

St Martin's Residents Association

Minutes

24/6/2014

Traffic and Parking

There are concerns that when the new Fenstanton school opens in September it will bring traffic problems with extra vehicles on the surrounding roads and parking spaces in the area already in short supply.

Requests were made that all traffic for the school be routed towards Christchurch Road. However, it transpires that plans are that only the Secondary school will be accessed from Christchurch Road. The Primary School traffic and all deliveries are to be made from Abbots Park entrance.

The consensus amongst the residents was that Abbots Park was unsuitable for such traffic, especially large buses on a narrow residential street. Questions were also raised about staff parking at the school and whether there will be a parking overspill into nearby streets.

- The residents have agreed to document any existing parking and traffic problems near the school, taking pictures though making sure not to including any children in the photos.
- [Updated by Chris] The school has a traffic management plan. Cllr Atkins will invite someone from the school to talk to the residents association about their traffic management plan [UPDATE: Jim Henderson, the head of the school, cannot make the July meeting but has offered to speak to us in August or September]

Repairs

Problems persist with the rate in which repairs can be carried out.

Baldwin House has dozens of broken lights, ultimately lost count of exactly how many. Repairs have been hampered by a missing key which means the lights cannot be turned on during the day. No suggestions as to when this key can be replaced and repairs carried out.

An entry door at the entrance to Hart House has been out of order for over a month now broken and a security concern for residents. Apparently the same door has been out of order for most of the past two years. Hart House also happens to have anti-social and crime problems.

The front doors of some homes are also reportedly insecure.

Residents also complain that there is little or no communication from Metropolitan regarding the repairs. Something Councillor Atkins agreed should be rectified as "reports should be responded to."

- Councillor Atkins said that if repairs are not carried out after one month of being reported she would raise the matter with a members enquiry.
- A petition was proposed to urge Metropolitan to fix the door at Hart House but this was rejected.

[Chris update] We discussed how to encourage more people to report problems, but no firm proposals

Cleaning Lifts

Persistent problems with urinating in the lifts in Morrison and other blocks has become worse.

While the lifts are cleaned once a day, this cannot keep up with the rate at which they are being soiled. The problem is especially bad at the weekend.

- Councillor Atkins suggested sending letters to all residents warning against such behaviour.
- Suggestions were made to increase the rate the lifts were cleaned but this was deemed unsuitable as the block cannot reasonably be kept clean when faced with such behaviour.

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

Problems with drug dealing and drug taking continues at Hart House and other areas around the estate. Places where this is prevalent also see loitering, urinating and other anti-social behaviour.

- The TRA requests that a police representative attends the next meeting. Terry C will organise.
- Continue to report crime and anti-social incidents to police, community staff and the TRA.

Proposals

- Residents should continue reporting problems [Note: The following section was updated by Chris at the request of Kush]:
 - When reporting repairs please email Contactus@metropolitan.org.uk providing as many details and a photo if possible.
 - After making a report to Metropolitan Housing, the police or other authority, residents should share the report number with the TRA. Or if a copy of the report can be shared with the TRA even better.
 - If the TRA reports a repair please copy in Kush. Kush stated after the meeting that “I cannot be copied in to all external work order that are raised by St Martin’s Residents, as I would not be able to keep up with the amount of emails”
- A webpage and Twitter account for the St Martin’s TRA to be created [Update by Chris: Chris and Brendan to organise]
- More posters fliers distributed ahead of the next meeting [Update by Chris: Brendan will design the posters based on sample text Chris will send him. Iain, Malcolm, Chris and possibly Brendan can help distribute them. Chris will coordinate]
- A residents street party was proposed. Volunteers required to help organise.