

MINUTES OF
ROPEWALKS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING
HELD ON THURS. 19TH MAY 2016

PRESENT: Peter Schriewersmann – Resident (Chair)
 Kenny Brew – LCC
 Steven Ellis – Tesco
 Jenny Ewels – LCC (REST Centre)
 Stephen Fitzsimmons – Cream Licensee
 Jill Harris - Resident
 Christine Kerr – Merseyside Police
 Billy Maxwell – LCC (Recycling)
 Sean O'Neill – Resident
 Samiq Nuriyev - Resident
 Gregory Scott-Gurner - Resident
 Ged Thompson – LCC
 Emlyn Williams – Rodney St. Residents Association (*part*)
 Neil Thomas – LCC (Env. Health) (*part*)
 Paula Deboo – Minutes

APOLOGIES: Andy Edwards - Resident
 Terry Eleftheriou – Resident
 Mal Harris – Resident
 Eddie Reed - Resident

DATE: 15th July 2016

	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>1. <u>INTRODUCTIONS / APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies given as above. Introductions of all attendees made.</p>	

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	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>2. <u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>Minutes agreed without changes. Ropewalks Residents' Association website to be updated with latest minutes.</p>	PS
<p>3. <u>ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE</u></p> <p><u>REST CENTRE</u> Jenny Ewels (Head of Safer and Stronger Communities - Liverpool City Council) presented the update on the new Rest Centre (presentation attached). LJMU done independent research and observed the Rest Centre and collated data (some of which is difficult to share due to data protection). Attached is the full report of the evaluation of the REST Centre in 2015. The full report has useful qualitative information from service users and stakeholders. The Rest Centre is there as help and support for the street drinkers, (and to a degree: homeless). Police are key partners and have zero tolerance while it is on. The health and safety of people who attend is addressed. It is a safe place to drink and attendees are encouraged to reduce their alcohol consumption. There are medical personnel on site and attendees are encouraged to take part in meaningful tasks (e.g. gardening, interacting with other cultures, etc. – part of an activity programme) and helping to raise awareness and self-esteem, also offer support with benefits and discuss detox. Local businesses assisted with 'reduce the strength programme' within walking distance of the Rest Centre; they were not to sell single cans, high percentage cheap alcohol, etc. and there was a shift in the alcohol they were drinking. There has been a mobile liver scanner on site, which gave the attendees immediate information about their health and may make them more aware and create a trigger for change.</p>	

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	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>The REST Centre (now next to Salvation Army building) will only be open for four months as they currently cannot afford to have it all year round and also the set up would need to be different. They are looking at ways to make it work; and funding. They will need to demonstrate health improvements to keep funding coming in.</p> <p>Finding a site was difficult but the new site is in Fraser Street (for the rest of year the site will be a car park). There are more facilities this time (e.g. running water, drainage, etc.).</p> <p>EW iterated that there are still beggars on the street who are a nuisance. Beggars say they are begging to pay fines but it is not true and it gives the city a bad image. JE agrees and iterated that other core cities are seeing an increase too and REST Centre not designed to tackle begging issue.</p> <p>Change Campaign is to educate people not to give money to them. The Council and Police are in a difficult situation and are coming in for direct criticism, as to every complaint about the beggars received there are people sympathising with them. People's attitudes need to change. Very few beggars on the street are homeless. Tesco (Hanover St.) / Henry Street and Home Bargains are prime spots. The Echo run a series of articles on people on the streets and reading it would make people go out and give to them, which is not what we want. Ideally, we want them to go to the support services and change their lifestyles.</p> <p>GSG iterated that there is a huge increase in the cross over on the street drinkers / homeless and beggars. This has been brought about as the people of Liverpool are too generous and whilst the people continue to give, the attraction will continue to grow. GSG is concerned for the welfare of the dogs that often accompany the beggars. CK iterated that the Police are trying to point people in the right direction but they are very limited to what they can do as a Force and have tried many things. Street drinkers, beggars and legal highs; they all create the same issues. On 26/05/16 Legal High Legislation is due. People currently selling legal highs are not breaking the law, they are working within the legislation. On 26/5/16 this will be illegal. Police will then tackle where the users are getting them from.</p>	



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	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>Medical professionals (NHS) are going out to schools to educate the pupils on drugs. New legislation should change the definition of a legal high.</p> <p>PS iterated that if active representation from the public is needed (in regards to any of the above), the Group will assist.</p> <p><u>RECYCLING</u></p> <p>Four years ago Liverpool's recycling rate (residential) was 25% - now it is 30%. In the next four years it is to hit 50%, which is a big shift. City Centre is recycling 11.7%. We are not going to hit the 50% target easily. 98% of people support recycling but the difficulty is the lack of space within the city, poor access, etc.</p> <p>At the end of Dec. 50K funding was secured by CRO. Since March 2016 they have been going around visiting bin stores and introducing bins where there was none. 5.5K homes had none and now 3.5K of them now have them. Likely to provide 4K with them as the rest are really difficult. EW suggested looking at their Planning Applications (if access/storage space issues encountered).</p> <p>Additional solutions are being looked at; an area within the city centre for people to go to do their recycling but it is proving difficult; encourage people to bring loose recyclable waste. Work going on in parts of the city which have been very useful. 'Kenny Fields Fights Waste' produce a regular newsletter and you can swap waste, etc. Lots of stuff on the waste agenda.</p> <p>SON suggested that if the Council do not hit their target the Council get fined, maybe if you introduce an incentive where people get rewarded it might counteract the fine. Maybe a black bag - you supply the bag and the public bring it back. That way it costs the public nothing.</p> <p>BM confirmed that there have been some really good ideas and they have been looked into (e.g. 'Pay as you Throw' - there is a shortage of raw materials). Mersey Recycling Waste Authority is responsible for disposing of the waste. The Council are responsible for collecting it.</p> <p>PS suggested when the authorities go into schools to talk about drugs, maybe recycling could be added to the agenda.</p>	

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	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>GSG confirmed his blue bins are never collected and Mount Pleasant only seems to be emptied every couple of months. (KB/ GT to investigate.)</p> <p>There is the 'Recycle Michael Competition' for kids in schools. Recycle team is currently only Billy Maxwell, although he is recruiting 3 / 4 people in the future.</p>	<p>KB/ GT</p>
<p>There was 'Green Summit' two years ago and the Group supported it and then saw the change (PS confirmed recycling facilities introduced in his block (Elysian Fields)); it was progress.</p> <p>GSG had observed in Portugal that their street bins (incl. recycling bins) were thin bins which went underground. This is a great scheme but is costly.</p> <p>KB suggested adding a page to the Group's website on Recycling, with a newsletter to follow.</p>	<p>BM & PS</p>
<p><u>PURPLE FLAG</u></p> <p>KB iterated Liverpool is seen as the beacon and on 20/05/16 a group from Leeds City Council are coming as a study to visit so they can see if they can replicate what we do here in Liverpool. PS, on behalf of residents, to accompany the visit and talk about Ropewalks Residents' Association interaction and input.</p>	
<p><u>ESCORT AGENCY STICKERS ON BOLD STREET AND HANOVER STREET AREA</u></p> <p>Jill removed over 400 A4 stickers on the day of the Grand National and continues to do so 4 days each week. (La Femme & 'Message' stickers.)</p> <p>KB iterated that they are investigating it but cannot pin it down. Doing stuff behind the scenes. Trying to track down the company which has been in business for 35 years.</p> <p>Jill feels at risk removing the stickers.</p> <p>Also getting put under hotel bedroom doors. It is all over the city.</p> <p>PS will take them down with Jill next time she goes out to take them down.</p>	<p>PS & JILL</p>

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	<u>ACTION</u>
<p><u>BACK BOLD STREET</u> KB confirmed that progress is slow; a detailed survey has been done. Lots of drainage to be done so funding opportunities are being explored (BID and businesses). People need to keep it clean. There are various factors contributing to the mess; alley gates not managed (locks broken, being wedged open for 6 weeks); no one seems bothered to close them. Dogs coming up for the rats, which could contribute to the damage to the gates but there's no proof. If we can get businesses to go with Viola, as one collection, this may assist. Businesses put the gates in not the Council. If alley gates are a hindrance rather than a help they will need to be taken out.</p> <p>SE iterated that the street drinkers / beggars are discarding their rubbish there and next to the Tesco Express. SON suggested that it is managed the way Back Seel Street is, but Back Seel Street is a road and not an alley way, therefore is wide enough for the cleaning machine to access it. It is a very dark area as it is unadopted and businesses and residents use it. Lights have been suggested to BID.</p>	
<p>4. <u>ROPEWALKS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES</u></p> <p><u>NEXT COMMUNITY LITTER PICK</u> Saturday, 25/06/16 (from 10am @ FACT 'The Garden' Café) is the next Community Litter Pick. Liverpool CC supports with vehicle and tools, while local businesses pledged their support too.</p>	
<p>5. <u>LICENSING / PLANNING APPLICATIONS</u></p> <p><u>CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY REVIEW CONSULTATION</u> Closed.</p>	

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	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>We done a lot of work. Hopefully it will have done the trick to maintain CIP in Ropewalks. We will know more in the late Summer.</p> <p><u>ARTHOUSE SQUARE</u> Signature Living are the new owners. They put in an initial licence application which we thought was slightly out of kilt. We met them over several meetings, KB also attended, and they have compromised and are not going to use the Square for alcohol (amongst other detailed points agreed to alter). The Square is only going to be the entrance to the hotel. Good compromise and thanks for good interaction with LCC and Signature Living.</p>	
<p>6. <u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p><u>LOCAL ELECTION</u> No changes to us here in the Riverside Ward. Cllr Steve Munby, Cllr Hetty Wood and Cllr Michelle Corrigan still in place and we work well with them and have a good relationship.</p> <p><u>MEETINGS</u> Various meetings planned with local developers (Elliot Group, etc.) to continue relationship building and ongoing exchange on plans for the area. A lot of movement in lower Seel Street area (around Kazimier Gardens). To be kept on the agenda for remainder of 2016 and beyond.</p>	
<p>7. <u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>To be confirmed.</p> <p>Next AGM to be scheduled for September/ October 2016.</p>	