

Stoughton Action Group

Minutes of STAG Committee meeting of Tues 10th February 2004 at Ian's House 20.00 – 23.30 hours

In attendance:

<i>Nigel Horton</i>	<i>(NH)</i>	<i>Chair of STAG</i>
<i>Ian Godfrey</i>	<i>(IG)</i>	<i>Secretary for the meeting.</i>
<i>Maureen Bell</i>	<i>(MB)</i>	<i>Committee member – chair of SCA/SCCP.</i>
<i>Cllr Pauline Searle</i>	<i>(PS)</i>	<i>Committee member</i>
<i>Jonathan Clarke</i>	<i>(JC)</i>	<i>Committee member (left at 22:30)</i>

Apologies were made for:

<i>John Allford</i>	<i>(JA)</i>	<i>Committee member</i>
<i>Peter Gunner</i>	<i>(PG)</i>	<i>Committee member</i>

Apologies for absence:

1. JA sent his apology at 21:30 owing to personal circumstances. Maureen indicated she would arrive by 20:30, so it was agreed postpone the meeting until then. No apology from PG. NH wished to have on record a special thank you to JC.

**NH to speak
to PG.**

Minutes from previous meeting:

2. It had been at least 12 months since the last formal STAG meeting. The previous was on 5th February 2003. It was generally agreed that there were no actions outstanding from that or subsequent informal meetings.

Chairman's Report:

3. NH read his chairman's report (attached), which was then discussed. It was generally agreed the report reflected some of what STAG had done during 2003 following the agreement to separate the roles of STAG and Community Centre Project (SCCP). The chairman's sentiments were unanimously supported.
4. STAG's June Report dated 19th June 2003 was discussed and it was generally agreed that there were still matters outstanding. It was noted that only David Taylor of SCC Highways actually responded, despite several attempts to chase. This report covered the following issues: Site liaison; many safety issues concerning: construction traffic; Johnston Walk raised platforms, road repairs and street lighting; the alley to Bryanstone Avenue; street lighting within QEP. Lack of information about the Nursing Home. The QEP Travel Plan. The pathway to Angelica Road playground. Dust Control.
5. With this and other items on the agenda in mind, it was unanimously agreed there was still lots of work for STAG to do and more help was needed.

**PS to find
name of alley.
[since reported
as Snails Lane]**

QEP Planning Matters:

6. IG suggested he compile a list of outstanding points from the QEP S106, based on previous analysis from 2002. **IG.**
7. IG reported he had been in contact with David Edgar, a resident of QEP Phase 2, Goddard Close, who had been to a neighbourhood meeting organised by Gavin and Deirdre Critchley, where they discussed:
 - The pathway from Phase 2 to the Angelica Road playground [*Jim Dennis stated on 7th Nov 2003 that this would remain closed until all development was complete. STAG not sure if this includes phase 9.*]
 - The role of the QEP Residents Management Company and use of the management fee. [*Ivan Ball had explained some of its role at a meeting with SCCP on 24th October 2003.*]
 - Setting up a neighbourhood watch.David Edgar had said the group was keen to be involved with STAG and SCA. PS reported that Gavin Critchley had already contacted her. **IG to maintain contact.**
8. MB asked if anyone knew the name of the residents involved with the QEP Arts Competition. [*NH & IG not aware of query.*] **PS to find names.**
9. PS reported that Phase 9 has now been sold to new developers whose name is not being divulged by DEPS. **PS.**
10. JA/02/0026 parking changes. IG reported he had seen a new GBC/SCC planning notice on Grange Road. IG to find out more from DEPS asap. **IG.**
11. 04/P/00164 QEP Academy Children's Nursery change of opening hours. MB reported Jim Dennis said it was for training purposes 3 late evenings per month. It was generally agreed there were no grounds to object.
12. 03/P/02492 Esporta H&FC illuminated signs. PS reported this application had been refused (hence STAG not informed) but Esporta are now appealing. [*Submissions to be sent to: The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/26 Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN - quoting reference APP/Y3615/H/04/1140129 - to arrive not later 25-Feb-04.*] **NH.**
13. NH raised the topic of the vandalised wooden Johnston Walk bus shelter. PS showed a picture of what its metal and glass replacement would look like.
14. A discussion about the recurrent problem of STAG not being notified of planning applications resulted in the following actions:
 - NH to write to Carol Humphrey, head of DEPs.
 - PS to speak to other ward councillors.
 - MB to notify the group of any misdirected GBC letters.**NH asap.
PS asap
MB.**
15. NH to write to developers about QEP streetlights still not being lit despite Jim Dennis' assertion on 7th Nov 2002. [*Some lights now operational.*] **NH.**

QEP Traffic Problems:

16. MB reported that some Grange Road drives were cracking up, especially where adjacent to 'speed humps'. NH to write to SCC Highways. **NH.**
17. It was generally agreed that the new traffic lights and junction for Grange Road and Salt Box Road are working well. However all agreed the 40mph limit should be extended the entire length of Salt Box Road because of the number of common paths across Salt Box Road to Whitmoor Common. Of particular concern is where the speed limit currently changes back to national is exactly where one path emerges. NH to write to SCC Highways. **NH.**

QEP – where next for STAG?

18. Point 5 was re-iterated.
19. IG suggested it would be useful to produce a check-list of lessons learnt, to aid residents, councillors and even DEPs for future large or even small developments. **IG to make a start.**

STAG future role in Stoughton:

20. Further to points 5 and 18 it was generally agreed a role for STAG exists for issues wider than just QEP. NH has received emails from residents with concerns other than QEP. **NH to circulate.**

Stoughton traffic problems:

21. The lack of progress Stoughton Railway Bridge improvements was discussed. PS and IG agreed to draft a letter for NH to send to GBC and SCC. **PS, IG & NH.**

STAG Open Meeting:

22. NH proposed that a public open meeting be held as soon as possible and asked for ideas for what type of meeting it should be.
MB expressed concern on behalf of the SCA/SCCP it would be very awkward if the community centre designs had not been finalised – see also point 28.
It was generally agreed a meeting should be held as soon as possible, and designs might be finalised while the meeting was being organised.
23. NH proposed that more people would attend if the meeting was on a Saturday morning. **PS to check dates with SY&CC.**
PS suggested if the SY&CC were to be used as a venue then Saturdays and Sunday mornings would be difficult because of the GCBFC youth football, and suggested Sunday afternoons on 14th March or 25th April as free dates. **[25th is OK, cost £15.]**
24. PS to contact John Davey, DEPS, about when their open day would be for £300K environmental improvements. **PS.[no meeting planned]**
25. NH proposed and it was generally agreed that the meeting could be organised around workshops, perhaps with tables dealing with different areas of interest. Some ideas: community centre, youth, GBC, environment, QEP.
26. IG proposed and it was generally agreed that he and NH meet up to plan a publicity campaign and what was required for a public meeting. **IG & NH to plan.**

STAG's role in SCA:

27. IG explained the current and potential roles of the Stoughton Community Association (SCA) and that STAG is not currently part of the SCA. Currently the SCA has a public mandate from the May 2002 Northmead meeting, to build a community centre, adopt a constitution and become a charity. As such the SCA and SCCP are synonymous. However, SCA has a bigger vision to incorporate the roles of STAG as well as other local community groups if they desired, and had therefore chosen a flexible constitution using the Community Association model.
28. IG explained a public meeting would be required if the SCA wanted a mandate to expand its role beyond building and running a community centre. IG explained that because this is a STAG meeting, any decisions affecting SCA must wait until a future SCA committee meeting. NH and IG to make a proposal to the SCA committee (see also point 26).

NH & IG to plan.

AOB:

29. PS to contact John Hobrough about Stoughton Grange School update and if STAG should get involved.
30. The minutes for the Community Safety Warden's meeting 4th Dec 2003, were discussed. It was generally agreed that STAG should continue to be part of this group. Next CSW meeting is 11th March.

PS.

NH, MB & PS.

Minutes prepared by Secretary of the meeting, Ian Godfrey.

Approval of these minutes was:

Proposed by

Seconded by

Approved at a meeting held at

On

STAG Stoughton Action Group

Chairman's Report 2003

I would like to thank you all for your contributions to the STAG efforts over the last 12 months, no matter how little time we each can give, that time is valuable to the team effort.

I am disappointed in the sum total of our efforts and as Chairman must pick up the tab but it has been a year of uncertainty personally and in relation to STAG. Also, there has been nothing really big to get stuck into as in the past although the relatively small items we have dealt with seem to have taken up as much time and effort.

There was much correspondence and on-site meetings with SCC Highways and communication continued between STAG and the developers re:

- Johnston Walk environmental improvements;
- Pig Alley re-surfacing;
- The footpath between Bryanstone Close and Worplesdon Road that emerges by the new pedestrian crossing;
- Safety railings around the latter; and of course,
- Grange Road lorries. Buses are not signatories to the original route agreement and our efforts through Laing & Linden and SCC appear to have fallen on deaf ears.

Most of these issues were gathered together in the June report to which, only SCC Highways acknowledged but it was reported that this document caused some hilarity in the offices of GBC.

STAG objected to the retrospective application to construct the raised platform in Johnston Walk on the grounds that it was ineffective in its aim to reduce traffic speed. There has been no response to this objection, nor to the personal one I submitted on the same.

Where STAG has failed is in its relations with the residents of Stoughton both old and new and this must be redressed before any group can claim to be acting on behalf of all. STAG failed to produce a Newsletter in 2003, for which I again must take responsibility but for which all of us could have contributed something.

STAG has been approached by Sam Tehrani (44 Manor Road) about a number of issues in Grange and Manor Roads and by Coral Flexman (Sheepfold Road) about issues totally separate to Queen Elizabeth Park.

The latter, together with occasional comments I have received, has led me to consider the role of STAG within SCA and whether STAG's remit should be enlarged to look at more than QEP issues or whether STAG's role has now virtually finished with the completion of QEP?

Whatever our perception, if the group is to continue, we must all raise our efforts in 2004. Residents must be made aware of what we are, what we are able to do and how we can assist them as individuals and groups. The Community Safety Wardens appear better able to get to residents and perhaps STAG should align itself more with the Stoughton Steering Group chaired by Richard Musgrove?

It is on these issues that I have prepared tonight's agenda.

Nigel Horton

Chairman