

THE MOORPOOL DUCK

Residents' Newsletter

Issue No. 33

February 2008

Grainger submit planning applications!

By now you should have received notifications of the 6 planning applications by Grainger plc.

You have 21 days from receipt of this notification to make your objection, although the planning department are giving the 19th March as the closing date.

19th March – Closing date for objections.

The Committee of your Residents Association considered the plans as displayed in the Lower Hall on the 26th January which were for 'Information Only' and not for any further consultation.

Having considered these proposals, we agreed that they have little, if any, positive benefit to the Estate and should be objected to, provided the residents supported that view.

A meeting was called in the Moorpool Hall on Tuesday 12th February 2008 for residents. We also invited our local councillors and MP.

Residents were able to have an open debate on the proposals with many views and observations being expressed. Following that discussion and with an amendment to add the word 'anticipated', the Chair of the MRA put the following motion to the meeting.

'The residents of Moorpool support the view that the anticipated planning application by Grainger, has no significant benefit to the Estate, damaging its character in respect of the spirit of the 4(2) direction and original design whilst also resulting in loss of allotments and parking spaces and setting unwelcome precedents for any future planning application and consequently should be objected to.'

The motion was supported by all, except for one abstention – clear support for the Committee to oppose the plans.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR.

Dear Residents,

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you who were able to attend the Special Meeting at the Moorpool Hall and also to our guests who attended; MP Gisela Stuart and Councillors John Alden and Peter Hollingsworth. Despite the short notice of the meeting, residents were standing at the back due to numbers.

The plans submitted by Grainger give nothing back to the Estate whilst at the same time destroying amenities, damaging the ecology and adding to our current parking problems. They do not offer any security to community facilities such as the Hall, Bowling Green, Tennis Courts or Allotments, etc., but they do set a precedent for the anticipated

phase 2 on the Builders Yard and other areas. Despite many enquiries, Graingers will give no assurances that this will not happen.

At the meeting, Andrew Hackett of the MRG and Mike Parkes speaking for the MAA, gave their views and thoughts on the matter. I know they are in the process of formulating their respective objections but they can be confident from the vote and views expressed that they have the support of the majority.

You will be receiving a joint MRG/MRA Residents letter. This will summarise the reasons we object to these plans and also give you guidance on how to make your objections too. The number of individual objections is very important. Don't leave it just to the MRA, MRG and MAA.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT INDIVIDUALLY YOU OBJECT.

Make sure at the very least you:

- Give your name and address
- State the relevant planning application number(s).
- State your objections and reasons.
- Send it to the planning department on time.

I would suggest you keep a copy too.

The Residents Letter will give you more advice and information on making an objection and should be read carefully. If you need any help there will be contact numbers on the letter.

What next?

So we object and the plans are thrown out. What then you might ask?

Some of you may recall in a previous Duck (No 28 back in September) I suggested that we would probably end up with a watered down application which would suit neither party. Well that's where we are now, even before the planners have had their say. Wouldn't it have been sensible for Grainger to have had proper discussions with the Residents Groups and come up with something better to have put to you? Our approach to the problem was to create an organisation that could look at ways of regenerating the Estate in a positive way. That was not responded to and the plans have subsequently evolved piecemeal.

Despite Grainger's refusals to accept offers of discussions I can assure residents, particularly those that fear we shall be condemned to a future of a declining Estate, that the door remains open to have meaningful talks. It will not be for lack of effort on our part to find solutions to these issues.

Rob Sutton.
Chair, Moorpool Residents Association.

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Information can be downloaded from the MRG website directly at www.moorpool.org.uk or through the link on the MRA website www.moorpool.com