

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting December 8th 2004

Present: Rob Chadwick, Mark McDonnell (CASPAR manager, Northants Police), Brian Crutchley, Margaret Andrews, Ron Frater (community beat officer Northants Police), Avina Khanna, Daphne Barritt, Steven Bisoffi, PC Vicky Hove, PC Jamie

Guests: None

Apologies: Alan Snedker (BBOB Rugby Club), Karen Fruish, Mark Walker, Katy Heath, Navneeta Gahonia, Cllr Peter Evans (NBC), Cllr Lee Barron (NBC), Grace Elford (NCC Community Development), Steve Wheeler

Abbreviations used:

SCF – Semilong Community Forum

NBC – Northampton Borough Council

NCC - Northamptonshire County Council

Rob Chadwick Chaired the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

Grace Elford raised an issue over the last minutes regarding the action 'Grace to establish the current plans for the school site and to gain agreement from the Church to ensure that the forum are engaged in, and have input to, its plans for this site'.

She said 'I am unable to gain agreement from the Church as the diocese are a private entity in their own right, and hence do not have a statutory duty to consult (subject to planning regulations). However, what I did offer to do on behalf of SCF was to contact David Wiseman and ask on an informal basis if SCF can be consulted/involved in future planning, and encourage him to come to a meeting in the near future and provide an update.'

Matters Arising

Rob went through the list of actions from the previous meeting.

Outstanding or unresolved actions were:

Actions:

- Brian/Margaret to invite Alan Adkinson (NBC) to the next Environment Green meeting.
- Kevin Gascoyne will find out what consultation has taken place regarding the fencing around the Mill Lane flats.
- Brian will make the Treasurers Update a regular item on the agenda.

EVENTS

A feedback form, for residents to make suggestions and offer their help has been included in the next edition of the newsletter.

Mark informed us the Spring Boroughs Residents Association was holding two events in the New Year. These are:

1. Open Meeting 1st February at Spring Lane Lower School to discuss the stock transfer of NBC Housing
2. Multi Cultural Event 26th February 11am – 2pm at Spring Lane Lower School

EDUCATION

The former St Paul's School site is currently for sale, the sale particulars have been obtained by Brian. These show that the site could be used for other purposes subject to planning permission. The NBC local plan includes this site for educational purposes so any other future use would require a 'change of use' via our town planners. A copy of the details will be sent to Bosworth College for their information.

The Castle School plans were on display at a consultation held in the current school (Poole St, the Mounts) on the 17th November. The new school will have:

- Cycle store
- Nursery
- 2 reception classrooms
- 9 classrooms for key stage 1 & 2
- Hall
- Studio
- Learning resource centre (e.g. Library, PCs)

Actions

- Brian will send a copy of the agent's details of St Paul's School to Bosworth College

ENVIRONMENT – GREEN

Work on the memorial garden (Grafton St) has already begun with the site being cleared ready for planting. Margaret will be leading a planting session on Sunday 12 December from 1.30pm on site – subject to the weather. Volunteers welcome.

Alan Adkinson will be met to review the plans he has drawn up for Miller's Meadow. Margaret said that there were a number of physical resources available to tap into, with local church groups willing to volunteer. Mark suggested contacting Paul Worth at the Kingdom Life Church in Spring Boroughs who could offer help with environmental projects.

Mark introduced that with the latest figures of the 'indices of urban deprivation' depicting Semilong as one of the most deprived areas in Northamptonshire, it is hoped that a lot of funding for community projects would come our way. Robert highlighted that practically, the Semilong area is likely to benefit from investment for 'Safer Routes to School' money due to this factual deprivation information. Robert explained that this money will be invested to encourage cycling and

walking for the children of the new Castle School thus reducing the likelihood of accidents to the children of this school while they make their journeys to and from the site.

Margaret said that she would submit three pictures of previous green events and a 500 word essay to 'Green Spaces' for the chance of winning £1000, promoting the work we've done and future networking opportunities.

Actions:

- Margaret and Brian will meet with Alan Adkinson before Christmas to review the Millers Meadow plans.
- Margaret will provide a copy of the Millers Meadow plans to be displayed at the Semilong Road post office for residents to view.
- Margaret to submit application to Green Spaces.

ENVIRONMENT - URBAN

Steven asked what the procedure was for dealing with double parking in the streets. Ron said that he would be putting letters through doors informing that there would be a crackdown on offending vehicles carrying a fine of £30.

Robert mentioned that there would be a review of all yellow lines in the New Year (as advised by Alan Sharpe (NCC Sustainable Transport) at the meeting of SCF in 13/10/04). Some of the yellow lines would be removed to provide more parking spaces (and new ones may be added depending on what a planned consultation establishes). Robert highlighted, as an example, that on the widest parts of St Andrew's Road there would be space for additional parking, and it is hoped that this would help slow traffic down on this main road and improve the lives of people living there. It was agreed that residents that live on this road who have cars must have to park in the side streets which must contribute to the double parking issue on these streets.

There is currently a planning application at NBC on 49 Semilong Road and 12 Hester Street. Ron informed us that the two properties were currently multi occupancy and that he knew that 49 Semilong Road would be turned into 4 flats.

The issue of planning applications in the area (not being sent to the forum) would be raised again by Mark at the next CASPAR 3 meeting in January as the head of plans at NBC said he would make sure this happens at a previous CASPAR 3 meeting.

Rob said that he would be sending off the 'Minor Works' forms that he had completed for the NCC Sustainable transport department. The exact individual schemes were consulted on the spring/summer edition of 'Semilong News'.

Brian met on 25/11/04 with Mark McDonnell and John Harvey (NCC Sustainable Transport) to agree the placing of four road barriers along Harding Terrace, which will be installed in March 2005. John has

performed a consultation with local residents and businesses around the streets affected. These works would be of a temporary nature so they could easily be removed if they don't have the desired effect. When the new school is built it is hoped that Safer Routes to School money would be spent to improve on these works and provide traffic calming measures.

Margaret asked if Semilong would be having a replacement Community Warden. Mark said that there would be a replacement and asked that this issue be raised at the next CASPAR 3 meeting.

Actions

- Ron Frater will put letters through doors in streets where double parking is occurring.
- Mark will raise the planning application's issue and the replacement Community Warden at the next CASPAR meeting.
- Rob will send the minor works scheme forms to NCC.

COMMUNICATION

Kerry past round the draft 'invitation to companies' asking local businesses to help fund the semilong website for another year in exchange for more prominent advertising on the site. It was noted that £250 + is required (depending on 2005 rates) to keep the site supported by a third party supplier. Steven said that he might be able to get some funding from his employer. Ron Frater volunteered to accompany Kerry when she visits the local businesses.

The winter edition of the newsletter has been sent to the printers and is expected to be ready before 18/12/04. Everyone attending volunteered themselves (or their partner) to help deliver newsletters though more are required.

The newsletter promotes a new Free Ads (similar to E-bay) section on the Semilong website. This is not yet ready, but will be ready when the newsletters are delivered. Brian will send an email to forum members asking them to post items on this facility.

January's open community meeting will have a number of guests and will have a 'village fete' feel as each guest will be invited to host a stall advertising their services. Suggestions of who to invite were put forward, the current list includes:

- SCF stall promoting our work and asking for suggestions for future projects plus inviting new members.
- Alan Adkinson with the Millers Meadow plan consultation.
- Local Police representatives including crime prevention officer.
- Local Councillors – (Lee Barron has confirmed his attendance)
- Energy Conservation - NBC (Energy saving light bulbs, Loft insulation grants, etc)
- NCC Fire service Fire Safety Officer (free installation of smoke detectors, etc)
- Gateway Resource Centre (displaying what services they have to offer)
- 'Friends of the Racecourse' (need to involve them in Semilong development and a recruitment opportunity)

- 'Barrack Road conservation area' group (need to involve them in Semilong development and a recruitment opportunity)

Light refreshments will be provided at the event. No agreement was agreed as to who will provide the refreshments.

Actions

- Kerry will seek funding for the website, starting by visiting local businesses with Ron
- Steven to ask his employer for funding for SCF.
- Brian will distribute newsletters for delivery, including the CASPAR survey.
- Brian will complete the Free Ads section on the website before newsletter delivery.
- Brian will organise January's open community meeting including inviting guests, displaying posters, organising SCF stall and refreshments.

CRIME

Daphne said that a goods vehicle had driven up on the pavement around Alliston Gardens. It is hoped that the road block along Harding Terrace would help prevent drivers using this route in the future.

Mark went through the crime figures for November. These are looking very positive, year on year, and are published in the winter edition of 'Semilong News'.

93 kerb crawlers have been caught in the past 2 years.

Mark and Ron said that it was important that all crimes were reported in the area.

Distraction burglaries have become more commonplace and the public have been warned to be more vigilant.

Mini-motorbikes had been seen in the area and these are not legal without a licence, insurance, tax and protective gear. Residents are asked to report sightings of these to the police when they fear that these requirements are not met. A mini-motorbike used by a local resident has already been cut-up and sent for scrap by the police after being confiscated by the police.

Advertising had been spotted in a phone box at Alliston Gardens that would prevent the CCTV camera from seeing in. This has been removed. Mark said that two separate companies are responsible for installing the advertising and removing it.

It had been noticed that the public toilets near Barrack Road on the Racecourse were still left open at night. This has been ongoing since the Balloon Festival. This would be followed up with the borough council.

Actions:

- Mark and the police will raise the issue of the open public toilets with the Borough Council. This action is to ensure that they are closed at night and that daytime activity is monitored.

RECRUITMENT

Steven Bisoffi attended our meeting for the first time and his participation was very much valued. The members at the meeting noted their support for Steve joining the work of the forum and him offering to take away an action to improve the area.

Any Other Business

Steven asked if there were any youth facilities in the area. Mark said that there were youth groups at Alliston Garden Community centre and a youth club operating from the Road Mender. He gave the names of Gill Salmons and Debbie Watts.

Margaret noted that the Super Sausage Café had won a national award for being one of the best truck stop cafés in the country.

The meeting closed at 9.45.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be an open meeting at Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

On

Thursday 6th January 2005 7.30 – 9-30pm

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date