

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting September 12th 2007

Present: Ally Dunn, Andy Langton, Daphne Barritt, Jen Kenny, Karen Fruish, Steven Welyczko, Lyn Coppin, Wendy Howes, Tess Scott, Naomi Burkhart, Pam Thompson

Apologies: Alistair Melton, Kate Wills, Jack Thompson, Tony Clarke

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 7.42pm and was chaired by Zoë Martin

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising from the last meeting

Actions

Rob to circulate the plans for the Safer Routes to School when available. Rob said that these were not significant apart from the 20mph speed limit and the discussions about barriers

Further actions outstanding from previous minutes

No outstanding actions

Guest Speaker

Zoë introduced Lyn Coppin from the police control centre who gave an outline of the work that they do and how we as residents can help them fulfil their role. Residents shared their experiences of the control centre some felt the response was adequate however there had been one occasion where there was no answer or response. Lyn said that the number to call is 08453 700 700 and the forum members noted this down. Lyn also handed out information sheets.

Lyn explained the main differences between the control room and the customer contact centres. She said that the switchboard at first puts the callers through to the most appropriate dept .She explained that the customer contact centre is very useful in answering non urgent calls and that the operators are able to give advice on a number of issues. Calls are graded according to the urgency and the criteria was discussed.

The control room is not open to the public but this would be where the most urgent and priority crimes would be sent. They aim to call back within 25 minutes to update the situation if an officer has not yet attended. Rob said that he had received such a call. Pam was worried that it wasn't quick enough and Lyn explained the grading system. Pam felt that some responses had not been urgent enough although the particular incident in question was some time ago and Lyn explained that the changes had been recent. Zoë mentioned an incident regarding a callback following an incident and that the friend had been worried to hear the offender had been released. Lyn explained that this would have been an officer and not a call centre operative and that they are obliged to keep the victim informed.

Ally asked about the staff and how well they are trained to grade incidents. Lyn explained the training system and that the calls are monitored regularly. There are also police officers and a sergeant available in the room. Lyn also said that every call should be allocated an incident number.

Zoë asked if the police had access to the CCTV, Lyn explained that they had some access, but due to the numbers of cameras it is impossible to pinpoint whilst on the phone as the police have to liaise with the borough council.

Lyn said that we might be able to tour the control room in the future.

Zoë thanked Lyn on behalf of the forum.

Actions No Actions

Neighbourhood Warden Andy Langton

Andy reported on some work that has taken place recently.

The lower branches around Miller's Meadow have been removed

According to section 46 for leaving bin bags on the street 4 notices have been served in the area and there has been one high profile prosecution. If the bags are not outside the property then it is classed as flytipping.

Zoë mentioned some graffiti that she had spotted at the top of Hester Street.

Actions

No actions

Social Housing

Zoë read an email from the housing officers and said that she has suggested that rather than attend regularly, that they attend as a special guest every 6 months. She had not heard back yet

Events

Zoë reported on the fun day and it was classed as a success .Zoë thanked all who helped on the day.

Brian mentioned the BBQ on the racecourse on Saturday 4-7 and asked if anyone was able to attend

Zoë reminded forum members about the AGM for Wednesday.

Zoë also said that she had an email from Beck Paveley about an even it spring boroughs from 11-03pm in a number of different venues called "Back to The Future"

Actions

Treasurers update

Steven reported that

£22.43 had been spent on prizes for the fun day

£93.00 has come in from the fun day

£80.00 was spent on the P.A and hungry caterpillar show and £70 was due back from CASPAR.

This leaves the balance at 443.56 and £70 due from CASPAR.

Steven to raise an invoice to CASPAR for £70

Environment Green

The friends of the racecourse will be at the next meeting to show the master plans.

Rob wondered when the pond-dipping platform might be put in and Steven, who attended the last meeting, said it might now not be until the next financial year.

Actions no actions

Environment Urban

No 39 Semilong Road has had 4 flats approved

79-83 ,81 is to be demolished and there is an application for 6 houses .The well will be kept.

On St George's Street there is an application for 62 flats and 5 houses, concern was raised, as there is the

