

# THE MOORPOOL DUCK

Residents' Newsletter

Issue No. 19

May 2006

## SPECIAL EDITION

*Message from the Vice-Chair, Mick O'Malley.*

This is a special edition of *The Moorpool Duck* which, in the main, addresses the issues discussed at the Residents' Meeting of March 24th with representatives of Birmingham City Council (BCC), which considered the question of upgrading the conservation status of the estate. Residents who were unable to attend have already been given a flavour of the proceedings through the recent information sheet (**The Duckling**). It is hoped this edition will refresh or clarify the points made for those who attended the meeting, and further inform those who were unable to be present.

The Hall was full and I would like to thank everyone who attended (on a very wet evening!) and made the meeting such a success. The meeting was chaired by Cllr. John Alden and also attended by Cllr. Mike Whitby (Leader of BCC) and Cllr. Peter Hollingworth. Mr. Christopher Hargreaves (BCC's Head of Conservation) provided expert advice and answered questions from Residents.

Following BCC's agenda (which was circulated to all residents in March 2006) the following items were discussed, agreed and/or voted on:

### **1. The Introduction of an Article 4(2) Direction which would withdraw certain Permitted Development Rights**

Chris Hargreaves explained what this would mean to the Moorpool Conservation Area. There are 25 Conservation Areas in the City of Birmingham and the Government has said

that all Conservation Areas should have a Character Appraisal and Management Plan (CAMP) drawn up. If the present Conservation level of 7 is upgraded to a 4(2), all development of properties within the Conservation Area would require Planning Permission. All Planning Applications would be free and would (on average) only take 3-4 weeks; BCC Planning Department bureaucracy would be reduced; the current restrictions on changes to properties covered by the Restrictive Covenants would be enforced by the 4(2) upgrade. Residents of the Estate and BCC's Planning Department would be enabled to be more proactive in connection with Conservation. The upgrade would not be retrospective but it would govern future repairs and work on properties in the Conservation Area.

Following a question from the floor, Chris Hargreaves agreed that if the Upgrade took place, BCC's Conservation Department would produce a reference book for all approved building materials for use on properties in the Estate. This would help simplify the specific detail of planning applications.

Cllr. Peter Hollingworth said that it was very important to protect the Estate if it was not being managed properly.

The assembled Residents were asked by the Chair to vote on whether or not they wanted a Working Party consisting of local Residents, MRA Committee Members, BCC Councillors and Officers, and representatives of Grainger Residential Management Limited. This working party would produce between them a mutually agreeable and beneficial Draft CAMP.

The vote for the formation of a Working Party was carried unanimously by the assembled Residents. The Working Party will report back to the Residents with its Draft Proposal by the end of this summer (2006). This draft CAMP

would then be voted on by the Residents and, if passed, would then be given (by September 2006) to the BCC Cabinet Member responsible for these matters. It will then be presented immediately to BCC's Cabinet for approval and implementation .

Chris Hargreaves then asked Residents that if anyone was interested in serving on the Working Party, would they please give him names and contact details before leaving the meeting. Members of the Working Party will receive a copy of the Agenda for the first Meeting and an invitation to attend. The Chair will be Cllr. Mike Whitby (Leader of Birmingham City Council).

## **2. Allotments in the Moorpool Conservation Area**

The Chair of Moorpool Allotments Association (Mr. Rob Sutton) reported on the current number of allotments in the Conservation Area and stated that Graingers are not letting any at the moment. It is known that currently 8 - 9 are currently empty and others are not being worked. The Chair asked Residents to give their name and contact details to Mr. Sutton if they were interested in renting an allotment. (Rob Sutton Tel: 0121 426 5669 or email <rob@suttides.freeseve.co.uk> )

Questions were asked from the floor about what would happen if Graingers wished to re-develop areas of the Estate and decided to use some of the Allotments for this. Both Cllr. Whitby and Chris Hargreaves stated that using allotment sites for building was an extremely sensitive issue. Cllr. Whitby said, that whilst he never said "never", one of the most difficult things to get was planning permission for change of use for allotment sites.

Chris Hargreaves said that as part of the Working Party discussions, Graingers would be expected to supply current and correct factual information—including that on Allotments and garages.

It was agreed that Allotments on the Conservation Area would be discussed by the Working Party as part of the CAMP remit.

## **3. Garage Courts**

A Resident stated that he had received written notification from Graingers that they would no longer be repairing garages on the Estate. Well maintained garage sites are very important if cars are to be safely parked off streets and so that the garage courts are not "no-go" areas for residents. A significant number of residents indicated by a show of hands that they would be interested in having and using safe and secure off street garaging for their vehicles

It was agreed that Garage Courts on the Conservation Area would be discussed by the Working Party as part of the CAMP remit.

## **4. On Street Parking & Traffic Management**

The current declining state of rented garaging on the estate has led to excessive parking on the roads and damage to the Estate's grass verges. Residents commented strongly on the concern this was causing them. It is also a matter of concern to BCC.

It was agreed that Street Parking and Traffic Management would be discussed by the Working Party as part of the CAMP remit.

## **5. Provision of a Children's Area**

It was agreed that the provision of a children's play area would be discussed by the Working Party as part of the CAMP remit.

## **6. Minor Amendments to the Conservation Area Boundary**

It was agreed that minor amendments to the Conservation Area's boundary would be discussed by the Working Party as part of the CAMP remit.

(The meeting then closed)

**On going to Press, the full Membership of the Moorpool Conservation Area Character and Appraisal Management Plan Working Party is balanced as follows:**

Individual Residents & Interested Locals	8
Moorpool Residents Association (Committee members)	4
Birmingham City Council (3 Councillors (Harborne Ward) & 1 Conservation Officer)	4
Graingers Residential Management Ltd. (Staff)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

The membership of the Working Party is as follows:-

**Individuals:**

J. Spence : High Brow  
P.Waddington: Moorpool Ave.  
K.Marston: Margaret Grove  
G.Whittaker: Carless Ave.  
A.Millichip: Carless Ave.  
R.Sutton: Margaret Grove  
C.Brain: Park Edge  
A.Yorke: Harborne Society

**MRA:**

J.Holder: East Pathway  
M. O'Malley: Carless Avenue  
C.Ashling: East Pathway  
M.Frost: Carless Avenue

**Grainger Management:**

Yet to be confirmed.

**BCC:**

C.Hargreaves: Head of Conservation  
M.Whitby: Cllr & Leader BCC  
J.Alden: Cllr  
P.Hollingworth: Cllr

Chris Hargreaves has asked me to let everyone know that we now have enough members for the Working Party. The MRA Committee and myself would like to thank all those who volunteered to be a member of the Working Party. We realise that it will take up your time over the coming months but also know that it is invaluable that, with your help and that of all the involved parties - Graingers, BCC, Moorpool Residents - a progressive understanding for the good of the whole of the Estate is to be reached. A chance to ensure that the Estate was protected in a positive manner was lost when the Estate was originally sold. We are extremely lucky to have a second chance to protect our unique environment and, with everyone's help, support, and positive co-operation, we should be able to achieve this now. We do

not believe that we will get a third chance to make it a better place for all of us to live, both now and for future generations.

Finally, may I once again state that The Moorpool Residents' Association believes that the only way to secure and protect the unique character of the Moorpool Estate is through the adoption of the CAMP and the Article 4(2) Planning Direction.

**Mick O'Malley**

**Vice Chair**

**Moorpool Resident's Association Committee**

1st May 2006

**And now to something completely different !!**

**Chill Out On The Green !**

On a hot summer evening, or afternoon, what could be nicer than a relaxing game of bowls on Moorpool's beautiful bowling green. The green is open seven days a week, between April and September, offers free, informal coaching for members who are new to the game, and hosts regular social events during the season—all for an annual subscription of only £42.

If you would like to join, or learn more about the club, please contact either Trevor Benford (0121 427 3180) or Margaret Silverthorne (0121 427 3415)

**Almost Playing in Birmingham !**

Readers will recall that we have been "trailing" the forthcoming publication by English Heritage of "Played in Birmingham", which includes a full chapter on Moorpool. The launch has had a few delays, but will now take place at the NIA on 19th June. The book will be available from most book stores, including Bonds (Harborne High Street) and also the internet. Both the author and editor (Steve Beauchampe and Simon Inglis) have offered to deliver a talk and presentation about the book for residents during the summer. So watch out for further details of what promises to be an interesting and entertaining event.

### **Moorpool News & Wine** (The Circle Shop)

Our local shop which since Raj and Dip have taken it over has greatly expanded and varied its stock, has now also extended its opening times. The shop will now be open -

<b>Mon - Fri</b>	<b>7.00am - 7.00pm</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>7.30am - 7.00pm</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7.30am - 1.00pm</b>

Groceries, milk & bread, cakes & chocolates, wines and spirits are all available as is the stationery side of the business with greetings cards, stamps, photocopying and daily morning and evening newspapers (both of which can be delivered). Do give it your support.

### **Satellite Dishes.**

Residents have been asking about the position regarding these TV dishes. Under the existing Conservation status it is not permitted to attach satellite dishes to the front of any house on the estate without planning permission. BCC have informed us that they will take action if such dishes are erected. Further details are available from pl@nningdirect (0121 303 1115) .

### **Friends of Moorpool**

Copies of *The Duck* are now available to a small number of non-residents who have either shown interest in and support for the estate, or are involved with our sporting and social activities. As a "Friend of Moorpool" we hope you enjoy reading your copy, but if you would prefer to be taken off the circulation list, please contact Mick O'Malley on 0121 427 5051. If any of our readers know of ex-residents, friends or relatives who would be interested in seeing *The Duck*, extra copies are available from the Editor (Mike Frost) - at 1, Carless Avenue.

### **Moorpool Allotment Association**

Rob Sutton (Chair of Allotment Association) writes:- We are aiming to bring back into use all the allotments on the estate and are very interested to know more about the history of the allotments. We would welcome information from anyone who has stories about the Allotments. Were there ever flower and vegetable competitions? Has anything really unusual been discovered on an allotment? Any eccentric/ well known characters? If you can tell us, please let us know (via The Duck).

### **Grant for the Residents Association**

The committee is very concerned that it meets the needs of the residents. To this end it was decided last November to apply for a grant to the local "Community Chest" for funding to produce a questionnaire to be circulated to residents to help direct the efforts of the Committee. A grant of £300 has been made for this project. The Committee hopes to obtain future funding for other initiatives.

### **Moorpool Players**

The Company's next production is a triple bill directed by John Healey running from 21st - 24th June. The plays are; "*Just a Little Word*" and "*Little Benjamin*" both by Enid Coles and "*A Woman of No Importance*" by Alan Bennett. The plays are about families, both natural and those that are acquired through changes in the circumstance of life.

Tickets at £5 will be on sale at Moorpool News, The Dove Bookshop in Vivian Road and from the Box Office on 0121 426 2134. We shall be serving light refreshments including cakes, tea and coffee and slightly heavier ones in the form of wines. The doors open at 6.45pm - curtain up at 7.30pm.

We realise that competition from tennis, gardening, cricket and football will be intense, but we do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come along and support this very local company.

### **Stop Press**

**Peter Jordan.** We have just heard that Peter Jordan has retired from Graingers. Peter has been involved with the estate for many years both with Harborne Tenants and subsequent owners of the estate. We wish him well for the future.

### **Thanks**

Once more our grateful thanks go to Chad Vale School for printing this issue of *The Duck*.

### **A Final Editorial Quack**

A book is being planned as part of the Centenary Celebrations and we'd like to ask again that if you have any photos, reminiscences, brochures, articles etc. of the estate that you would let Mike Frost (Duck Editor, 1 Carless Avenue) have details. Many thanks. May we also wish you all a wonderful summer in which to enjoy our lovely estate.