

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting October 11th 2006

Present: Alastair Melton, Zoë Martin Andy Langton, Brian Crutchley, , Jen Kenny, Rob Chadwick, Steven Welyczko, , Jimmy Patel, Iris Gotschi, , Margaret Day,Gill Daniel, P.C Bill Currie,Mrs S Herring, Sandra Holland,Karen Fruish

Apologies: , Ally Dunn, Stephen Richards, Daphne Barritt, Margaret Honeybun,Sheila Wood,Mrs P Thompson

Abbreviations Used:

SCF - Semilong Community Forum

NBC – Northampton Borough Council

NCC – Northamptonshire County Council

AGYCC – Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

The meeting opened at 7.40pm and was chaired by Zoë Martin.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising from the last meeting 13/09/2006

- Crime –

Further actions outstanding from previous minutes

- Rob to contact NBC planning to find out what permissions were given to the three properties in Hester Street
 - No response from NBC planning yet.
- Rob to contact NBC planning about number 7 and number 6 Hester Street
 - No response from NBC planning yet.
- Brian to liaise with the co-op, a suitable time to locate the notice board
 - Brian will contact NBC planning to find out if permission is required.
 - Brian has contacted the council but as yet not had any response – Brian to chase up
- Karen will write letters to local businesses asking for donations for Raffle prizes.
 - No update

AGM New Positions

Zoë introduced herself as the new Chair of the SCF following the AGM Jen Kenny is the new secretary and Stephen Welyczko is the new treasurer. Rob Chadwick is staying on as Vice Chair.

Social Housing.

As there were no housing officers present this month. Zoë asked if anyone else had any issues with social housing that they would like to raise.

Iris said that she was still concerned about multi occupancy of properties in the area and Rob explained that it is the environmental health department that are responsible and that some of the properties in Hester Street are currently having their licences renewed.

Residents from Alliston Gardens expressed concern over fly tipping including large items being pushed over lower floor balconies . Andy Langton explained that they can be removed by calling 838281 by 2.30pm, and they will be removed the following day.

Neighbourhood Warden - Andy Langton

Zoë asked Andy to remind people what the scope of his work involved.

Andy said that he covers the whole of the Castle area and has some limited powers and can confiscate alcohol and

cigarettes from minors. If there was an issue that he can help with people can call 01604 653083 or email neighbourhoodwardens@northampton.gov.uk
These queries are answered by a central office and tasks are then assigned to the relevant warden.

Andy reported that there has been a programme of graffiti removal in place and that there would be a return of street barrows to help keep the area cleaner.

He has also been working with the Post Office to clean up the disused Royal Mail building on the Barrack Road. They are supposed to have someone to check on a fortnightly basis, he will monitor the situation to make sure that this is happening.

Alistair asked what residents should do if they spot bin bags out early in the street. Andy Langton explained that they can be removed by calling 838281 by 2.30pm, and they will be removed the following day. AS it is not possible to prove who left the rubbish no action can be taken against anyone.

Residents of Alliston Gardens asked about removal of larger "white goods" Andy explained that for £10 up to 3 items can be removed although they may not all be taken at the same time. If an item is dumped then it should be reported as fly tipping by giving the exact location and calling the 838281 number.

Rob noted that the council have targets to meet so they have a duty to remove rubbish as fast as possible.

Actions

No actions

Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

The Open Day is on the 21st October 11-3pm Karen Fruish appealed for donations, such as unwanted gifts for the tombola she will set up on the day. Items can either be brought to the centre on the day or Karen will pick them up she can be contacted on 459043

Events

Barn Dance

The Barn Dance is booked for December 2nd. Carol Moriarty was not present at the meeting, but ticket prices were agreed as £4 (Proposed by Rob and seconded by Alistair) and Karen offered to provide the food again.

Karen also noted that more donations are needed for the raffle which proved very popular at the last event. We have had a donation of £25 from the Bosworth Tutors, but nothing else from local businesses as yet

Actions Brian will contact Carol to clarify details of the barn dance.

Brian will also look into printing tickets for the event

Treasurers update

The current balance is £566.02 . Stephen is still awaiting details from Kerry so a full update was unavailable. Stephen explained that he would like to extend his role to look into funding options and grants that may be available for future SCF projects.

Environment Green

Brian stated that volunteers from St Giles church will again help with the planting of bulbs for the spring. Brian asked for £50 in order to purchase some bulbs. Zoë proposed and Rob seconded.

There will be a public consultation of the plans for Millers Meadow at the Alliston Gardens Community Centre on Monday 16th October from 5.30pm -8.30pm. Rob explained that they would be significant as there is £2million pounds to be spent over 2years.

Brian has also printed up some posters to be put up around the area to publicise the event.

Actions

Brian to purchase bulbs and liaise with St Giles volunteers to organise planting

Jen to email members about the meeting

Environment Urban

Rob explained that the planning application for the old St Paul's school site has been approved. The old school will be demolished and a similar style building will be built in its place featuring 29 one bed roomed flats. They will also remove the yellow zig zag lines and donate £15,000 to the local play amenity (the multi use games area). It was agreed that we would not pursue objecting to this development any further.

Rob also mentioned that an application has gone in to demolish 3 houses to build 3 flats on Harding Terrace. Karen was unhappy with the amount of single occupancy flats being built in the area and stated that she wished to protest on the matter.

Actions *No actions this month*

Communication

Brian has printed a set of posters to promote the consultation on Miller's meadow

He also suggested that we need to get the next newsletter out before the barn dance and appealed for any articles and suggestions to be sent to him.

Zoë read an email from Brian Binley Mp who thanked the forum for its help in setting up the dispersal order fro the area.

Actions *no actions this month*

Crime.

PC Bill Currie introduced himself to the Forum.

He stated that since the dispersal zone was introduced complaints about the MUGA (multi use games area) had dropped. However there had been an increase in criminal damage.

The cctv camera at the MUGA will be made permanent and be wired through to Sty John's.

PC Currie told of a spate of recent robberies in the Barrack Road and Racecourse areas. Personal items such as I-pods and mp3 players and mobile phones seem to be the target. He explained that there is an initiative to deal with this involving a number of officers in a van to target the offenders.

PC Currie also explained that there was currently an operation to target kerb-crawlers ion the Quorn Way area.

Residents from Alliston Gardens said that the sheds were a hotspot for prostitution and drug offences. PC Currie stated that if they saw anything they should call 08453 700 700 to report, giving as many details as possible.

There is also a mobile number however Pc Currie stressed that it must not be used for any serious incidents or emergencies the number is 07810 697173

And can be used to report any intelligence or update on incidents such as neighbourhood disputes where immediate action is not required

Actions *no actions this month*

AOB

Residents of Alliston Gardens had wanted to speak to Kevin Gascoyne, however he was not present, they said they would speak to Andy Langton, but would do so after the close of the meeting

Alistair asked PC Currie if he was aware of the recent incident where a number of car windows were smashed, he said he was aware but did not have full details.

Actions *no actions this month*

The next meeting is on 8th November at the BBOB Rugby Club on St. Andrews Road at 7.30 – 9.30pm

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair _____ Date _____

Secretary _____ Date _____