

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting January 10th 2007

Present: , Brian Crutchley, Alastair Melton Jen Kenny, Zoë Martin, Rob Chadwick, Steven Welyczko, Gill Daniel, P.C Ron Frater , Daphne Barritt, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Lucy Liesowic, Steven Sage, Stephen Richards, Rachel Duncan

Apologies: Andy Langton

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 7.40pm and was chaired by Zoë Martin

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising from the last meeting 6/12/2006

Rob said that the plans for the flats near Northcote Street had been retracted.

Further actions outstanding from previous minutes

None at present

Social Housing.

There were no housing officers present,

Actions no actions

Neighbourhood Warden - Andy Langton

Andy was not present to report

Zoë spoke about the recycling bins near Alliston Gardens and said she had seen fly tipping. Mrs Thompson said that although it was cleared regularly there was fly tipping happening daily, there are also lots of plastic bags and general litter near the site

Zoë suggested maybe we could request a litter bin, as the nearest one is at the co-op.

Rob agreed with this and added that there isn't another one on the way to town after the co-op.

Actions Zoë to ask Andy Langton re litter bins

Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

Steven outlined the current concerns over council funding. He has been in touch with Lindsay Cameron regarding the centre following the presentation on open day. He has heard nothing as yet. Councillor Lee Barron is also chasing some responses.

Steven also said that he had concerns about the litter outside and also parking. The roads outside the centre are unadopted which means the borough council is not responsible for them.

Steven said that the car park sign had been stolen. He has seen some students showing it on a website so will hopefully be able to recover it.

Actions

No actions

Events

Our special guest Lucy Liesowic introduced herself as a youth worker based in the area. She is working on a number of projects to involve the local youths. There will be a basketball workshop at the MUGA along with activities at the kingdom of life church. These will last 12 weeks and those involved could gain a sports leadership award.

It starts on a Wednesday night in the first week in February and there will be a half day tournament at the Muga.

Lucy has been working with 2 other workers called Natalie Lawrence and Andrew Jackson.

Ron stated that there will be a police presence at the events and possibly even a police basketball team!

Ron said that the crime and disorder unit also have a questionnaire about the anti social dispersal order and they

are trying to gain opinions alongside these events.

Rob suggested that the Bosworth college might want to get involved in the basketball as well. The name and number of the principal was given.

Ron said that if Lucy can identify ringleaders it will get the other youths on board more quickly.

Lucy is very keen to raise the profile of the MUGA.

Actions

No actions

Treasurers update

Steven said that the balance is £490

There hasn't been a response re the social club room so Brian will chase it up

Actions

Brian to chase the room rates.

Environment Green

The work has now started on Miller's Meadow. Rob visited them and said that some of the designs have been amended. There will now be a metal fence. The amphitheatre will probably not go in straight away, but hopefully by the time the new school opens.

Signs will also be going up with our logo on.

The Racecourse Health living hub has been awarded their grant from the River Nene Regional Park.

Actions

No actions this month

Environment Urban

The plans for the flats opposite Northcote street have been withdrawn.

Someone from the West Northants development corporation will be able to come and speak to us about the old Royal mail site on Barrack Road

Actions

Zoë will contact Lee Barron

Actions

No actions this month

Communication

Brian asked for any newsletter ideas to be submitted by 26th January.

Ron suggested an article about Compass website.

Steven has offered paper for printing the newsletter. Brian will need help delivering.

Zoë showed the response to recent letters in the Evening Chronicle, which were negative about Semilong, from Lee Barron and Paul Valentine.

It was suggested that we could publicise the safer communities teams on the newsletter and the website.

Actions *no actions this month*

Crime

Ron said that again anti social behaviour has decreased. He said that the PCSOs could be a factor in this as they are becoming more visible and known in the area.

He said that the vice operation has been increased to 4 days a week.

Ron explained a new initiative to target 1st offence kerb crawlers. They will be able to go on a training course, which will be chargeable, but will then not be prosecuted.

Compass is now linked to our website. Ron will also put our events on there.

There is a traffic light system where actions can be prioritised. If isn't an issue that can be quickly solved then it could be turned into a priority for the area to be worked on by the action group. They will decide on 3 main projects to improve the area.

Steven spoke for the group when he said that he was worried how the council cuts would affect Andy Langton our neighbourhood warden. The deadline for consultation was the 22nd January.

AOB

Helen from the rugby club has asked if some forum members can become members of the club. This will offset the hire of the room.

Rachel asked about how to report potholes in the road. They can be reported online or by phone.

Rob outlined some plans which are being considered to reorganise local government which would give more responsibility to the neighbourhood and parish councils instead of borough and county councils... Or to merge the borough and county councils into one.

He said that if no agreement is made then the government will take over power.

The county council has to respond by the end of January and the changes could be implement by April 2009

Alistair asked about the last minutes which talked about another venue for future barn dances.

Perhaps the new school is a possibility.

Zoë outlined an idea which would involve many local organisations, artists, bands with some kind of open day event where the public can move from site to site to raise the profile of Semilong.

Ally asked whether there would be any spring bulb planting. Brian said probably.

Rob said that the electricity substation should be cleared out in 6 weeks.

He is also going to contact the safer routes to school at the county council ready for the new Castle school.

Ron asked how people felt about the phone boxes at Alliston Gardens as it may be possible to remove them. Forum members were concerned that some residents may still need the use of a public phone.

Actions

Ron is going to see about more CCTV notices near the phones to deter gangs from hanging round there

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

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair _____ Date _____

Secretary _____ Date _____