

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting July 11th 2007

Present: Mr and Mrs Devereux, Mr and Mrs Briggs, Caroline Humphries, Ted Cotton, Eric White, Damian Lawlor, Michael Dowding, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Daphne Barritt, Steven Richards, Inspector White, Steven Wekcyko, Sarah Major, Kate Wright, Ann Timpson, Tess Scott, Rob Chadwiok, Brian Crutchley, Karen Fruish, Tony Clarke, Jennifer Kenny, Zoë Martin, Ally Dunn

Apologies: Lucy Liesowic, Ron Frater, Wendy Howes

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 7.35pm and was chaired by Zoë Martin

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising from the last meeting

No matters arising

Further actions outstanding from previous minutes

No outstanding actions

Home Safety

PCSO Sarah Major invited a special guest, Kate Wright along to talk about home safety and to show the forum members some of the products available to them to secure their homes.

Kate introduced herself to the forum and showed the members some of the products that they sell at cost price. These included

Advice packs including a uv marker pen

Pricker strip to stop people climbing over fences and walls, which also included a warning sign.

A forum member asked about barbed wire and Kate said that if you own the property it is allowed but not advised and it needs to be placed at a height of at least 6'6 with a warning notice. the same applies for anti climb paint.

There are dusk to dawn sensor lights for the front of the house for £5 and a timer switch for £3

As distraction burglaries are a problem in the area she also showed a spy hole with intercom for £10 and a door chain for £2 along with a mirror to allow people to see who is at the door for £1

There was a window shock alarm for £2.50 and Kate also had a number of leaflets about doorstep crime.

A forum member asked about stickers on the door to discourage sellers, but Kate said that they could actually have the reverse effect, as they would allow burglars to pinpoint the elderly unless everyone in the street has a sticker.

Inspector White explained that a lot of burglaries are happening due to unsecured properties and said that there has been a recent spate of distraction burglaries where a pair come and ask to turn off the water and urged people to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police

Actions Kate left details with Zoë who can be contacted if anyone is interested in the items

Social Housing

No housing officer was present. We are still waiting for a reply despite repeated emails

Actions

Neighbourhood Warden Andy Langton

There were no updates so forum members were asked if there were any issues.

Karen said that a local resident was causing problems with noise. She was advised to keep diary sheets and he Andy will try and find out who the landlord is.

Mr and Mrs Thompson said that potholes were a problem.

Over the last 2 weeks there have been problems up at St Georges Street, Uppingham Street and Harding Tce with dealers on bikes.

Zoë asked about the garages and Sandy said that it was apparently not all fly tipping and that the caretaker of the flats had been putting items out for collection, of course this was attracting others to leave items as well.

Actions

No actions

Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

Steven reported that the community café has changed management and unfortunately they are struggling at the moment. He urged members to spread the word and ask them to support it.

Tony Woods is chasing up the lease.

Actions

Zoë to meet with Steven to arrange AGM and community event

Events

Rob and Brian attended the Spring Boroughs BBQ and said that it was well-attended

There is a meeting about the healthy living hub on the Racecourse at the Picturedrome 19th July 5.30-7.00 to discuss the 3 draft plans followed by a friends of the racecourse meeting.

Lucy passed on info to Zoë about the summer activity programme for 12-19 year olds and a senior youth club

Actions

No actions

Treasurers update

The balance is £ 452.36

Actions

Environment Green

Brian had nothing to report although the memorial gardens have been tidied up and Oliver Henry will be attending the next Caspar meeting.

Ally mentioned a tree that is in danger of collapsing next to the playground; it will be the NBC responsibility.

Ann said that trees could do with trimming back. Zoë said she will try and find out

Actions

Zoë to find out about getting trees trimmed back

Environment Urban

There had been an email from Julia Tinker about Semilong being a pilot area to increase cycling and that a co coordinator could be appointed. The idea is that cycles would be available and people would be able to use them in the area and places such as pitsford etc.

The NHp have their first meeting with the WNDC on 19th July re Barrack Road.

Tony said that they are looking at a huge profit from the development and that some monies would be fed into the community under the section 106 He said that Alliston Gardens could benefit from this

Actions

Communication

Brian would like ideas for features by next month so the newsletter can be out before the AGM. Tess said that the labour club will be able to print them for a token payment.

Actions no actions this month

Crime

Inspector White said that there has been a reduction in prostitution and a brothel has been closed down. Residents of Harding Terrace were concerned as they had received a letter saying that the barriers were going to be taken down and they were very worried about this. Also not all of the residents received the letter. Residents said that there were still problems in the area and they certainly didn't want the barriers to be taken away. It seems that there had been some concerns over the new school and parking. The inspector said that he didn't see why the barriers would be taken away when they have proven to be effective, a point which was agreed with by Ann Timpson. The residents said that they already felt that it was not safe to walk out at night. Tony Clarke said that he would take up the matter on their behalf and ask for the original letters to be resent. The forum will also send a letter in to register its opinion on the matter. Ann reminded members that the barriers were never going to be a quick fix That safety is top of the list And that cctv around Arundel street is due to be put in with number plate recognition.

£700 from the change course has been donated to the youth basketball group. Ally said that people are really recognising what they are involved with A member mentioned that cars have been going the wrong way down one way streets primarily Lower Hester street and Hester street There is also still a problem with double parking

Ally asked about the attack on the racecourse and whether anyone had been caught yet. Unfortunately Inspector White was unable to comment directly on this

Actions Zoë to write letter from forum to register forum's opinion on the barriers.

AOB

Mr Thompson said that again the lock on his front door had been broken. He had called the police when a group of lads had started drinking and smoking outside his door, although he had a good response the boys had moved on when the police got there. Mr Thompson said that this happens frequently and that the maintenance manager had said it should be classed as an emergency. Andy took the details as he was due to a meeting about service issues. Ann said that doors are to be replaced in these accommodations, with magnetic locks; there is no timescale yet. Zoë said she would check if any news. Jen brought out a cake and the members congratulated Zoë on her birthday

Actions

Zoë to check on doors at Alliston Gardens with housing

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

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair _____ Date _____

Secretary _____ Date _____