

**NOTES AND ACTION FROM  
THE LERF MEMBERS MEETING  
TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021 VIA ZOOM**

**In attendance:**

Rev. Steve Hallett - SH (Chair)	LERF
Mariee Wymer - MW (Vice-Chair)	LERF
Nina Sweetland - NS (Education Rep)	LERF
Philip Gerrella – PG (Observer)	
Vikki Bull – VB (Chair - Repairs Action Group)	LERF
Sonal Mehta - SM (NHS Rep)	LERF
Halima Saeed - HS	
Joanne Trueman – JT (Service Delivery Unit Manager, MKC)	
Cllr Ed Hume – EH (BFSTC Rep)	LERF
Jeanette Marling – JM (Chair - Lakes RA)	LERF
Margaret Prescott - MP	
Sue Evans – SE	
Craig Boulton – CB	
Lauren Jeffrey – LJ	
Liz Jenkins - LJ	
Jessie Gilsenan – JG	
Paul Burton – PB	
Mercy Zvenyika – MZ	
Mohammed Khan - MK	
Malcolm Wenz – MWz (Resident Rep)	
Rahul Mundray – RM (Development Manager, MKC)	
Sue Brown – SB (Senior Landscape Architect, MKC)	
Sam Goodwin – SG (Interim Community Engagement Officer, MKC)	

**Apologies were received from:**

Danielle Slaymaker – DS (Chair SCSG)  
Will Rysdale – WR (Head of Housing Delivery, MKC)

**Non-attendees:**

**Welcome and Meeting Conduct**

SH welcomed everyone to the members only meetings and said how encouraged he was to see a few new faces. He then invited people who were attending the meeting for the first time to introduce themselves.

Craig Boulton (CB) – said he had lived on the estate for some time and was despondent with the estate going downhill during that time. He has been a governor at the Sir Herbert Leon Academy and Water Hall Schools.

Liz Jenkins (LJ) – said she has lived on the estate for 15 years.

Lauren Jeffrey (LJ) – said she lives on the estate and attends the Sir Herbert Leon Academy where she is on the school council.

Sue Brown (SB) – said she is a Senior Architect with Milton Keynes Council.

Mercy Zvenyika (MZ) – said she has lived in Serpentine Court for 12 years.

### **Chairs Reflections**

SH explained that this was only his second meeting as chair. At the last meeting priorities for the group were discussed and updates on these are on the agenda for this evenings meeting.

SH said how pleased he was that progress was already being made on some of the priorities, which included dog poo bins and the challenges around poor repairs.

SH also mentioned that a few members of the group would be looking at the Terms of Reference and will be making it more appropriate and specific.

SH concluded his reflections by saying how above all the group is all about people and their passion and enthusiasm for the community, because together that is how we will make a difference.

SH said that he was happy for people to contact him between meetings either by phone or using the groups email address [lakesrenewal@outlook.com](mailto:lakesrenewal@outlook.com)

### **Minutes and Actions from the last meeting – 25 March 2021**

#### **Actions from last meeting:**

WR to speak to Steve Young about the fire safety and structural safety of Serpentine Court and report back. WR has emailed Steve Young and is waiting for a response.

**Action – WR to chase Steve Young for a response.**

SM – Health. Recommended that people go out for a brisk 20minute walk as its easy and cheap but if don't feel safe people won't do it. Feels that the community should identify the problems and the professionals help support solutions. Ongoing.

SH – some things are big issues but other are quick and simple. Wants the group to start making a difference and get some quick wins e.g. the lighting in MP's courtyard. Ongoing

SG – provide MW wording for posting on LOL. Completed.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

### **Member Elections**

SH reminded everyone that the majority of members should be residents from the Lakes and ideally representative of different groups living there and of the wider community i.e. business, schools, nursery, faith groups.

SH also reminded people about the roles and responsibilities of the LERF which include:

- the opportunity to define the terms of reference for LERF
- attending meetings

- gathering resident's priorities
- voting on proposals and recommendations put forward and
- feeding back to other residents & the community

SH also reminded everyone that there were still a number of vacancies on the group which included:

- 3 resident reps
- 1 business rep
- reps from other faiths

SH went on to talk about the election process for the LERF which needed to be transparent and encourage residents to engage with the group. Any potential members should advise the ERF of their interest to be part of the committee. They would be invited to attend the next ERF meeting to speak for maximum of 2 minutes about why they wanted to join the group. Everyone present at that meeting would vote on the membership by raising their hand.

CB expressed an interest in becoming a member and was asked to contact SH after the meeting.

SH explained that since the last LERF meeting three residents had contacted him to express an interest in joining the group. Each resident was invited to speak for 2 minutes:

Halima Saaed (HS) – Halima has lived on the estate for 30 years. She said she wanted to join the group to help address a number of things that residents have been struggling with in Serpentine Court (fly-tipping, fires, ASB and vandalism). HS said she thought it was important for people to come together to tackle these things instead of complaining. She wants to do her bit to help and do something for the children and the neighbourhood.

A vote was held and all voted in favour.

Jessie Gilsonan (JG) – Jessie said that she had been trying to help with the regeneration going on on the estate for the past 12 years. Really wants to see things happen and come to fruition.

A vote was held and all voted in favour.

Lauren Jeffrey (LJ) – Lauren said that she is a representative on the Sir Herbert Lean Academy School Council. She looks around the estate and sees a fantastic place to live and a great community that is not living up to its potential. LJ also said she felt that it needed representatives from all generations working together and putting in the effort and care to see things change and make a better place for everyone.

A vote was held and all voted in favour.

SH welcomed the new reps to the group and mentioned that there were still a couple of resident spaces.

## **Priorities**

### Poo Bins

SG explained that she had contacted Nicholas Hannon (NH) Director of Environment and Waste for MKC regarding additional poo bins. He responded to ask where the new bins were needed and has agreed to site 5 new bins ( 2 by Drayton Park School, 1 by Water Hall School, 1 near Warren Park and 1 by the little park near Skene Close). They will be installed in June. SG also asked NH if it would be possible to pilot a recycling bin on Serpentine Court and this has been agreed. Since the meeting NH has agreed to attend the May meeting of the LERF to discuss fly-tipping and answer any questions.

CB expressed concern that poo bins are not emptied regularly and that people leave poo bins lying on the ground. ED explained that poo bins are emptied on a Tuesday and Friday. He went on to say that if people let him have the number of the poo bins that needed emptying, he would get it done.

### Safety and Lighting

EH met MP's challenge to visit the court where she lives see the issue with lack of lighting. EH confirmed that the main thoroughfares were indeed very dark. He also asked people to let him know where lights were out or where additional lighting was needed.

CB expressed concern with residents safety due to the level of disrepair on the estate particularly with lighting and footpaths. He invited EH and SH to meet and have a look at the issues around the area where he lives.

VB said that the lighting around Drayton Park School was poor and that there was one lamp post with no light. She also said that it was good to see the additional lighting on the Redway.

JM expressed frustration that issues with lighting, footpaths and trees were brought up time and time again. Especially as in some cases lighting can be improved by trimming back the trees, She suggested a night time walk about, as a previous walkabout had made a difference and had been attended by heads of departments, councillors and residents.

EH said he would liaise with SG and WR to ensure that MP's lighting issue was addressed as a priority.

### **Actions**

- SG to organise an evening walkabout.
- ALL email in places that the walkabout should include.

### Fly-tipping

EH stated that there were many locations on the estate where fly-tipping was an issue. He informed the group that MKC were increasing the number of CCTV cameras they had on the Lakes Estate and had also employed an additional enforcement officer to help combat the problem.

CB commented that a lot of commercial vehicles park on the estate. That the vehicles haul rubbish which they leave on the estate. CB also went onto say that these vehicles shouldn't park on the estate as they have an operating licence which says where they can park. He also went on to say that parking is a problem across the estate and needs a holistic approach to tackle it.

LJ asked for more information about the CCTV cameras. EH explained that MKC had £200k to tackle fly-tipping and £100k was for CCTV cameras which would be fixed to lampposts in fly-tipping hotspots. The cameras are designed to pick up number plates in the dark. The funding also pays for an additional enforcement officer and part of their role is to go through the film. EH stated that the group needs to consider why people are fly-tipping and said that some residents struggle to get to places where they can dispose of large items.

SH suggested that there is a specific item on the May agenda on fly-tipping as it requires a bigger conversation.

HS informed the group that there had been a few fires by the garages outside block 10 on Serpentine Court. That these cause damage to the garages and would like to know what is happening with them?

#### **Action**

- SG to invite Nick Hannon to the May LERF meeting

#### **Sub-Group Updates**

##### Repairs Action Group

VB explained that the group was working with 10 properties across the estate to help get their repairs sorted out and that part of the groups sub-groups role was to snag the repairs after they had been completed. VB went on to say that the group had two successful meetings with Mears and that the Mears repairs surgeries previously held in Spotlight on a Thursday morning had been re-established but would be held on-line via zoom starting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 12.30pm.

VB also said that the Repairs Action Group were looking for more members and that if people were interested they should email the group on [lakesrepairs@outlook.com](mailto:lakesrepairs@outlook.com)  
VB urged people who are struggling with their repairs to get in touch.

CB stated that there was such a back log of poor repairs work that it would take years to catch up.

SH said that he had spoken to the Chief Exec of Mears and been told that the quality of repairs would improve.

### Serpentine Court Steering Group

Unfortunately, DS was poorly and had given her apologies for this meeting. SH attended the last SCSG meeting and gave a brief update.

SH said that the ground investigations would be starting shortly. MKC were just finalizing the procurement of the contract. RM confirmed that MKC would be focusing on the ground investigations but would simultaneously be doing other work such as procuring the contracts who would undertake the design and build.

VB stated that she was not receiving updates on the regeneration. MW mentioned that updates were given at all SCSG meetings.

### Lakes Residents Association

JM asked for confirmation that Melish Court and the Gables would not affect regeneration on the Lakes Estate.

JM also expressed concern that the CCTV cameras could see into residents homes. Since the meeting SG has spoken to Delia Shepherd (Clerk to Bletchley Fenny Stratford Town Council) and had been assured that CCTV cameras cannot see into residents homes and that there is a lot of legislation in place that prevents this, JM informed the group that the Lakes RA AGM is taking place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm via zoom. Posters would be going up to advertise the AGM .

JM said that the Lakes RA were hoping to continue with their fuel poverty project giving out fleece blankets but were unable to do so because they couldn't use Spotlight until after 21<sup>st</sup> June. JM asked everyone present to contact her if they knew of anyone who was vulnerable, elderly and/or disabled who would like a fleece blanket.

MP said that she had spoken to Jill Long at Spotlight and been informed that coffee mornings would not restart until after 21<sup>st</sup> June.

### **Courtyard B Consultation**

Following the last LERF meeting, SG had emailed the consultation pack to MW who kindly put a poll up on the Locals of the Lakes Facebook page asking for people views and suggestions on uses for the 4 Courtyard B green spaces off Warren Park. SG thanked MW for her help with the poll and explained that the results of the poll had been merged with the email and telephone responses received by the Council by SB. Formal childrens play equipment was the most popular, but SB explained that the spaces were not best for this taking into account the effect on the residents living around the green spaces and the ground not being even. However, the passive activities such as seating, picnic areas, park benches, quiet areas, memorial garden and sensory garden although separated out in the consultation and the poll could be combined to create a community space.

SH asked about the timing of the work to the green spaces. Which he thought was the summer. He also asked what SG and SN wanted from the LERF. SB explained that now that MKC had a steer on what residents, she could draw up a plan for each space for community use creating a multi-functional space for passive activities and bring them to the May LERF meeting for approval.

MW asked about the exercise equipment which was included in the consultation options. SB explained that this was included in the masterplan for Warren Park but that as the 4 green space connect with Warren Park, she could potentially site the equipment on the boarder between the two. However, would need to ensure that this wouldn't cause any conflict with residents living around the green spaces.

JM stated that residents she had spoken to said they hadn't responded to the consultation because of the name.

MWz suggested that the gym equipment could be sited at random points or on a trail. However, he is concerned that the wrong people may congregate in these areas. MWz also suggested that there should be more consultation with people local to these green spaces.

MZ asked why the gym equipment had been given as an option in the consultation if it wasn't an option. SB responded that there was lots of support for gym equipment and that just needed to find the right location that wouldn't cause conflict.

CB stated that the original proposal included things that would never fly. He went on to say that there would be lovely new areas created for some people. Building new houses on other green spaces could lead to people feeling aggrieved. He felt that some people would benefit massively whilst other would lose massively.

VB asked whether there would be play equipment for younger children. She also asked whether there could be some gym equipment for children.

SB explained that she was currently looking at the feedback from the consultation and wanted to create safe places for younger children. She would go away and draw up options for each of the 4 spaces and bring them to the May LERF meeting

NS mentioned that there was children's gym equipment at schools.

**Action**

- SB to draft drawings for each of the four Courtyard B green spaces for May LERF meeting

**Q&A and AOB**

None

**Wrap Up**

SH asked that people join the meeting on time for the next meeting so that the meeting can start and finish on time.

SH asked for people to give one word and a score to describe how they felt about the meeting.

VB - productive

NS – 8 very productive

MP – 9 optimistic

LJ – 9 very open and honest

SM – 8 making progress

HS – 8 positive

PB – 8

JG – 8

LJe – 8 interesting and engaging

MWz – 8 great discussion

**Date of Next LERF meeting**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 6pm via zoom