

**Minutes of Lady Bay Community Association Autumn Public Meeting and AGM Wednesday 17th November 2021 8pm All Hallows' Church Hall**

Before the meeting Richard Arblaster's pupils played for us on the piano.

**Present:** 39; including County Cllr Penny Gowland (PG) & Borough Cllrs Richard & Sue Mallender

**Apologies:** Celia Easteal, Vice-chair LBCA; Sara & Phil Bramell.

**Welcome & Introduction:** The Chair, Sian Trafford (ST), welcomed everyone & introduced Brenda Ainsley (BA) from Plastic Free Cotgrave

**Plastic-free Communities:** A campaign run by Surfers Against Sewage. Accept we can't be completely plastic-free, but reduce single-use plastic. People very interested in recycling but there is a whole lot more to consider. The fossil fuels industry has been losing the market for fuel and has diverted into plastic production so that plastics are very cheap. Plastic can be a "wonder material" and is the right material for many uses. Plastic production is implicated in climate change.

See slides: BA explained the UK situation and that of Rushcliffe, where recyclables go to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) run by Veolia. Residual waste goes to incinerators – Eastcroft in the city. And in future the proposed incinerator at Ratcliffe-on-Soar. There is no circular economy. Producers aren't interested. Recycling plastics results in downgrading, each time plastics are recycled they are a lower grade than before.

There is an environmental impact: wildlife becomes entangled or eats it. Microplastics are all over the world. They are inside human fetuses' bloodstreams and fish used for human food, turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish.

Lady Bay Plastic Free Community needs steering group members – contact Sue Mallender at the end of the meeting if you are interested. Lady Bay Primary School has signed up as a Plastic-free School, Lady Bay Brownies are interested, as is All Hallows' Church. Rushcliffe Borough (RBC) & Notts County Councils can help.

Plastic-free Cotgrave has run virtually because of lockdowns. Cotgrave Town Council have the Plastic-free Cotgrave logo on their website. They have engaged with local businesses that are Plastic-free Champions. To be a champion the businesses don't have to be entirely plastic-free, they have reduced at least 3 kinds of plastics, e.g. replaced plastic carrier bags with paper bags, encouraged the use of reusable coffee cups, recycle ink cartridges. There are also Plastic-free Allies – non-profit-making groups to work with – Surfers Against Sewage gives each Plastic-free Community a target.

Individuals can be part of the Plastic-free Community: use zero waste shops, e.g. The Good Weigh in Lady Bay, Shop Zero in Nottingham City Centre, The Simpler Life in Keyworth, The Bottle Top in Ruddington. Zero waste is not more expensive as you can buy what you need.

Raising Awareness: School making a pile of plastic used in a week, websites, Facebook pages, webinars and talks e.g. from Greenpeace, Surfers Against Sewage.

Is recycling the answer? It can help but it encourages plastic-use; processing & transportation use a lot of energy. Plastic continuously downgrades in the recycling process. Much of it ends up in landfill anyway. Greenpeace have shown that recycling is a myth – only 9% of plastic is recycled.

A deposit/return system and reusable packaging are much better answers.

The Secretary, Sue Mallender (SM) asked for people to join the Plastic-free Lady Bay steering group, we want to involve Lady Bay Primary School, groups e.g. the brownies, local shops. RBC have already agreed to reduce single-use plastic.

Geri Griffin (GG), Secretary, Central West Bridgford Community Association (CWBCA) **Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**: CWBCA was set up in 1974, when West Bridgford Urban District Council was disbanded and replaced with RBC. RBC wanted to build their Civic centre on Bridge Field with shops on the Croquet Lawn, CWBCA stopped these developments. Lady Bay has a very strong sense of community, CWBCA is more dispersed.

There is no West Bridgford Town Council so people need to be able to campaign to prevent development. CWBCA started looking at NPs. They produced a discussion document to ask people their opinions. There is a provisional agreement with RBC to recognise the area shown on the map GG showed. The West Bridgford Local Area Forum (WBLAF) is a useful group, but it is not recognised as a parish or town council would be. CWBCA hasn't made a formal application yet. Once an area has been decided for a NP the boundaries cannot be changed.

CWBCA wants to know: Would Lady Bay want its own NP or join in with CWBCA? It's a big job & expensive, a large area could be hard to manage.

Does LBCA have other ideas for West Bridgford within RBC's jurisdiction?

Questions & Comments: If Lady Bay doesn't have a NP would we be at a disadvantage?

Cllr. Richard Mallender (RM); NPs designate areas for development. They give local people a say. At the moment there is no option for people in West Bridgford to express their opinions. CWBCA covers an area of 20,000 people, West Bridgford as a whole 49,000. It is difficult for CWBCA to reach out to a larger area. WBLAF has no decision-making powers. RBC appoints a councillor from each West Bridgford ward to the WBLAF. There is a working group of RBC councillors that has influence on the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), money from developers. The group includes councillors from outside West Bridgford as it is chaired by the ruling Conservative party and reflects the political make-up of the whole borough, not just West Bridgford.

Geri's presentation will be on the Lady Bay website <https://www.ladybay.co.uk>

*What is the benefit of having an NP?*

RM: Having a say in local planning, e.g. the use of the former Trent Boulevard Methodist Church, if local people had had a say then the site of the former laundry on Oakfields Road at the rear of Lady Bay Primary School could have been earmarked for the expansion of the school rather than being used for more housing.

*Would an NP influence whether there would be a school on Regatta Way?*

RM: Schools are a Notts County Council decision, not RBC.

*Would a NP help with retrofitting, e.g. having on-street electric vehicle charging points?*

RM: It may do.

*An NP designates areas for development, there isn't anywhere Lady Bay that could have development, it's already built-up*

RM: LBCA have considered having an NP previously & decided not to for that very reason.

**Reverend Dr Jonathan Mole (JM), new vicar of All Hallows' Church:** There is lots of energy in Lady Bay. Many Xmas events: Christingle, Carol Services at Lady Bay Pub & at the church, Nativity, Midnight Communion, Christmas Day and Boxing Day all-age services. (Also JM's birthday on Christmas Eve)

**LBCA AGM Elections:** James Strawbridge (JS) & SM are happy to continue as **Treasurer & Secretary** respectively. JS nominated by RM & seconded by Sian Trafford (ST). SM nominated by Monica Pallis (MP) & seconded by JS. A vote was taken & they were both elected unanimously.

**Committee:** Rosie Bird, Gemma de Brito, Celia Easteal, Richard Mallender, Maureen Mitchell, John Osborne, Gill Stevenson & Chris & Sian Trafford are happy to continue. There were no further volunteers.

All the above were nominated by SM and seconded by JS. A vote was taken & all were elected unanimously.

**Lady Bay Open Gardens, Chair, Tony Papkiewicz:** Running in 2022. Need support. Earlier this evening there was the 1<sup>st</sup> committee meeting. The committee needs more members & volunteers are needed to help run the event. Have a look on social media. There was a Lady Bay front gardens event in 2021. Date: 2/3 Jul.

**Lady Bay Post Office, ST:** See article in LBCA newsletter. Lady Bay is in danger of losing the post office. The ATM has been removed. The postmaster, Shaz, has worked very hard to diversify. Please display the posters available at the back of the room (and also the centre pages in the newsletter) in your windows. Please use the post office.

**LBCA AGM Treasurer's Report, JS:** Presented accounts (printed copies available on chairs) for 2019-20 & 2020-21. Due to Covid restrictions fundraising has not taken place so the Community Fund has not increased. LBCA is still solvent but funds are down. We are hoping for funds coming from Lady Bay Open Gardens this year. The

public liability insurance policy will be renewed in December 2021. The policy has been extended for an additional 3 months. Lady Bay Open Gardens & Lady Bay Arts Trail pay contributions to the insurance policy fees as they both use LBCA's insurance for their events.

A vote was taken and the accounts were accepted unanimously.

**Newsletter Advertising, Chris Trafford (CT):** We need more advertisers to pay for the newsletter. Please ask around any local businesses and contact CT. Cost is £10 quarter page, £20 half page and £40 full page.

**FIELDS Update, Mike Scott (MS):** Notts County Council want to build a secondary & a primary school on Regatta Way on land that is Green Belt and flood plain. The primary school is to replace the current Lady Bay school. Notts County Council owns the land off Regatta Way and the current school site would also be sold if the school were to move.

FIELDS believes the proposed site is unsuitable, as well as being a green field site, it is over a mile away from most of Lady Bay. A school should be part of the community. Lady Bay Primary School has been in Lady Bay since building started in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Regatta Way site is close to the A52, one of the most polluted areas in Greater Nottingham. More air pollution would be produced as parents/cars are likely to drive children to the Regatta Way site, it is too far to walk for young children. The vast majority of secondary school pupils live over the other side of the A52, not in Lady Bay. There is population growth in Ruddington.

There has been no consultation with anyone in Lady Bay, not even staff and governors at the school. The decision was very top-down.

Recently the county council have passed policies to protect the environment, building on a flood plain would be very much against these policies. Building here would open the flood gates for housing development around the proposed schools. Developers could use the presence of schools to persuade the county and RBC to allow more development.

FIELDS has written to every RBC and county councillor explaining that there is an alternative: redevelop Lady Bay Primary school on its present site. This has not been considered by the county. See possible designs by local architect, Alan Wright on railings in Lady Bay and on the Lady Bay website. There could be a new school whilst retaining the existing building. The plans are being improved by FIELDS.

FIELDS have sent press releases & produced leaflets to raise awareness. There is more to do. The county have carried out a "feasibility study" showing it's reasonable to build on Regatta Way. They are now doing a phase 2 feasibility study going in to more details; this may be completed in early 2022. The views of FIELDS & Lady Bay should be taken into account. The county council makes the planning decisions on schools.

PG is very sympathetic & objects to any schools on the Regatta Way site, especially the idea of moving Lady Bay school.

FIELDS is writing to the leader of Notts County Council, Ben Bradley, he voted for the proposal previously but has had time to think again.

MS suggested people keep an eye on the Lady Bay website for updates on developments & news about the campaign. Also county council highways & education departments.

**Questions & comments:** *Can the county council give itself planning permission?*

County has to consult RBC 1<sup>st</sup>, but yes.

PG suggested people write to the Conservative county councillors in West Bridgford, e.g. Gordon and Jonathan Wheeler.

**Lady Bay Extinction Rebellion (XR), MP:** A lot of people came to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting just before the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown. Notts XR gives training in non-violent direct action, provides information about climate change & organises a range of activities. Lady Bay XR is not separate from the Notts group, it is more of a network, communication mainly via a What's App group. Lady Bay XR have been running an information stall on Central Avenue at the Farmers' Market & a held a daily evening vigil outside County Hall during COP 26.

**AOB:**

**Proposed Foot/Cycle Bridge:** Paul Abel (PA) from central West Bridgford explained that he is campaigning for improvements to Lady Bay Bridge, with an additional walkway on the northern side. PA believes this is a more direct route to the city & a cheaper option. PA stated that the government prefers to have cycling facilities on the road network. The proposed foot/cycle bridge takes pedestrians & cyclists to Daleside Road. PA stated that the proposed bridge would include a 90 metre concrete structure in a flood risk zone. Concrete is a source of carbon emissions. A similar bridge has been built in Leicester and is not used for commuting. PA has brought some leaflets with him – please ask if you would like one.

RM: If you go on the Transport Nottingham website you can comment on the proposed bridge. There is information including videos. The bridge is proposed to be built from the inlet in the new development on the north bank of the Trent to the sports grounds on the south. Nottingham City Council supports the new bridge. There were drop-in consultation events at the Lady Bay Scout Hall yesterday, Lutterall Hall today & Rushcliffe Arena tomorrow. So far consultation has shown 80% of people are in favour of the proposed bridge.

Questions & comments:

*On the Transport Nottingham site it's difficult to object, you have to make the objection on the 1<sup>st</sup> page.*

RM: Funding for the bridge is from Transforming Cities. The new bridge is the only proposal for improving cycling & walking access. It's not a choice between options – there are no proposals for Lady Bay Bridge improvements.

PG: The slope is not concrete, it is an earth bank.

The proposed bridge gives a sustainable connection between Trent Basin & Lady Bay.

*Developers at Trent Basin support the proposed bridge as it will increase prices for their developments.*

*Cyclists & pedestrians will have better access to the Water Sports Centre. There will be a riverside path on the north side.*

*There is commercial activity on the north side, the new bridge would give a connection between Lady Bay, Colwick Park & Aldi supermarket.*

JS: Proposed bridge will improve northbound to southbound cycling.

*Good connections to Colwick from Lady Bay.*

SM: To go directly into the city as a cyclist safely improvements need to be made on Trent Bridge. Lady Bay Bridge & the proposed bridge both take cyclists to the same part of the city.

**Isolation:** Feel isolated in Lady Bay. Are there any initiatives to help housebound people?

John Osborne: The Heron Wellbeing Music Café at the Poppy & Pint fortnightly at 10:30 on Mondays. Very friendly & for all ages.

*There is a coffee morning in All Hallows' Church every Thursday, for everyone, not just members of the congregation.*

Is there anything online?

*There is a community group, set up at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown, that is online.*

ST Offered to accompany the questioner to a group if that would be acceptable.

SM: Group of neighbours living near questioner that are meeting online to object to a development could meet online socially too.

Meeting closed 10pm