

## **Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting December 7th 2005**

**Present:** Brian Crutchley, Gerry Burbage (NBC Housing Officer), Rob Chadwick, Carol Moriarty, Kerry Clarke, Steven Richards (Centre Manager AGYCC), Karen Fruish, Alastair Milton, Jenifer Kenny, PC Ron Frater (CBO Northants Police), Daphne Barritt.

**Apologies:** Alan Snedker (BBOB Rugby Club), Margaret Andrews, Kevin Gascoyne (NBC Housing Officer), Sam Cooper-Evans, Cllr Lee Barron, Cllr. Peter Evans.

Abbreviations used:

SCF – Semilong Community Forum

NBC – Northampton Borough Council

NCC - Northamptonshire County Council

AGYCC – Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

The meeting dates for 2006 have been set and are as follows:

11 January  
8 February  
8 March  
12 April  
10 May  
14 June  
12 July  
9 August  
13 September (provisional date for AGM)  
11 October  
8 November  
6 December

All these meetings will take place at the BBOB Rugby Club on St. Andrews Road at 7.30 – 9.30pm except the AGM which may be rearranged.

The meeting was chaired by Rob Chadwick

### **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes from the 9<sup>th</sup> November were agreed.

### **EVENTS**

It was agreed that we would hold a barn dance in February and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> had been provisionally booked at the Semilong Working Men's Club. Their upstairs room holds 150 People and would cost £60 for the night. We agreed a ticket price of £2.00 time 8 – 11pm, Children to be accompanied by an adult.

Initial volunteers are as follows.

Brian: Print Tickets, Event promotion, Security

Carol: Organise band and venue hire.

Sam, Alastair, Kerry: decorations

Karen: Buffet and Raffle.

### **CRIME**

Ron said that the juvenile crime in Semilong had got worse over the past two years. One of the Ringleaders who live on Semilong road will be evicted by the 11<sup>th</sup> December, If not then the estate agents will have to go through legal proceedings. They have been responsible for a number of crimes.

A number of young people had been placed in Semilong by the Leaving Care Team, one has been reprimanded as he was a persistent offender. The police will be applying for an ASBO keeping him out of the Semilong area once he has been convicted.

Another young person is being targeted by the police and they believe they now have his fingerprints that will help them match him to other crimes.

Ron will be talking to Social Services as he feels they are using Semilong as a dumping ground for problem youngsters. This is probably due to the large number of multiple occupying housing we have here.

There have been a number of people using drugs and sleeping rough in the stairwells of the flats of Alliston Gardens. If there are any further instances these are to be reported to Ron. Daphne said that the reason why it's not reported was that most residents did not use the stairs. Ron also pointed out the some residents in Alliston Gardens did not secure their front doors and would make easy targets for crime.

Alistair asked Ron if the houses that they stay in are council or private.

Ron said that the children are allocated there by the care trust and they find placements which are usually privately owned. These emergency placements are usually for 1 – 2 weeks. When the youngsters are living together they learn from each other how to perpetrate crimes.

#### **Actions**

- ✓ Brian : Item for the newsletter to ask people to not let anyone in through the security doors at the Flats
- ✓ Ron to speak to Social Services about the number of young people who are housed in Semilong

#### **SOCIAL HOUSING**

Gerry reported that there had not been many problems, no complaints about the play area, or in the gardens. There has been some prostitution in Alliston Gardens but Kevin Gascoyne is working with the police to deal with this.

#### **FUNDING**

Rob asked the meeting if we could all come up with some ideas where we could apply for funding for improvements to the area. It was suggested that we could do a ward walk together around the area to identify what the current issues were.

All ideas are to be forwarded to Brian by the end of the year so he can compile a list for the next meeting which he will circulate with the agenda for the meeting in January.

By email: crutchley@ntlworld.com or by post: 80 Semilong Road, N'ton. NN2 6DF

#### **Actions**

- ✓ Ideas by the end of the year to Brian.
- ✓ Brian to collate short list for the next meeting
- ✓ Brian to circulates ideas in new year

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

We have not had any representation from Community Development. It was suggested that we contact Suzanne Stringer NCC in the first instance to see if she can attend.

#### **Action**

Rob is to approach NCC to see who from community development can attend our meetings.

#### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Kerry reported that there was £934.57 in our account and that there had been 7 pence interest since the last statement.

Steven Richards from Alliston Gardens Y&CC said that he still had about £400 lottery funding left that we could use for green improvements in the area

#### **ENVIRONMENT GREEN**

On November the 13<sup>th</sup> Brian and Kerry planted the remainder of the daffodils that AGYCC had at the memorial garden on Grafton Street and Brian had also planted a number of shrubs. The council had also been previously that week to clean up the site and prune some of the existing shrubs

#### **ENVIRONMENT URBAN**

The planning application to demolish the houses 79 and 81 Semilong Road was withdrawn at the last planning meeting. On speaking to the planning officer, Brian learnt that the developer may submit a new plan which he will receive copies of, should this happen.

Rob has arranged for more litter collections on Semilong Road and the bins outside the shops will also be emptied on Saturdays and Sundays.

Jenifer asked how to go about reporting failed street lights. This can be done through the NCC website via the Street Doctor (<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/Transport/PEM/>) or by phoning **0845 601 1113**

We should have our Street Warden by the middle of January. New government legislation will strengthen rights for prosecuting people for antisocial behaviour i.e. bin bags in front gardens which currently are not covered.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Brian has decided to leave producing a newsletter till the New Year as before Christmas it is likely to be forgotten by the readers.

Karen asked about the notice boards and if the one placed in the Co-op has been returned. Brian said that he had not yet spoken to the manager Karen volunteered to write to the manager asking if we can reinstate our board there.

There are two more notice boards that need positioning. Other sites could be the new school, on the site of the MUGA play area, or on St Paul's School if this site is developed.

### **Actions**

- ✓ Karen will write a letter to the co-op store asking if we can reposition our notice board in

### **AOB**

None.

Meeting closed at 9.35

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date