

## **Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting February 8th 2005**

**Present:** Alan Snedker (BBOB Rugby Club), Karen Fruish, Mark Walker, Mark McDonnell (CASPAR manager, Northants Police), Brian Crutchley, Margaret Andrews, Daphne Barritt, Katy Heath, Kate Wills, Kevin Gascoyne (NBC Housing Officer), Gerry Burbage (NBC Housing Officer), Sam Cooper-Evans, Kerry Clarke,

**Guests:** Peter White – St Giles Church.

**Apologies:** Rob Chadwick, Clair Tovey, Navneeta Gahonia, Cllr Peter Evans (NBC), Cllr Lee Barron (NBC), Cllr Marie Dickie (NCC), John 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**

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

Feedback from which has been included under the headings below.

Outstanding or unresolved actions were:

#### **Actions Outstanding:**

- Ron Frater will put letters through doors in streets where double parking is occurring.
- Steven to ask his employer for funding for SCF.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **GUEST: Peter White – St Giles Church**

Peter White was invited by Margaret to talk about the voluntary work that his team of 25 young volunteers could do in the area. They would be available from 8<sup>th</sup> Mon – 12<sup>th</sup> Fri August 2005.

The Forum agreed that their help would be greatly appreciated and it was suggested that other groups in the area, including representatives from Spring Boroughs would also be invited to suggest ideas for what work could be done.

It was agreed that the first half of the next Semilong Community Forum meeting would be given over to proposing ideas and identifying necessary funding for their implementation.

## **EVENTS**

Following the success of the open meeting it was agreed that a similar event would be held in early September on Miller's Meadow, incorporating this with a summer fete. The 10-11 September was suggested as a date for the summer fete.

Brian has had two responses from the survey held in that last newsletter volunteering their services.

### **Actions:**

- Brian to contact Lee Barron about having the tents at the summer fete

Upcoming events:

Multi Cultural Event 26<sup>th</sup> 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 and a copy were sent to Bosworth College.

No actions this month

## **ENVIRONMENT – GREEN**

Margaret and volunteers planted bulbs at the memorial garden on Grafton Street

Alan Adkinson attended the open meeting in January with the draft plans for Millers meadow. Following this Alan has sent through more detailed plans and a list of costs for the various phases of the project. From this Brian has sent a funding application for £500 to the Borough Council for the wild flower planting.

Our application to 'Green Spaces' for a chance of winning £1000 was unsuccessful.

**Actions: no actions**

## **ENVIRONMENT - URBAN**

Brian read out a report from Rob Chadwick (copied below)

Minor works applications have been sent off for various schemes around Semilong

Planning applications

1. Those for 12 Hester and 49 Semilong have been approved. Rob viewed the plans at the Guildhall (to allow the properties to be

run as Hostels by anyone, not just the current owner). It is expected that these properties will be / have been sold now that the removal of this restriction has been removed. Rob asked for conditions to be added to both planning applications and this has been acknowledged by the planning officer -Conditions:

- Details of the provision for the storage of refuse and materials for recycling shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, implemented prior to the premises being used for the permitted purpose and retained thereafter.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and to secure a satisfactory standard of development.

- No goods or articles shall be stored on any part of the site except inside the building(s).

Reason: To ensure that the proposed development does not prejudice the enjoyment by neighbouring occupiers of their properties and the appearance of the locality.

2. The demolition of the St George's school has been approved along with the provision of the new one.
3. The erection of the train maintenance depot on the land close to Gladstone Rd and opposite Millers Meadow has been approved.
4. Erection of a car wash behind Barratts Shoe factory has been declined.
5. 81 Semilong Rd - conversion to 2 flats with 2 storey extension and rear dormer has been refused. A revised application for single four bedroom dwelling has been submitted for future approval.

Details of all planning applications (and the decisions made on them) are easily accessible on the NBC website.

#### Recycling banks

In Oct 2004, Rob was advised that the Alliston Gdns banks would be placed subject to a three month review. As we are over three months, Rob has chased NBC to see what the review says and if these banks can now be considered permanent.

#### Street light hanging baskets

This opportunity has been mentioned at least twice by Karen Fruish and Mark Walker. As a starter, Rob has obtained costs for secure brackets and baskets. Would Karen and Mark now like to work with Rob to seek funding to make this happen? We would need to work up a project and funding application for –

- brackets and baskets
- fitting of this hardware
- provision of low maintenance plants and for their watering

- Sponsorship of the baskets?

(Rob's report ends)

Mark McDonnell updated us that the proposed road closures on Harding Terrace had been approved by all 3 councillors from Castle ward and would be installed by the end of March.

Kevin Gascoyne said that the residents of the 36 flats adjacent to Mill Road had not been properly consulted on the fencing scheme to surround the flats. Brian will write to the borough councillors and the CASPAR manager (Kay Aitken) asking that the residents were all sent a copy of the plans.

### **Actions**

- Brian to write letter to councillors and Kay Aitken regarding the fencing scheme around the flats adjacent to Mill Road.

## **COMUNICATION**

Kerry and Ron Frater approached companies in the area to raise money to fund the website. £340 has been donated

- £30 Welcome Inn
- £200 Poynters Coaches
- £50 HighGrade Motors
- £30 Langham Hotel
- £30 Arrandale Regent Hotel

Kerry would write to each business thanking them for their contribution. Brian will contact each business to arrange advertising on the website.

The website hosting contract is up for renewal and Brian will look for a cheaper supplier

### **Actions**

- Kerry will write thank you letter to businesses that made contributions
- Brian to find cheaper website host.

## **CRIME**

Mark reported that people had been living in the public toilets around Northampton including those at the Racecourse near Barrack Road, this has now been dealt with.

The number of distraction burglaries in the area had reduced.

Ron Frater had contacted the diocese; who own the St Paul's School site, requesting that they made the site more secure. Ron and Mark are working on closing another crack house, though this is not in Semilong, it is ground breaking as it is a private residence as apposed to being council owned.

**Actions:**

- No Actions**

**TREASURERS REPORT**

At the end of the financial year 2003 – 2004 we had £666.54  
Pending current statements the accounts stand at about £250.  
The open meeting incurred costs of £16.13 for refreshments.  
£340 was raised by Kerry ad Ron for the website.

**RECRUITMENT**

Sam Cooper-Evans joined the forum meeting for the first time.

**Any Other Business**

The Semilong Community Forum has been nominated in the Group Category of the Unsung Heroes Awards hosted by the Northamptonshire Police Authority.

The winners will be announced at a special Awards Evening to be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 3 March 2005, at Police Headquarters, Wootton Hall, Northampton. There will be an opportunity to meet other people who have been nominated for awards, as well as those who have nominated them.

The focus of the evening will be on the announcement of the winners and the presentation of awards. The evening will also include a buffet.

Rob asked who we should put forward For the Pride of Northants Awards. Nominations were Ron Frater, Margaret Andrews, Brian Crutchley.

**Actions**

- Brian will find out how many can attend and organise those who wish to go.
- Rob to complete Pride of Northants Awards online form.

The meeting closed at 9.05

**Next Meeting:**

BBOB Rugby Club, St Andrews Road.

**Wednesday 9th March 2005 7.30 – 9-30pm**

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date