

## **Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting November 8<sup>th</sup> 2006**

**Present:** Zoë Martin, Brian Crutchley, Ally Dunn, Jen Kenny, Rob Chadwick, Steven Welyczko, Jimmy Patel, Margaret Day, Gill Daniel, P.C Ron Frater, Karen Fruish, Carol Moriarty, Daphne Barritt, Ann Timpson, Zoë Downes, Mr and Mrs Thompson

**Apologies:** Iris Gotschi, Alastair Melton, Andy Langton, Margaret Honeybun, Sheila Wood, Mrs S Herring, Sandra Holland, Denise King

### **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 7.35pm and was chaired by Zoë Martin.**

**The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.**

### **Matters Arising from the last meeting 12/10/2006**

- 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
  - Rob heard back from the NBC and was informed that they would charge £5 for giving out information required. This would total £25. Rob will speak to Councillor Lee Barron to see if this fee can be waived.
- Rob to contact NBC planning about number 7 and number 6 Hester Street
  - Rob also said that planning had been approved for these properties to be converted to flats with an extension.
- 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 said that the notice board which had been thought to be missing has now been found. Daphne said Steven Richards had been looking for it and she would inform him it has now been found.
- Karen will write letters to local businesses asking for donations for Raffle prizes.
  - We have received another cheque for £50 from Curtis instruments. Karen requested donations of children's toys for the barn dance raffle.
- Brian to contact Carol about the Barn Dance.
  - Carol was present at the meeting and informed the meeting that the band and venue is booked. The post Office will sell tickets. It was agreed that the price will be £4.00

### **Social Housing.**

Gerry said that there was nothing to report at present. There does seem to have been fewer problems although there had been some vandalism of the flats nearest the play area. Again she stressed that there was a lack of residents willing to report trouble.

Mrs Daniel said that fly tipping of furniture was still occurring and that there had been a number of incidents where people were almost injured by falling items. Zoë suggested that Andy should be informed. Some residents thought it may be the council workers disposing of items from void properties.

Gerry urged residents who saw other tenants disposing of furniture and rubbish in this way to report it as it is a

breach of their tenancy agreement.

*Actions* Zoë to check who is clearing out the void properties with Paul Allan from the cleansing department.

### **Neighbourhood Warden - Andy Langton**

Andy Langton was not present to give an update.

*Actions*

*No actions*

### **Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre**

The open day was a success and the tombola stall run by Karen and Steven took £34. Zoë and Jen were also able to gather further opinions from residents about the Millers meadow.

### **Events**

#### **Barn Dance**

The Barn Dance is booked for December 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian will help to organise the event and Karen will again do the buffet catering for about 80. Brian will print out the tickets and distribute them. Brian said that any help would be appreciated on the day.

There are also tickets on sale at the Post Office for a trip to the panto on the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**Actions** Brian to print out and distribute tickets and posters

Karen to organise buffet food.

### **Treasurers update**

Steven has received the file from Kerry and the account has been closed. Steven is currently holding £567.17 in cash until the new account is opened. The current balance including the cheques for donations to the barn dance will be £642.17.

*Actions* Steven to ask Zoë and Jen to complete relevant paperwork to set up the new account.

### **Environment Green**

Ally Dunn mentioned that she had some wildflower seeds to donate. Brian will take them for future use.

Zoë said there was not a great response to the proposed plans for Miller's Meadow. The main points were lighting and barriers Zoë has asked to be updated within the month.

Ally also mentioned that she has some Barclaycard volunteers who will be able to help with projects. Karen suggested the green areas around the park.

Zoë Downes raised concerns about the amount of glass on the play area at the miller's Meadow. Andy should be able to get street cleansers down there.

**Actions**

### **Environment Urban**

The grocers on Semilong road have moved out and parking has improved. There are no plans for the property as yet, but Rob will monitor.

Rob has obtained an email address of central networks and will send picture of our substation to them.

There is a new street cleaner who has a barrow and will work closely with Andy Langton.

A new litterbin has been put outside the co op which has a lid to stop rubbish being blown around.

Rob said that we can email the street cleaning crew (Nick Tyrell) to report any graffiti and have it removed.

The West Northamptonshire development corporation has acquired the empty Barrack Road Royal Mail building. We will look out for the planning application which is thought to be some kind of student accommodation.

Mrs Thompson expressed concern about cars speeding along Semilong Road. Ron said it was unlikely any kind of speed trap can be set up; however residents are urged to take a number plate and call in details. Zoë told residents of a new youth worker for Semilong named Lucy Lisowiec; she is hoping to come up with ideas to get the local youths involved in projects in the area. She may attend the January meeting.

**Actions** Rob to email central networks with photos of the substation next to the co-op.

## **Communication**

There is no newsletter due as yet.

**Actions** no actions this month

## **Crime.**

Ron reported on the effectiveness of the new dispersal order for the Semilong area. He stated that reported crimes and anti social behaviour are both down on the year. There was total of 168 dispersals for the first month the zone came into effect and this is now almost nothing.

Mr Thompson disagreed with the use of the word "negligible" for the incidents that were still taking place and complained that there is still a large gang of youths. Mr Thompson praised the response of the police to an earlier incident, but still felt more could be done. Ron Frater encouraged everyone to continue to report every incident. Ron also explained that on the year auto-crime and criminal damage was lower and that in Hester Street there had been a substantial reduction of incidents.

Zoë asked if crimes were simply moving to other areas such as the Racecourse, as there has been a spate of robberies recently. Ron stated that it did not seem to be the case and that anti social behaviour was not becoming an issue in other areas nearby as a result of the dispersal order.

Ally Dunn said that there was still a poster up stating an end date for the dispersal zone. Ron said that Andy Langton and Paul Valentine will have these removed.

Ron also explained that Paul Valentine is investigating having the CCTV at the MUGA made permanent after January 12<sup>th</sup> 2007. Zoe asked if maybe a mock camera would be as effective.

Zoë said that a resident had told her about some girls operating from one of the streets. Ron urged her to ask the resident to report this.

Ron explained about a new computer system that enabled agencies to share information with each other and the police. He said he would look into whether the SCF could be included as one of those agencies able to report incidents directly.

Mr Thompson asked Ron Frater about the poor response time he had to an incident involving the same person. Ron explained that Mr Thompson needed to make representation to Chief Superintendent Paul Phillips to raise this complaint. Ron was unable to comment further.

Jimmy commented that the MUGA seemed quieter, but that he had problems with a group of youths outside his shops, where no officers attended. Ron said he would look into this.

Ann Timpson asked about security in Alliston Gardens where Mr Thompson was having trouble with non-residents entering the premises. Mrs Thompson explained that these people often break the locks or put stones in them to gain repeated access. Ron stated that calls must be made to the police if anyone gains access in this way. There was also a concern raised about the number of visitors to one property. Ron said he would look into this.

Ann Timpson said that the type of door that is on Alliston Gardens and other residences is currently under review.

Mrs Thompson said that it had been difficult to contact the council in an emergency to report these broke locks.

**Actions** no actions this month

**AOB**

Zoë distributed handouts about crime prevention over the Christmas period for people to take away. Zoë gave apologies for the next meeting as she will be away. Rob is to chair.

*Actions no actions this month*

The next meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the BBOB Rugby Club on St. Andrews Road at 7.30 – 9.30pm

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair Date

Secretary Date