

BRADWAY ACTION GROUP

Open Meeting Tuesday 29 March 2011 Bradway Primary School Hall

Attendance: 36 members and residents plus Councillors Hill and Ross.

The Chairman introduced the Agenda for the evening. His report would be taken later as the main item on the Agenda was to have been a presentation by Mr Andrew Setchfield of the proposals put forward by the Friends of Poynton Villas (FPV) for the development of allotments and a wild life area in part of Poynton Woods. Unfortunately Mr Setchfield was unable to make the meeting due to work commitments and no other representative of the FPV was able to attend.

Mr Stubbs outlined the proposals as set out in a letter to the SCC Planning Department copied to BAG in June 2010 and subsequently at pages 4 and 5 in the Winter 2010 Bradway Bugle. He also pointed out, however, that a recent communication from Mr Setchfield had revealed that for various reasons the FPV were unable to proceed with the allotment element of the project at the present time, and that their efforts would instead be concentrated on the creation of a parkland and nature reserve.

The original proposal for the land in question - a triangle of some 2.5 acres stretching North West from Castle Row Close, bounded by the railway cutting and the rear of properties on Rosamond Avenue until it meets public land in Poynton Wood -, was for development of about 1 acre for allotments with the remainder of the land to be used for a wild life preservation area. A couple of wooden sheds for tools would be placed on the allotment site which would have to be fenced for security. A solar-powered pump would be used to extract water from the stream to a tank from which it would be distributed by gravity flow. A small wind turbine might also be considered, along with an earth composting toilet. New pathways would be created suitable for wheelchair access. Access for local schoolchildren was also an aim. To this end some scrub would be cleared and the trees thinned to allow more light to the allotment area.

BAG had kept an open mind over the proposal pending further information. Mr Peel had responded in a letter to the Spring 2011 Bradway Bugle on behalf of those residents on Rosamond Avenue directly affected by the proposals. Mr Peel outlined their concerns over the likely adverse ecological impact and the lack of consultation by the FPV.

During discussion of the issue questions were raised as to the membership of FPV, the level of support that they had achieved from external bodies such as The Sheffield Wildlife Trust, and the Forestry Commission, and the extent to which planning consents would be required. It is understood that Mr Setchfield owns the land but there was some scepticism about his proposals. Whilst the proposal might act as a block on future development this was considered unnecessary as the land was thought unlikely to be suitable for housing or commercial development under existing planning rules. It was generally felt that the site did not need any interference as it had served well as a wildlife sanctuary for the last 30 years. Clearance of "scrub" would be to the detriment of wildlife, such as foxes and badgers that do roam through the site, and felling of trees can have an adverse effect on the local bird population and also on bat flight routes.

In answer to a query as to the ownership of the public land, Councillor Ross agreed to follow this up to identify the relevant Council Departments with responsibility for Poynton Woods. He suggested that if people were concerned that inappropriate action might be undertaken they keep a watching brief on developments. He would also check whether any Tree Preservation Orders are in place or might be appropriate. The views of the Forestry Commission might be sought.

There was agreement to the proposition that Mr Setchfield and FPV be invited to join in a management scheme for the land in question that might involve BAG, the Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission and appropriate SCC departments. The Chairman would be writing to Mr Setchfield to inform him of the discussion, and would put this suggestion to him.

Chairman's Report

Environment. The 1st Saturday in the month litter picks on the Old School Field have restarted after the winter break with the next on 2nd April when another willow tree will be planted in memory of Rachel Smith. This would fit her love for the environment, however no plaque will be included as it was felt the tree was sufficient. On 19th March 7 members undertook a general litter pick as part of the City Spring Clean, filling some 10 plastic sacks. The flowers planted by BAG are making a good showing. If SCC can't provide any more this year we will buy our own to fill in the various gaps.

There has been no change over the traffic problems at Tinkers Corner.

Transport. The existing 293 route operated by TM from Chesterfield to Sheffield is being withdrawn due to its being a loss-making operation since the 87 route was introduced. Stagecoach are introducing a new experimental 293 service between Dronfield and the City Centre to run down Twentywell Lane and along Abbeydale Road (past Tesco) but not through Greenhill or to Chesterfield. BAG has made representations for this service to incorporate a connection with the local train services to Manchester at Dore station.

Bradway Bugle. John Baker is seeking to give up the editorial role for the Bradway Bugle and we are seeking how best to carry this forward. An editorial committee looks to be the best option and we are seeking people who might be interested in becoming involved. The technical side might be of interest to a student with relevant IT skills and for whom such community involvement would be a positive on their CV. Stephen George is the contact point for anyone who might like to get involved (Tel 2364564; email: s.a.george@sheffield.ac.uk).

Bradway Recreation Ground. We now know that the Rec was sold to the then Norton RDC in 1931 and subsequently transferred to SCC. In 1998 some of the land was sold to Moorview Golf Range. It was agreed that we should now proceed to seek Village Green status for the Rec so as to preserve it as public open space for the future. Councillor Ross was able to confirm that the existing Village Green applications are now being progressed after some internal delays.

Ward Forum. The Ward Forum on 9th March received a presentation on scrap metal dealers and reviewed progress for the first year of operation. Given the wide area covered by the Ward it was agreed that in future the Forum should seek to concentrate on Ward-wide issues leaving minor or local issues to be addressed by Community Groups or directly with Councillors. A more formal structure was required with Specific Interest Groups that could consider issues in depth e.g. traffic, transport, or planning, and reporting back to the Forum.

Membership. To date some 106 renewals have been received and there are some 75 household memberships.

Future activities. 5th June, Tony Smith has again agreed to lead "Walking the Bounds".
Tuesday 5th July, Open Meeting
Friday 19th August, Fun Day.
11 October. AGM.

Any other Business. In answer to questions Councillor Hill informed the meeting that: **Garden waste** would continue to be collected through the Green Sack scheme as the planned hessian sacks were too expensive at a time of financial stringency. There was some confusion and Veolia need to ensure they brief staff on this. The next edition of the Bugle might carry something on this. Damage to **grass verges** should be reported to Streetforce to get them reinstated. New oak bollards are being trialled in Dore. The introduction of **20mph zones** in residential areas will be considered by the Council on advice from the Community Assemblies. Cllr. Hill expected a Planning Application for the Dore Station **Park and Ride** to be submitted by the end of April.