

## **Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting December 6<sup>th</sup> 2006**

**Present:** , Brian Crutchley, Jen Kenny, Rob Chadwick, Steven Welyczko, Gill Daniel, P.C Ron Frater ,Karen Fruish, Daphne Barritt, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Andy Langton, Margaret Honeybun, Sharon Wood

**Apologies:** Iris Gotschi, Alastair Melton , Ally Dunn, Gerry Burbage,Zoe Downes,Zoe Martin,Mrs S Herring, Sandra Holland, Ann Timpson.

### **Abbreviations Used:**

SCF - Semilong Community Forum

NBC – Northampton Borough Council

NCC – Northamptonshire County Council

AGYCC – Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

MUGA-Multi use games area (at the bottom of Semilong Road)

**The meeting opened at 7.35pm and was chaired by Rob Chadwick**

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

### **Matters Arising from the last meeting 8/11/2006**

**Social Housing** Zoë to check who is clearing out the void properties with Paul Allan from the cleansing department. Zoë reported back that there are managers who instruct staff. She has informed them of the problem and they are looking into it.

- 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
  - The fee that was reported in the pervious minutes has been waived thanks to Lee Barron
- Steven to ask Zoë and Jen to complete relevant paperwork to set up the new account.
  - Jen and Zoë have completed forms and will be setting up at bank shortly.

### **Social Housing.**

There were no housing officers present,

Ron reported that there had been some trouble with youths breaking into the communal areas at the flats on the end of Semilong road. The police have increased patrols in the area.

*Actions* no actions

### **Crime.**

Ron updated the forum .Crime is now lower in Semilong than the rest of the town. The dispersal order was due to end on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and members asked Ron what will happen now. Ron stressed that any incidents should be called in as usual, all incidents will be logged.

The police have been running an operation concentrating on vice. It has been successful and the number of girls on the streets has been dwindling. There has been some extra funding to allow officers to patrol up to 4 nights a week. Again please report any girls seen working away from the red light areas.

Mr Thompson praised the police response time for recent incidents at Alliston Gardens.

Compass the new website which will allow agencies access to certain records and to report incidents is live in some areas although not Semilong as yet. Ron explained that the SCF chair may be able to have access to this site and will be able to report and add tasks to the website. Ron will keep us informed.

There is also a possibility that SCF minutes could be made available on the website so information can be shared amongst agencies. Ron also said that it would be a good way to promote positive aspects of communities as well.

Rob asked if statistics on crime could be downloaded, Ron said that they could.

Mrs Thompson mentioned a medical waste bin she had spotted in the road near the pharmacy.

Rob said that there is now a full time administrator who is able to write to kerb crawlers. Again the public are urged

to report them so that they can be logged and contacted.

Mrs Thompson reported a blue car she has seen speeding along Semilong road. Ron said that she should report it; this is a concern as the new Castle school will be opening in April.

*Actions no actions this month*

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

Andy attended a meeting about the MUGA and was informed that there will be lighting on the streets from early to mid January.

There is a new youth officer for the area Lucy Liesowic; she is hoping to set up some basketball from early January on Saturday mornings. Along with a worker from Corby she has begun canvassing the local youngsters but so far she has met with a hostile reception. Ron has assured that once the programme starts there will be a police presence. Jimmy Patel very kindly has offered his premises for Lucy to talk to the youngsters.

Andy has caught some people leaving bags out and has collected a number of addresses.

Fly tipping is still a problem and people are urged to report any instances of this.

Andy has also been working on locating cars which are untaxed. Residents are urged to report the registration, type of car and location to 837837 or cleansing dept on 838281.

In response to a query from Zoë about how often the street cleaner works. Andy explained that he does not come to Semilong every day as he also covers Spring Boroughs, but that he does work full time hours.

Concern was raised over rubbish left on the streets after bin collections. Rob explained that the collections workers are on incentives for the time taken, but that people should report if any mess left as they have to do any missed collections on a Friday.

*Actions*

*No actions*

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

Steven was not present to report.

### **Events**

The barn dance sold 25 tickets which was a total of £100. £20 was taken on the raffle. The total for the night was £122.99. ( some people donated money for leftover food) The band cost £120 and the room was £60. Karen spent £54.70 on food. This was a loss of £150.

The room at the club was dirty and Brian Karen and Jen had to clean it themselves before setting up the food. It was proposed that we protest at the cost and pay only £45 for the room.

Karen suggested that we look elsewhere to host the next event, possible venues are the school (although may not be allowed alcohol) or the rugby club.

*Actions* Brian to write a letter to the social club to request a decrease in the price of room.

### **Treasurers update**

Steven said that the balance was £642 before the Barn Dance and less the £155 the new balance is £490

### **Environment Green**

The plans by Oliver Henry for Miller's meadow are available on the internet and are very detailed. Brian is attending a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December for the Caspar working group

Spring boroughs are hoping to get a MUGA, a possible site is near Barclay house, some residents worried that it is rather close to the dual carriageway. There is also concern that it would clash with the Semilong MUGA, however it is intended to complement our MUGA.

Steven attended a meeting about the master plan for Miller's meadow. By the end of March £205,000 has been allocated to make the paths 2.5m wide, with new tarmac, and fencing. The play area will also be revamped.

**Actions**

*No actions this month*

**Environment Urban**

Mr Thompson said that he has received a letter about the old grocer's yard being converted into 6 flats. Brian said he has a copy of the plans. There was concern about the height, the people who back onto the area and the parking both whilst the building work is happening and afterwards.

Brian said that there will be parking inside the area so local parking should not be affected. Mrs Thompson has drafted a letter to the developers about parking for the disabled and elderly whilst the building is going on.

Karen said a friend who lives on Northcote street is starting a petition objecting to the height of the building and the fact that the flats would overlook his garden. Sharon Wood said that this would also affect her. Karen asked if we would support him. Rob asked what the opinions of forum members were. He explained that while we support those residents affected, the best people to take action are the residents affected themselves as most of the forum members will not be affected at all.

Rob explained that it is the size of the petition that can make the difference.

Rob also explained that a representative from the West Northampton Development Corporation would be coming to speak to us in the future regarding the Royal Mail building on Barrack Road. There will also be an open meeting.

The probation service have had some youths cleaning up the area. Ron asked if they were able to clear the electricity substation. Rob explained that he has informed the owner of the site and asked them to clean it.

Mrs Thompson said that some local phone boxes had been smashed. Andy has been trying to get BT to deal with this but is finding it difficult. Rob said that you can report the damage from the phone itself if it is working.

**Actions**

*No actions this month*

**Communication**

Brian said that he is redesigning the website. He is also looking to send out a newsletter in the new year, any ideas will be appreciated. He is also putting forward a funding application for the cost of the website and paper for the newsletters.

**Actions** *no actions this month*

**AOB**

Rob led a brainstorming session to collect ideas for future projects.

Ron said that there is a joint action group being set up for the Castle ward and is looking for a representative to join it.

**Actions** *no actions this month*

The next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at the BBOB Rugby Club on St. Andrews Road at 7.30 – 9.30pm

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair Date

Secretary Date