



GUISBOROUGH RESIDENTS ASSEMBLY (GUISRA)  
MINUTES 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

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Meeting Description:	Guisra Inaugural Meeting
Location	Guisborough Methodist Church
Date:	26-June-2023, 19:30
Attendees:	Personal Data
Type:	Open to all

## 1. Overview of Meeting

- 1.1. The launch meeting was put in place to provide an opportunity for residents to engage with Guisra and to establish interest in moving forward. Michael Dakin (GM) chaired the meeting. He presented a PowerPoint explaining the aims of Guisra and calling on those present to join and become involved.
- 1.2. The meeting was well attended for a launch meeting with 45-50 residents attending.
- 1.3. Residents spoke openly about the main issues in Guisborough and were proactive in suggesting how Guisra could be most effective.

## 2. Discussion

- 2.1. There was a general consensus that there is insufficient infrastructure in place to support the existing population and that residents' concerns are being ignored with regard to new housing proposals. Additional accommodation for older people is already under construction at the back of Rectory Lane with no thought to any additional access needs for the new residents or their visitors.
- 2.2. Local Drs are over-subscribed already and the number of new residents will put additional pressure on those services. Additionally there are no NHS Dentists in the immediate area and few private practices.
- 2.3. Within Guisborough itself, all the main supermarkets are placed adjacent to one another on Rectory Lane with little or no thought given to vehicular access and the impact on pedestrians, mobility scooters or cyclists, there being a single pedestrian crossing point on Rectory Lane and limited accessibility between certain shops for disabled people or those with buggies and prams. The high street, which offers smaller individual businesses has very limited parking and again, only a single pedestrian crossing. Rectory Lane is a hazard for pedestrians, cyclists and other



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pathway users at every road that intersects it, providing no safe places to cross.

- 2.4. **Question:** Will councillors work with Guisra? Are they aware it exists or what its intentions are?  
**Answer:** We will work with councillors but it will be to set resident expectations and provide the plan to resolve issues. Councillors were not invited to the launch meeting as this meeting was to determine interest in Guisra.

- 2.5. **Question:** What is the timescale to establish Guisra as an effective force in the town?  
**Answer:** anticipate one year to become established and taken seriously and probably another year to be in a position to put pressure on the authorities to do what is being asked. **NB:** proposals will be put forward with an expectation they will be carried out not a half-hearted request or unstructured/unplanned. Formulating plans is key to accessing funding.

- 2.6. On Hunters Hill, dropped kerbs were an afterthought – not implemented when the pathways were built but added later.

- 2.7. Registering as a member of Guisra means that the information on numbers is documented and available to outside organisations which, in turn, helps us to be taken seriously.

- 2.8. Both construction companies and the council are looking to maximise profits when selling properties or land so we need to find ways of imposing restrictions and conditions on what they are building, forcing them to compromise in our best interests by including infrastructure and access requirements. Also we should show the construction companies how it is in their best interests.

- 2.9. Park Lane residents feel that 'rules of the road' including speed restrictions, parking restrictions and consideration of pedestrians and other road users are completely ignored by traffic through the town. There have been a number of accidents over the last 18 months yet nothing has been done. Park Lane residents would oppose suggestions for pedestrianisation of the centre (Westgate) as it would force additional traffic onto Park Lane, causing more problems for an already busy road which would be detrimental to those living there or having to cross it.

Allison Street/Park Lane is used as a 'rat run' or 'cut through' with drivers travelling at speed and regularly double parking on Allison Street. More speed signs? Lower the speed limit?

**Note:** The next Guisra meeting will start the process of formulating a



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plan for traffic management in the town. This should be seen as a priority as the town is made unpleasant with the present traffic issues and the few fixes are piecemeal, unplanned and are lack joined up thinking.

- 2.10. Better access for pedestrians, disabled, young families and cyclists were discussed and a popular topic. Suggestions were made for a crossing near McColl's on Hutton Lane as currently visibility for pedestrians is poor and inaccessible to cyclists, mothers with buggies and disabled people with mobility scooters. There is a blind summit with no signage on Eglington Avenue, people travel at speed over the brow of the hill. Reduce speed limit and include warning signage?  
**Note:** There was a strong feeling that this should be highlighted as one of the early projects to get a win for the community. It will be discussed in more detail at the next planning meeting.
- 2.11. How to move forward? Tell your friends and register with Guisra. Point them at the website to register. Volunteer and attend planning meetings.
- 2.12. We intend to hold regular meetings with breakout groups to discuss and plan specific portfolio items. The website is open to suggestions and proposals from anyone and items can be added to the portfolio section for discussion/planning. The portfolio list as it stands so far can be found here <https://guisra.org.uk/portfolio/>. It is expected to grow to cover the whole town.
- 2.13. We intend to hold regular meetings with breakout groups to discuss and plan specific portfolio items. The website is open to suggestions and proposals from anyone and items can be added to the portfolio section for discussion/planning.
- 2.14. Well formulated plans are the key to obtaining funding for our projects. There are grants available when things are properly planned. If we are unable to apply for funding ourselves, if we have a detailed plan of what we are asking for and know where grants are available from, we can pressure the council to apply to achieve our aims.
- 2.15. Donations (however small or large) are welcome but not a condition of joining Guisra. All donations are kept in a separate account specifically for Guisra events/meetings/projects and full disclosure of how those funds are spent will be detailed. Full transparency in this is essential so that residents are confident the assembly is trustworthy.

### 3. Action Items

- 3.1. Organise next meeting – Michael Dakin – by 27-June
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- 3.2. Send out slides from this meeting - Michael Dakin – by 27-June
- 3.3. Complete Meeting Minutes – Caroline – by 27-June
- 3.4. Send out Minutes – Michael Dakin - 28<sup>th</sup> June
- 3.5. Distribute newsletter – Michael Dakin – by 30<sup>th</sup> June

**4. Meeting Closed – 21:12**

**5. Next Meeting**

- 5.1. 10<sup>th</sup> July 19:30 – Guisborough Methodist Church, Westgate