, he expects to be instructed to revise the Plan. This in turn results from manifesto promises, made prior to the election, not to proceed with large scale new residential development at Boreham. The present Plan has taken 3-4 years to develop and would require 2 more years to adopt following extensive public consultation.

National policy is also changing and the Government has published a Bill to reform the planning system. The new policy would require local planning authorities to produce a Local Development Framework — LDF — which would be less detailed than the present Local Plans, and would enable the process to be speeded up.

Mr Stebbing hopes the LDF for Chelmsford will be in place in the Spring of 2004, and would be valid until 2021. He expects the LDF would have wider support from the public, and would provide Chelmsford with a long term Plan for the first time.

With regard to the future of Chelmsford he believes that it is inevitable that residential development will continue. 9000 new homes are required to be built over the next 10 years for internal development.

Mr Stebbing reminded the meeting that the Deputy Prime Minister had called for 200,000 new homes to be built in the south east in four areas, however he hopes Chelmsford will escape the impact of this. Under these new proposals most County Council planning powers would be scrapped.

There is also a Government policy to expand airport capacity, which is probably going to include Stansted.

In Howe Green he did not anticipate any change in the Green Belt boundary, and believes there is no need to change the defined settlement boundary. He stated that resulting from the opening of the new A130, the traffic flows on it were already 50% higher than predicted, and it is now a major road. He believes a Village Design Statement could be used to provide some protection against the excessive extension of existing properties in Howe Green.

Neville Jessop confirmed that the Parish Council is already working on a Parish Plan, and Danbury, Little Baddow and Rettendon are also doing so.

In response to questions from Members, Mr Stebbing advised that:

- traffic had been surveyed on local roads and data is available.
- problems relating to road noise should be raised with the County Council.
- details of major waste management facilities will be provided in supporting documentation for new Local Plan.

Howe Green is unlikely to be selected to replace the 1900 houses no longer to be built at Boreham.

A station at Boreham is justified since 40% of the working population of Chelmsford commute towards Greater London, many by train.

4. Crime Prevention

Neville Jessop advised that although Neighbourhood Watch is not functioning at present, the police wish to reinstate it. The local police contact is Graham Easy at South Woodham Ferrers - Tel: 320333.

4. Treasurers Report

The Treasurer presented a statement of the Association accounts to 31st March 2003, showing the total of current and deposit accounts to be £1,689.00.

5. Social Committee Report

Vic Morgan reported that a very successful Annual Dinner had been held at The Bell, Woodham Walter, 24 members being present.

6. Election of Officers

Chairperson — Lisa Sinnock is unable to continue due to pressure of work.

Mr David Pearson was duly elected, having advised the meeting that he had resided in Chalklands for over 20 years, and as Chairperson he will work to improve local communications.

The Vice Chairman, Ken Wedon, and Treasurer, Wendy Spooner, were willing to continue in office, and were duly re-elected.

A vacancy exists for a Minutes Secretary. It was suggested that Ms Julie Hunt, who was unable to attend the AGM, may be prepared to take on the job. The Chairman agreed to contact her.

7. Election of Committee Members

The following members agreed to serve on the Committee — Judy Bynom, Martin Cross, Lesley Frankland, Caroline Hartard, David Hewitt, Pauline Hollingsworth, David McGregor, Vic Morgan, Richard Spooner, Wendy Spooner, David Yolland.

8. Future Dairy Dates

Next meeting of Committee will be held on Monday 15th September, 2003.

9. Any Other Business

The meeting was advised that information on Government planning is available on the internet at www.odpm.gov.uk.