

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting

October 12th 2005

Present: Alan Snedker (BBOB Rugby Club), Brian Crutchley, Daphne Barritt, Gerry Burbage (NBC Housing Officer), Jean Kinder (NBC Housing Officer), PC Ron Frater (CBO Northants Police), Jenifer Kenny, Rob Chadwick, Kerry Clarke, Carol Moriarty, Karen Fruish, Liley Dunn, Mr Mitchell.

Apologies: Cllr Peter Evans (NBC), Margaret Andrews, Kevin Gascoyne (NBC Housing Officer), Cllr Lee Barron (NBC), Karen Fruish, Ron Frater, Kerry Clarke, Sam Cooper-Evans, Steven Richards (Centre Manager AGYCC), Kate Wills, Dave Wiseman.

Abbreviations used:

SCF – Semilong Community Forum

NBC – Northampton Borough Council

NCC - Northamptonshire County Council

AGYCC – Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

The meeting was chaired by Rob Chadwick

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from the 10th August were agreed – it was pointed out that the minutes stated that the meeting was held on the 15th August was a mistake.

Actions from the last meeting

Resolved

Rob asked NBC what was happening about the missing Community Warden. The Community Warden interviews will be taking place around the 10th October. Semilong and Spring Boroughs would be first in line for a new Warden.

Unresolved

Rob is to ask Paul Mills to write an article for the next newsletter asking them to report incidents.

Brian to speak to the manager of the Co-op about getting the notice board resited.

CRIME

Ron Frater said that he was unable to provide current figures though he said that auto crime was down from the increase that took place during the summer months. Anti Social behaviour from young people also increased during the summer months, but this was also no decreasing with the darker nights and that school had started again.

Ron said that Tri-signs would be placed in Hampton Street informing visitors to the area that this is an area where crime are likely to take place and people should be vigilant.

Ron explained to Mr Mitchell for what sort of incident the police would attend and this generally took the form if a crime was taking place where criminal damage or violence were occurring. Mr Mitchell was concerned about the number of people taking drugs near where he lived. Ron urged him to log incidents so that future policing could be intelligence lead.

Ron also informed us that there was now a dedicated officer for dealing with graffiti. Any incidents of graffiti are still to be reported to NBC on 01604 838281 and the staff at NBC would inform the police officer.

Ron briefly talked about Neighbourhood watch and said that it worked best with a small number of homes (12-16) who lived opposite each other where the residents all worked different hours and would be able to keep an eye out for each others properties.

There is currently a review of the way the police force will operate in future, this may severly effect the way in which community policing takes place.

Action.

- ✓ Brian to invite the relevant officer to the next meeting to talk about the implications of how the future changes in policing will effect Semilong residents.

SOCIAL HOUSING

Gerry said that things had now quietened down now around the MUGA play area.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

No community development officer present to comment.

EVENTS

It was asked if there could be a Christmas fair during December held at Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre.

Brian mentioned that there was an event at Alliston Gardens on the 5th November about the Gunpowder plot but did not have any other details.

There was also talk about a street party that used to be held in Semilong and it was suggested that in the next newsletter residents could be asked if they would like to reinstate this event in Semilong.

EDUCATION

It is understood that the ST Pauls School site has been sold with the plan to turn it into a nursery.

Actions:

Rob will ask the selling agents what is happening with the school site.

TREASURERS REPORT

Kerry stated that the current balance stands at £934.43.

Carol asked if we could hold a Barn Dance or similar event - it was agreed that we should look at ways of spending the £250 that we were awarded from the Local Heroes Award.

ENVIRONMENT – GREEN

Margaret had informed Brian that the volunteers from St Giles Church were keen to continue and would like to do some more work on the land by the side of the MUGA in the spring.

On the 12th October there will be a bulb planting around the Alliston Gardens flats starting at 10am on site, all were welcome to help.

Actions

- ✓ Margaret will continue to look for funding opportunities for green projects

ENVIRONMENT - URBAN

Liley Dunn had come to the meeting to inform the Forum about the planning application n2005-975 which was planning to develop the site of 79 – 81 Semilong Road. This plan would include knocking down 81 Semilong Road which apparently dates before 1729. It was the farmhouse in the area before the town expanded in the late 1800's which absorbed this house into Semilong Road. The site would then be used to build 11 flats. We all signed a petition which would be sent to the NBC planning officer in opposition of the development. The representations made were on a personal level and not a representation from the Forum

Rob had found out from the Highways department that the lamp posts along Semilong Road were not suitable to host hanging baskets as the columns would not be strong enough.

Rob had made contact with Highways also to ask that the residents be consulted when planning for Safer Routes to School takes place

Planning Applications

44 St Andrews Road – S106 monies are being used for social housing.

166 St Andrews Road – No response from Cara Meenham regarding use of S106 monies.

Actions

- ✓ Let Rob know if you see any NTL communication boxes with graffiti on them (make a note of the number – starts with NN) and he will forward the information to NTL
- ✓ Forward addresses of residences with graffiti to Rob to forward to the borough council.
- ✓ Rob to forward the response to the Development Framework to forum members.
- ✓ Rob to follow up Cara Meenham about the S106 monies for 166 St Andrews Road.
- ✓ Rob to provide Daphne with an address for Highways to write to.

COMUNICATION

Brian said that the website had a survey and there had currently been about 22 votes registered. Kerry asked if there would be another newsletter, Brian said that he hoped to produce another before Christmas.

RECRUITMENT

Nothing this month

Any Other Business

Nothing this month.

The meeting finished at 9.36

Future Meetings: Wednesdays 7.30pm: 9th November 2005, 7th December 2005
11th January 2006

At BBOB Rugby Club house, St Andrews Road (entrance at the back of Enterprise Rent-a-car)

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair Date

Secretary Date