

## **Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting June 13<sup>th</sup> 2007**

**Present:** Brian Crutchley, Rob Chadwick, Daphne Barritt, Steven Richards, Jen Kenny, Tess Scott, Zoë Martin, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Wendy Howes, Phillip Trim, Tony Clarke, Mike Spenser Morris, Alan Horsley

**Apologies:** Andy Langton Ally Dunn, Rachel Duncan,

### **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)

**WDNC**-West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

**PCSO**- Police community support officer

**The meeting opened at 7.43pm and was chaired by Zoë Martin**

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

### **Matters Arising from the meeting 9/05/07**

*Zoë to establish if a housing officer will be attending meetings*

Zoë has chased this but has not heard back yet still chasing

### **Mike Spenser Morris**

Mike Spenser Morris introduced himself and Phillip Trim as the preferred bidders for the Barrack Road Royal Mail site. The company NHP is a development company and has been operating since 1992. It is based in Newmarket and they have worked on a number of projects involving social housing on a large scale and feel that they can transform locations and the surrounding community with their developments.

They have recently completed a project in Kingston, Surrey to develop halls of residence.

They are looking to adapt the Former Royal Mail building into a combination of social housing and student housing. There will also be a hotel.

Mike explained the aim of trying to keep the existing building at the centre of the development and the imagination and quality that will be part of the project. Mike showed the plans to the forum including a computer-generated image including the 11 family homes and the student accommodation.

Brian asked what the timescale was and Mike said that the pre application discussion would take place within 2 weeks, a formal application will be submitted after about ¾ weeks and then after approval it would be about 20 months.

Mr Thompson asked whether there would be any kind of entrance on Semilong Road. Mike said there would not be.

Mrs Thompson asked about increased parking and Mike explained that the residential and student parking would be at basement level underground.

Daphne asked how big the hotel would be and Mike said approx 100 bedrooms.

Mike wasn't able to say at this point who would be providing the hotel as there were concerns about the vice in the area, he did say it would not be a cheap downmarket hotel that would attract those types of people.

There will be 11 3 bed roomed houses to rent from a housing association. 150 student flats and 282 apartments that would be one third social rent, one third shared ownership and one third privately owned. Steven asked about other developments in the building and there was a restaurant and possible retail space mentioned. Zoë asked whether the student accommodation had any connection with the university and Mike said that they were not prepared to make the commitment.

Tony Clarke said that he thought it was a challenging mix as he expected a purely residential development with more family homes. He asked about parking and Mike said there would be 400 spaces.

He also asked about the 106 development gains and wondered what impact it would have on services.

Forum members asked about the students and Mike explained that they were aiming for the postgraduate types of students.

There was concern about it leading onto a busy road. Mike said that there would be a right turn into the development and they would talk to a highway consultant.

Rob said it would be important to make sure new residents would be integrated into the Semilong Community and that there could be a boost for the post office and other shops and businesses. Some members were pleased that there would be a pedestrianised route through into Semilong.

Mike asked that Zoë collate ideas and opinions and keep them informed. Zoë thanked Mike and Phillip for coming to the forum.

*Zoë to keep NHP informed of forum member's opinions*

### **Community Centre**

Steven had to leave but Brian read some points from the centre manager's report, still no news on the lease. The food for thought café was having an event on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 11-2pm all welcome.

*Actions no actions*

### **Events**

Zoë said that in Spring Boroughs there would be a barbeque at the pocket park on July 6<sup>th</sup> all welcome.

The basketball and football events were well attended and some pictures were passed around.

The community event has had a poor response and now looks to be focused on the Community centre.

*Actions no actions*

### **Treasurer's report**

Steven wasn't present to report

*Actions*

*No actions*

### **Environment Green**

The chairs at Miller's Meadow, which are facing onto the road, will be moved.

Tony and Tess attended the official opening of the children's park and the forum members agreed it seems to be being well used. There was some disappointment that Castle school had not been invited to join in.

*Actions*

*No actions*

### **Environment Urban**

The planning application for the old Fruit and veg business has gone in again. The houses will now be parallel to semilong Road, with staggered heights to prevent overlooking.

*Actions*

### **Communication**

Brian said that we normally get the newsletter printed at the Labour club and paper from Howard Smith.

*Actions no actions*

### **Crime**

Crime is again down over the last ¾ months The main issues tend to be during the school holidays. Residents were warned that there has been some auto theft in the area lately, so there are increased patrols.

There is a course to help people who use sex workers to change. They have to pay for the course if it is their first offence and so far there has been a 90% success rate where it has been used. Tess had a letter from someone who had attended the course this backed it up.

Zoë said she had details of operation rogue trader on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June from the compass website. Members were advised to keep an eye on neighbours especially elderly to make sure that they were not being conned into having unnecessary work done to their homes or gardens.

**AOB**

Members asked if there had been any interest in the Duke of Edinburgh Pub

Alan asked if there was someone who could help with some local history questions and Brian suggested that he contact Kate wills. Phillip Trim asked about the local surgery and whether there was any need for health facilities e.g. a dentist.

**Actions** Jen to email Alan Kate Wills address

Meeting closed 9.05pm

The next meeting is on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2007 at the BBOB Rugby Club on St. Andrews Road at 7.30 – 9.30pm

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair Date

Secretary Date