

**Chester Residents' Associations Groups (CRAG)**  
**Executive Meeting**  
**4pm Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October**  
**Quaker Meeting Rooms – Frodsham St. Chester.**

1. Apologies for absence: John Walker.
2. CRAG Exec roles & responsibilities: the following were agreed:
  - a. Chair: Mike Hogg (agreed at CRAG AGM on 26.09.19).
  - b. Secretary: Vanessa Bond.
  - c. Treasurer: Eric Golding
  - d. Membership Secretary: Jennifer Crew
  - e. Exec Member: Ann Charlton
  - f. Exec Member: John Walker
3. CRAG relationships with other entities: A number of meetings have taken place; in all cases these have been to explain the purpose and objectives and raise the profile of CRAG – but it has been made clear that until the CRAG five position papers are signed off by CRAG membership (or the CRAG position on new additional subjects equally approved) that CRAG has no formal views or input to make.
  - a. Chester District Advisory Panel (DAP): Mike Hogg & Vanessa Bond attended a DAP on 31.07.2019, and Vanessa Bond is attending a second DAP on 22.10.2019. The formation of CRAG was welcomed by CW&C councillors and officers attending the DAP – and CRAG will be invited to take part in DAP workshops – particularly when any one of the key five CRAG topics is to be discussed.
  - b. BID: Mike Hogg & Vanessa Bond met with Carl Critchlow & Nick White on 08.10.2019. Carl and Nick both welcomed the formation of CRAG – and looked forward to the opportunity for Chester businesses and residents to work together with CW&C and Cheshire Police on topics of common interest. Homelessness & ASB were suggested as the potential first of such.
  - c. Purple Flag: Vanessa Bond is already a Chester Resident representative on the Purple Flag Steering Group (a Government accredited scheme for a well run and managed night time economy ) and will explore how the links between Purple Flag & CRAG could be strengthened. The date for its annual external assessment is Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019
  - d. CW&C Localities Team: Mike Hogg met with Jane Makin the CW&C Localities Senior Manager on 21.10.19. Jane was very positive about the formation of CRAG – seeing it an important two-way-channel of communication and a platform for improving understanding of CW&C policies and operations as well as Residents' wishes and priorities to the benefit of Chester and environs as a whole. Once CRAG's five priority subject papers are agreed – Jane is keen to work with CRAG to see how best these can be taken forwards.
  - e. Chester Growth Partnership, Cheshire Police & Chester Civic Trust: no contact has yet been made but is planned.
4. CRAG Issues: the latest versions of these will be circulated to all affiliate member RAs for review and comment, with the objective of final versions being approved at the next CRAG meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
5. Next Steps: It was agreed that:
  - a. Mike Hogg will write to all affiliate member RAs:
    - i. Asking them to complete and return their affiliate membership form along-with a cheque for the 2019/2020 membership fee

- (valid 01.10.19 to 30.09.20). (Jennifer now actioning this as membership secretary).
- ii. Advising the date of the next meeting (28.11.19)
  - iii. Asking for feedback on the CRAG position papers by 21.11.19 so that it the final versions of the papers can be signed off at the meeting on 28.11.19.
  - iv. Encouraging each RA to consider the CW&C four-year plan – so that a composite CRAG input on key items could potentially be agreed and confirmed on 28.11.19 in readiness for submission by the 05.12.2019 deadline. This would be in addition to individual and individual RA submissions.
- b. CRAG will seek to hold six meetings each year (in January, March, May, July, September & November): suggested dates to be confirmed.
  - c. Each CRAG meeting will be preceded by a CRAG Exec meeting held some two to three weeks beforehand.
6. Dates of next CRAG Exec & CRAG General meeting:
- a. Next CRAG meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
  - b. Next CRAG Exec meeting: TBC (Mike away 6.11 to 24.11).
7. A.O.B.:
- a. Mike to write to Jane Makin to request details of the CW&C Localities Team personnel & responsibilities.
  - b. Eric suggested that we should identify an “owner” on the Exec for each of our five key topics. The following was agreed – albeit it was stressed that the CRAG subject matter position papers once approved would be their “briefs”:
    - i. Communication: shared - Mike & Vanessa.
    - ii. Traffic Management (including parking): Eric.
    - iii. Public Realm: Jennifer (but will seek support from Don & Helen)
    - iv. One City Plan: Vanessa (but will seek support from Ann and Chris )
    - v. Homelessness & ASB: Mike.
  - c. A signed copy of the CRAG Constitution and Purpose & Objectives documents approved at the CRAG 26.09.19 AGM along-with the draft minutes of that meeting to be given to Vanessa for safe keeping in the CRAG minute file.
  - d. Ann to provide Mike with the contact at the Chester Voluntary Agency with a view to potentially obtaining funding and general support.
  - e. Jennifer to provide Mike with contact details for the Garden Quarter Residents’ Association.
  - f. CW&C Waste Collection Meeting: Jennifer had attended – and in addition to providing a summary of the workshop also reported that it was apparent that CW&C were indeed trying to improve communication with residents.
  - g. The apparent absence of any clear and pro-active local communication about the BBC History weekend in Chester on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> October was disappointing and is another supporting example of CRAG’s Communication position paper.

M.J.H. 23.10.19.