

Wardle Society

*** NEXT MEETING ***

THURSDAY 7th June 2007
WARDLE COMMUNITY CENTRE 7.00pm

ALL WELCOME

Minutes of Wardle Society Meeting held 3 May 2007

Present : Barbara Fitzsimons (Chair), Sylvia Lear (Treas.), Jane Rickards, Ashley Dearnley, Eddie Rogers, Ray Goodall, George Caygill , Ted Bolton, Bernice Clifton, Damon Wilkinson (Rochdale Observer.)

Apologies : Pauline Hopkinson, Peter D., Robert Clegg, Janet Darnborough, Beryl Wright, David Booth, Ann Southerton P.C.S.O. Sarah Rafferty.

Police Matters : On behalf of Sarah, Bernice explained that from now on the P.C.S.O.s will be using the Community Building for break-stops while on duty in the area. Sarah also wants to establish surgeries in the building - these may overlap with Wardle Soc. meetings. She will be arranging publicity. All welcomed this news. The youths responsible for recent extensive car damage in the area were sentenced today.

Crook Hill Wind Turbines :

A copy of a strong letter of objection has been received from David Kerr of West Pennine Sailability Club.

- Todmorden Town Council Planning Committee rejected the application for 5 turbines at Crook Hill on 2nd. May 2007.
- A Wind Power display may be available for use in the area. Possible sites - Community Building during History Group's Exhibition, Wardle Library, Watergrove Car Park if fine.

Treasurer's Report : see attached.

Correspondence :

1. via Ashley - 25/4/07 - From Environmental Management re garage site and hedges leading to Watergrove Car Park. this is not Council owned so no action will be taken. Footpath behind Ramsden Road has been cleared. It has been reported that the litter bins in Wardle Village are "being visited on a daily visit". Ashley will follow this up as there is evidence which contradicts this.

2. via Bernice - May 2007 Footpath Matters from Ramblers Assoc. Note Use Your Paths Week 23 June 2007. Local Authorities listings re condition of Rights of Ways include Rochdale's which are now up to 50% of paths defined as "easy to use". This has increased from 5% in 2001/02. Members expressed pleasure at the recent figures.

3. Letter from EcoCommittee at St.James' School re Wardle in Bloom Poster Competition. See a later entry in these minutes.

Spring Clean : Barbara thanked everyone who turned out to make this a success, and Ted and Eddie for doing the organising. **Agreed** that all the young people who participated should receive a Wardle Society Cert. which Jane offered to design. Barbara will write to Pennines Township thanking them for their help re equipment.

Planning : The application to extend the Half Way House has been refused because of Green Belt restrictions.

MoorEnd Development Trust : Ashley reported on his talk with Nasser Afzal which clarified the confusion over the 'status' of Wardle Society. in the Project. Wardle Society is not responsible for it.

George reported on his meetings with Nasser Afzal. There was a long discussion on the paper Wardle Countryside Gateway 23.4.07 which details the proposed feasibility study, objectives, users, funding, and gives a timescale for the project. **Agreed** that Bernice write to Nasser.Afzal. requesting that he call and front a public meeting of representatives of all groups, schools and churches in Wardle, Smallbridge and Ashbrook Hey. The purpose of the meeting would be to publicise the project, invite discussion and to involve community groups and individuals to participate in the plan. The Society's concerns at the lack of public awareness, and the emphasis on mountain biking, should be made clear in the letter.

Wardle in Bloom : George reported on progress so far :

- one funding application rejected, more in progress;

- Wardle Society agreed to pay £10 as a prize for the Poster Competition underway at St.James' School. Margaret Pearson is to be asked if she will judge the competition.

- local firms and developers are being asked to contribute funds;
- a key area to be targeted will be the substation at the village roundabout;
- more plants to be sold;
- Wardle Society was requested to help fund the Best Gardens Award which will be judged in late July;
- Ted and Eddie have offered to make planters; expenses to be met by Wardle Society?
- Discussion from the above points : - a budget for the project is needed
- publicity essential - posters needed for the Best Kept Garden Competition. Julie offered to include information on the Wardle website.
- plants could be sold at Watergrove Car Park while wind turbine publicity is there - only feasible if more people are present to promote the sales.

Any Other Business : a member commented on the use of Knowl Syke Street by construction vehicles attending the Old Pump House restoration. Jane offered to contact Planning about this situation.

MEETING CLOSED 9.30 p.m.

Next meeting: 7 June 2007