

Draft Minutes of Meeting Monday 6th January 2014

The meeting opened at 1930 with 31 members present.

1. **Apologies** were received from Lynne Kerrigan.
2. **The minutes** of the monthly meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2013 were reviewed and were accepted by the meeting as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. **Vicarage/Archaeology.** The meeting said the qualifications of unpaid archaeologists should be recorded so that "amateur" was not seen as identical with "unqualified and inexperienced" also need to be aware of process for involving archaeologists if applications are not considered by the Planning Committee.
 - b. **Supermarkets.** Morrisons and Meteor Park applications are scheduled to be considered by Planning Committee on 23rd January.
 - c. **Royalty Inn and Club Epic.** It was reported in the local press that the Club Epic application had been withdrawn. Watching brief.
 - d. **Quomps litter.** Still no response to our letters about this. It was agreed that a further follow up letter should be sent.
4. **Corn Factor Site Development – Druitt Garden Trees.** It was reported that the application for felling of the trees by the developer of the Corn Factor site to facilitate a compound goes to Planning Committee on 9th January. In discussion views were expressed that Druitt Gardens had already been destroyed, too many trees already removed, Druitt Gardens should not be used for a commercial development, number of trees in application had changed over time, no Tree Protection report to BS587 had been made as required by the 2011 Christchurch Tree Strategy, over 350 letters of objection to the proposed tree felling had been submitted. Christchurch Conservation Society a Planning Advisor to represent community views at the Planning Committee meeting. CCA agreed to contribute £75 to the fees of the Planning Advisor. Members were encouraged to attend the Planning Committee meeting. The meeting also agreed that we should:
 - Write to all members of the Planning Committee stating our objections to the proposed tree felling;
 - Write to the Council to enquire about the developer's plans for root protection;
 - Write expressing our view that there are too many retirement homes for the community and infrastructure to support.(Cllr Peter Hall asked that it be minuted that he did not take part in discussion or vote on this item as he is on the Planning Committee).
5. **Corn Factor Site Development – Compound.** The proposed compound in Druitt gardens is for access to the Corn Factor site linking materials storage in Wick Lane Car Park and would remove from usage for 18 months or more 800 square metres of gardens and the footpath linking Druitt Hall access to Wick Lane Car Park. Developers were offering an alternative footpath from Regent Centre to Creedy Path and Cllr Hall had been asked to look at this with Clive Sinden on 7th January. Concerns were expressed about the validity of this decision being taken by the Community Services Committee, about the way that the covenants on Druitt Gardens were being ignored, about whether the car park would be able to take trucks up to 32 tons and why it was not planned to access the site from the High Street as this had worked adequately for the library rebuild. Members were encouraged to write to Clive Sinden expressing their views. There was a vote on whether

a new path from Regent Centre to Creedy Path was required and there was an overwhelming majority that it was not. It was noted that a refusal by the Planning Committee to allow tree felling (Item 4, above) would mean that the compound proposal could not go ahead.

6. **Co-operative store plan for Fairmile Site.** It was noted that the Co-op had acquired the Fairmile Inn site with a view to opening a shop on it. Fraser, from Bonafide Wines on Fairmile Roadn expressed the view that the opening of such a shop would have a negative effect on the small traders in the area and also a disruption to the community with increased traffic flow onto the site, including deliveries. Other examples of impact on businesses and communities were discussed. Cllr Colin Bungay explained that planning legislation recently introduced meant that owners of pubs did not need planning consent to convert to shops. Consequently the only application coming to CBC for this was for a change in the frontage. Even the concern about traffic flows was not for CBC to discuss as this was the remit of DCC. He has written to MP Chris Chope about this. The meeting agreed that CCA would write to Mr Chope about this and members were encouraged to write to him individually as well.
7. **Druitt Hall.** It was reported that at the public meeting on 11th December DHAL explained that they would be declining the 3 year lease as there was no prospect for a long term plan to rebuild Druitt Hall on the existing site. Subsequently DHAL will write to the Council's Strategic Director formally declining the lease and explaining the decision. At this time it seemed likely that the Hall would close in March. Subsequently another group has expressed an interest in running the Hall. DHAL have made their business plan available to the new group. The Resources Committee were expected to consider the hall at their January meeting but this has now been deferred. Richard Gray, from the new group explained that they were prepared to take on the hall for 3 years in the knowledge that they would not get outside funding for refurbishment but keen to keep it going with the hope of political change in 2015. Alastair Somerville Ford (who had offered funding for refurbishment and subsequent rebuild of Druitt Hall) expressed his view that CBC had frustrated every community effort as far as they could, placing all obstacles in the way of the redevelopment of Druitt Hall but without telling anyone what their plans were. Alastair wanted everyone to understand that the Druitt Gardens belonged to the community, not to the Council. The meeting thanked DHAL for all their work and wished the new group success with their venture.
8. **Town Centre Bowling Green.** The meeting voted that CCA should write to the Hotel management encouraging them to have the bowling green maintained professionally and have it opened for match days so that the facility was not lost to the town.
9. **Correspondence.** All correspondence received had been discussed in relevant items.
10. **Any Other Business**
A "Transition Town" meeting in Druitt Hall, 14th January 7.30 p.m. "Trees in Towns" led by Dr Tony Warne was announced and members invited to attend.

The meeting ended at 2105. The next meeting is Monday 3rd February 2014, 1930 in Druitt Hall.