



TMDAG Report 2021-06-14

(this report covers Trumpington Meadows Delivery & Action Group's activity over the period of April - early June 2021)

Chairman: Paul Colbert
Secretary: Martin Keegan
Treasurer: Karen Lamb
Data Manager: Laurence Fischer
Events Manager: Gillian Rizvi

Neighbourhood representatives: Chris Points, Robert Tyers, Tania Castanheira, Debbie Doonan, Tej Williamson, James Hayward, Peter Dennison, Andy Churchman

Travellers on Trumpington Meadows Country Park

There has been a further incursion onto the Country Park by a group of Travellers.

During Saturday morning, a caravan was seen illegally driving onto the Country Park and members of TMDAG as well as Keep Trumpington Meadows Safe intervened and attempted to stop the remaining convoy gaining further access. They were attempting access through the path alongside Greenway Park by Greenway House and the convoy at that stage was backed up along Charger Road.

Members of the TMDAG team were verbally and physically threatened, harassed by the travellers, accused by the travellers of committing an offence and threatened to be run over if we did not move and allow them access. The Police were put in a very difficult position that was gradually escalating and called for backup, resulting in four police cars and associated officers arriving to assist.

The Country Park is owned by the Grosvenor estate and managed for them by the Wildlife Trust. The Travellers drove down Charger Road, privately owned by Grosvenor/Barratts, through the private car park of Vista Riverside and along grass and a pathway that is currently owned by Barratts. Needless to say, none of this was with permission of these landowners and it was our understanding that an injunction had been granted in 2019 to remove the group of travellers who occupied the Country Park in that year, but after urgently contacting and Merlene Austin from Grosvenor, it became apparent that the existing injunction related exclusively to specific named persons and vehicles.

We have now supplied Grosvenor with the names and vehicle registrations of the current offenders in order for Grosvenor to once again go to Court early next week to apply for a further injunction. When the previous incursion happened about two years ago it took nine or ten days to move the travellers on and there is no reason to expect a different timeline this time.

On Sunday, TMDAG organised the collection of information about the various routes that cars can take into the Country Park, and placed these on our [map](#) for easy reference. The TMDAG officers did a site walkaround today (14 June 2021) informed by this work, with Becky from Wildlife Trust and Gary Nott of Barratt's. Gary and Barratt's other staff bravely attempted to erect a makeshift barrier across the main route being used for illegal access, but it was soon dismantled.

In the past, there had been discussions of how to protect the Country Park from unauthorised access, but inadequate follow-through before the first traveller incursion in 2019. Following the removal of the travellers at that time, there was a temporary bund placed alongside Bead Road, followed by permanent fencing. TMDAG will keep up the pressure on Grosvenor and others to emplace bollards and other suitable obstacles for temporary or permanent protection of the Park's car/caravan access routes.

Build Quality Issues & Estate Management

The Barratt's Managing Director (copied to our two MP's: Daniel Zeichner and Anthony Browne and others) has been sent a letter in relation to the serious problems associated with Dormer windows and solar panels (the Tyers Report). In addition he was also notified about other serious problems with balcony under roof overhangs on almost all of the apartments on Riverside which are failing and need repair, as well as failing window coverings. The initial reply to TMDAG is, we believe, unacceptable and a further letter has been sent.

The Local Centre needs much more maintenance and it has been agreed with Barratts & Trinity Estates that the dead tree outside Sainsbury will be removed shortly but only replaced during the correct planting season. In addition, stakes and protection will be added to the other trees that have been previously hit by vehicles, the stone seats will be jet washed and the wooden seats that show bad repair will be re varnished with a better quality varnish shortly. Dates for the above remain to be confirmed.

Handover for parts of the development to the County Council / Highways Authority is still in progress with no further update currently available. However, Barratt has confirmed that they have a meeting arranged with the Parking Enforcement Company to run through the private parking scheme and to confirm when they can start the enforcement again. This will run up to when the roads are formally adopted by the County Council, after which council officials will ticket any vehicle parking that doesn't have a valid permit. It seems that any cars parking in non-designated areas along Consort Avenue including the grass verges will be issued a parking fine.

Pressure is also being applied to Barratt's in relation to the very slow installation works that are taking place on Greenway Park and the poor maintenance of the local green spaces, which have not yet been handed over to the Council and which are currently being maintained (badly) by Cox's. We continue to apply pressure on your behalf.

The Future Parks team have asked residents in Trumpington Meadows and the Southern Fringe to complete a survey about use of our local community parks and green open spaces using the following link: <https://forms.gle/mhekjqxywVTvRqr7> The survey should take no longer than five minutes to complete and you will be entered into a £100 prize draw.

There are currently fewer issues with the Encore management team who manage Riverside and other smaller areas but we will pass on the problems that have already been reported to us.

External Relationships & Policy

BPHA

Following recent complaints from BPHA tenants and others, the Chairman had a walk around the development with Rachel Mackay, BPHA Area Housing Manager and Neill Langley, BPHA Local Housing Officer and introduced them to several residents who had problems or issues that the BPHA needed to resolve. This was both a fact finding mission but also to lay down a marker that we believe that the BPHA needs to deliver better on behalf of all residents here in Trumpington Meadows.

Since then, Neill Langley has moved on from his role at BPHA, and TMDAG is now in contact with his successor. At least three major issues have been resolved and we look forward to liaising on behalf of everyone to ensure harmony within the community with the renewed help of the Association. However, very significant issues remain, which have attracted repeated attention from the police. TMDAG officers have been working with the police and will update our recommendations for how to report issues in the light of the discussions.

Councillors

TMDAG was invited to a meeting with the new County Councilor and former City Mayor Philippa Slatter where a number of issues were discussed. Philippa agreed to liaise with the newly appointed City Councillors for Trumpington (one is already a TMDAG member), and others, to assist with many of the issues that TMDAG is already dealing with. She has also requested a Councillor stall at the next Sunday Market to be held in the Local Centre on 20th June.

We have also stayed in touch with Cllr Katie Thornburrow, who attended our AGM earlier this year. At the time she was a city councillor for Trumpington. She remains an Executive

Councillor (for Planning Policy and Transport) since the May 2021 election, however she now represents the area directly north of Trumpington as a result of boundary changes.

Leasehold Knowledge Partnership (LKP)

We have held a meeting and have ongoing discussions with the Leasehold Knowledge Partnership both about leasehold issues for flat owners and on the vexed subject of estate charges levied on freehold houses.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

TMDAG has already set aside funding in principle for the purchase of relevant Neighbourhood Watch signs to be placed at strategic sites around the development. This is subject to an appropriate structure being put in place with the necessary number(s) of people representing their own individual locations.

There has been an investigation into the feasibility of NHW in Trumpington Meadows and how any such system would interact with the existing WhatsApp groups (Keep TM Safe) and other organisations.

Trumpington Residents' Association (TRA)

TMDAG are represented on the Trumpington Residents Association committee in order to ensure that our own issues are raised where appropriate within the wider local community. Meetings have been held with the Cambridge Biomedical Campus regarding Future Vision (expansion) and also a formal reply document for East West Rail. These are available should TMDAG supporters need further information. The TRA members meet once a month on the last Wednesday of the month, currently by Zoom.

Community, Events & Food Vans

Two successful Sunday markets have already been held on 18th April and 16th May. The next one has been planned to coincide with Father's Day on 20th June. These popular events have now grown in the number of vendors attending from 5 at the first market to almost 20 vendors planned for the 20th June which will also include a licensed mobile bar and buskers being added also.

Food van attendance has dropped slightly as expected but still continues to serve the residents; some have reduced their visits from twice monthly to one visit a month.

Planning is still underway for the 5th Birthday Celebrations for the Country Park on August 14th with further assistance and infrastructure being offered by the City Events team. This will include a large marquee and PA system for use by the Cambridge Groove Orchestra (which includes local residents) and the City of Cambridge Brass Band who rehearse locally at the Trumpington Community College. The Band will close the days proceedings with a

concert that will follow a “bring your own picnic”. The event is planned to end at 7:30pm and the Events team will welcome other ideas and individual offers of help on the day itself for short periods of time.

An advance courtesy notice has also been hand delivered to residents who face onto the field (by the kick about area) as well as users of the allotments, informing them and asking for their support for this event with contact details should they require further information or reassurance.

Finance, IT & Administration

Membership has grown to 63; there are 97 subscribers to the TMDAG mailing list. Mailing list metrics are still very good: messages have an open rate of > 80%. The system for joining TMDAG continues to receive incremental improvements. The recent Facebook post regarding build issues was able to be linked to a survey where details were automatically inputted to our system without manual intervention.

The Treasurer has obtained a dedicated bank account for TMDAG at Lloyds' Bank; the transition of TMDAG's business to the new account is in progress and we have recently secured the assistance of support for the growing financial side of TMDAG from resident and TMDAG member Wendy Orme who specialises locally in business & financial matters.

The officers are gradually delegating some administrative and database responsibilities.