

# Notes

Attendees:

| Organisation                                 | Name                                      | Present / apologies |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Miller Homes                                 | Rob Collett – Planning Manager            | Apologies           |
|                                              | Richard Bloom – Site Manager              | ✓                   |
| Alton Town Council                           | Cllr Peter Hicks – Ward Councillor        | Apologies           |
|                                              | Cllr Graham Hill – Councillor             | ✓                   |
| East Hampshire District Council              | Cllr Dean Phillips – Ward Councillor      | Apologies           |
|                                              | Sabah Halli – Principal Planning Officer  | Apologies           |
|                                              | Ashton Carruthers – Development Inspector | ✓                   |
|                                              | John Geoghegan – Community Officer        | ✓                   |
| Alton Eastbrooke and Wooteys Residents Group | Cllr Graham Titterington - Member         | Apologies           |
| Eggars Residents Group                       | Tony Souter – Resident                    | Stepped down        |
|                                              | Roy Light – Resident                      | ✓                   |
|                                              | Stella Light – Resident                   | ✓                   |
|                                              | Michael Fawcett – Resident                | ✓                   |
|                                              | Hazel Cantoni – Resident                  | Apologies           |
|                                              | Neil Walker – Resident                    | Apologies           |
| Holybourne Village Association               | Vernon Burford – Member                   | ✓                   |
| Hampshire County Council                     | Cllr Andrew Joy – Councillor, Alton Town  | Apologies           |

## 1. Introductions

Members of the meeting introduced themselves.

## 2. Minutes of previous meeting

Previous actions had been completed unless otherwise stated, with the following updates:

**Action: Stewart Jones to look at keeping the three trees in place – Action carried over**

**Action: A site visit with the Management Company (once appointed) and the neighbours on the eastern boundary should be made as early as possible. – HML Andertons have responded positively, awaiting a convenient date to meet.**

**Action: John Geoghegan to find out what works are planned at the front of the site from the Streetworks Coordinator at HCC. – Query has been passed on within HCC due to staff change**

## 3. Update on development

Ongoing building work was taking place within the site, progressing clockwise. 19 homes were occupied, with 3 more becoming occupied in May and a further 4 throughout June. The fence line boundary on the eastern end of the site would be in place in June. Miller Homes have coordinated points to mark out the fencing at the back of their new properties. The Section 278 works were completed on 17/05, but further works would need to be done on completion of the construction works to leave a surface that would be acceptable to the highways authority. The flats at the bottom of the site had been

commenced. These would be 3 storey, and there will be a crane on site week commencing 21/05 to finish the flats. The topsoil currently at the eastern boundary would be spread over the new gardens.

**Action: Richard Bloom to remove the rotten fence at the back of the Lights' property.**

#### 4. Questions/concerns from the community

Following questions from the community, the following was discussed:

- Miller Homes had agreed the boundary with John Eggars Square residents was a shared one, but were still planning to erect their fence inside the line of the existing fence. This issue was a difference of opinion that could not be resolved by members of this group, but rather by the Land department at Miller Homes / legal representatives, and the neighbours themselves. Tony Souter had stepped down from this group – email attached at Appendix 1 – although Michael Fawcett commented that he still planned to attend on behalf of JES residents.

**Action: Graham Hill to speak with Dean Phillips regarding the disputed boundary**

- Residents asked whether the new fencing would comprise concrete fence posts. *Update: Ashton Carruthers confirmed the fence posts for the close board fencing would be wooden as per agreed plans.*
- Plots were still being occupied at a rate of about one unit per week.

#### 5. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was booked for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 10:00, venue tbc in Alton.

#### Anticipated timeline for development:

First occupation: December 2017?

25% occupation: expected by April 2018

50% occupation: expected by November 2018

75% occupation: expected by May 2019

100% occupation: expected by September 2019, to include the departure of Miller Homes site set up & construction team

## Appendix 1 – email from Tony Souter 15/05/2018

John,

You will have seen from his recent email that Paul Finn has declined to attend any meetings to discuss the issue of the shared boundary between Miller's site and JES.

This is the final straw of a pattern of duplicitous and bullying behaviour by this developer. We've been serially misled from an early stage of the development by Rob Collett, Miller Homes land manager, who has reneged on every undertaking that he gave us. More recently Miller's have attempted to coerce JES residents into accepting a boundary between our respective sites that was entirely fictitious. When challenged they took a staggering 16 weeks to finally agree our version of the boundary line and now are attempting to deny any responsibility for a dilapidated fence that follows that 'shared boundary'. This is despite overwhelming evidence that the existing fence has always been in the ownership of previous owners of their site.

Miller Homes arrogant behaviour, combined with middle and senior management's serial reluctance to attend regular liaison meetings makes any formal representation from the residents at JES pointless. Personally I have no wish to be part of a panel that will not, or cannot, stop these bullying tactics...if it has no influence or teeth, then what is it for?

On behalf of the residents at JES I'd like to thank you for your efforts on our behalf. Some residents may choose to continue to attend the liaison meetings in a personal capacity but until Miller Homes can be persuaded to act responsibly and co-operatively, I will not be attending any further monthly liaison meetings on behalf of ERM.

I'd be grateful if you would read this text out at Friday's meeting and place it in the minutes.

Best wishes,

**Tony Souter**

ERM.