

Moor Pool Residents Association Annual General Meeting

29th January 2022

Review of 2020/2021

None of us who agreed to serve on the Residents Association Committee in January 2020 had any idea of what lay ahead. My worry as the new Chair was that I hadn't been close enough to the centre of things since the demise of Moorpool Players; indeed, even in those days I concentrated on the Players and was generally unaware of what was going on around me. Added to those concerns was the fact that I was going to have to write something for the Duck every couple of months and I had no idea what that would be. I needn't have worried. By the time of my first contribution in April 2020 we were in lockdown and Covid provided me with plenty of material.

The Committee met every couple of months up to and including February 2020, and with the exception of one meeting in September of that year, didn't meet again until September 2021 since when we have met on a regular basis. The dilemma from the start of lockdown was how to deal with the hiatus and so I gave my contact details in the Duck. Whether that was a good idea or not depends at the angle from which you are viewing it. It certainly excited a demand.

On the one hand I've received a steady flow of queries and concerns from residents but on the other I have found that we were not always able to provide either the help or the solution that the resident was seeking, leading inevitably sometimes to dissatisfaction with me in particular, and the Residents Association in general. My lack of knowledge then was quickly exposed and it's appropriate at this stage to pay tribute and give thanks to, my fellow Committee members whose wealth of knowledge and experience enabled me successfully to deal in one way or another with most of the questions that had been raised. I'm still acutely aware of my detachment from the mainstream and recall describing Margaret Grove where I live as feeling as if it was on the edge of Empire. When we come to questions from the floor, if there are any that I can't answer I will call on my colleagues. Looking to the future though, I remain concerned at the difficulty we have in persuading others to join the Committee. I'm hoping that when we come to the election of the Committee you will agree to the appointment of someone new who HAS offered to serve. There IS a demand for the Residents Association, but experience has shown that our ability to satisfy it has been baulked at times by the pressures of time and in some instances by a lack of expertise when all we could do was point people in the right direction.

I'm not going to provide a detailed list of all of the stuff that we've tried to deal with but included have been: planning issues; badgers; overhanging trees and hedges that have grown to excessive heights; blocked alleyways; illegal parking; destruction of grass verges; anti-social behaviour; overflowing bins; bins and bins being permanently left out.

A number of meetings have been held with local Councillors and representatives of Kier, the Company working on behalf of the City Council, all of whom have been extremely cooperative and responsive to concerns where it has been possible for them to provide assistance or guidance. We now receive a regular flow of information about planning applications, and it is to this area that I want to move. We have found that in many cases, new residents are unaware of the provisions that determine the Conservation Area status of the Estate which provide that planning permission is required for any alterations to properties in line with the City Council's Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management plan We have drawn attention to this through The Duck and have included details in a welcome letter for all new residents. A copy of that letter has been sent to all local Estate Agents whom we have found have not always been aware of what is required. The hope is that they will pass on details to prospective purchasers.

The question of charging points for electric vehicles has been raised several times and we have been in touch with the City Council to see what their plans are. They point out that across the City, many different approaches will have to be made but as far as Moor Pool is concerned, they do not anticipate that there will be any relaxation in their planning permissions policy for this purpose.

Despite the difficulties, things have continued to happen. The Duck has been published every couple of months and apart from a brief period has been published in newsprint and delivered to every house on the estate. This would not have been possible without the many contributions from clubs and organisations and the band of volunteers who delivered it but above all because of the outstanding work done by Andrew Hackett.

In the early and dark days of the pandemic, Moor Pool and of course many others throughout the land, rose to the challenge of ensuring that people with particular needs were not forgotten and this became possible through the initiative of Jules Bellingham, her band of volunteers and the brilliant contribution of Ballie and his family.

Membership has been maintained around a fluctuating figure of 80 and Maureen has been assiduous in her efforts to persuade more people to join and in ensuring that those who have, continue to pay their annual subscription.

We realise that in return for their payments, members are entitled to see how their money is spent and we are currently looking at this. However, if any ideas are floating around for ways in which the money could be used, they will be gratefully received.

Throughout the last two years we've worked closely with Simon Stirling, and I've been grateful to him on a number of occasions for putting me right in terms of who owns what and by extension, where responsibility lies.

Santa's sleigh sleighed in 2020 and 2021 and last year the carollers were able to carol. Thanks to the initiative of Rob and Jan Sutton and with the support of Norma, Maureen, Jenny and Tina, a very successful Seniors Christmas lunch was held on 19th December.

Coffee mornings have again become a regular event on the last Saturday of each month, and we are grateful to the suppliers of cakes and other goodies.

Finally, my thanks are due to all our residents who have always strived to maintain the goodwill and friendship that I became aware of when I moved on to the Estate 53 years ago.

John Healey

January 2022