

## **Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting**

**January 9th 2008**

**Present:** Pat Thompson, Ann Timson, Caroline Humphries, Robert Briggs, Will Brown, Matthew Bushell, Ruth Pott-Negrine (Chron), Tess Scott (Cllr), Stephen Welyczko, Michael Rogers (SCT), Lee Stevens (SCT), Andy Langton (Warden), Steven Richards (AGYCC), Michelle Aveyard (PCT), Brian Crutchly, Zoe Martin, Tony Clarke (Cllr), Tina Harvey, Robert Chadwick, Ally Dunn, Alastair Melton

**Apologies:** Sarah Major (PCSP), Naomi (CWSCT), Brian Binley (MP), Jen Kenny, Marie Dickie

### **Abbreviations Used:**

**SCF** - Semilong Community Forum

**NBC** - Northampton Borough Council

**NCC** - Northampton County Council

**AGYCC** - Alliston gardens Youth and Community Centre

**MUGA** - Multi Use Games Area

**WNDC** - West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

**PCSO** - Police Community Support Officer

**FOR** - Friends of the Racecourse

**The meeting opened at 7:40pm and was chaired by Zoe Martin**

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

**Matters arising from the last meeting**

### **Actions**

RC to approach electric company regarding the mess in the sub-station next to the Co-op

Carried over as RC absent at start of meeting.

AD to amend agenda to include Health update by Michelle Aveyard - Actioned

### **Neighbourhood Warden AL**

It had been quiet over Christmas and there was nothing outstanding. There had been an increase in fly tipping by the team were on to it and the new computer system was now working so AL was confident all would be sorted presently. AL asked if there were any issues to be reported.

AM asked if there was anything that could be done about the bin bags left outside the houses on St Andrews Road which started appearing 4 days before bin collection was due.

AL said that technically these bags were on private property and not the public road so there was nothing that could be done to prevent this. More Section 46 notices regarding early disposal of bin bags were due to be served on 30th January.

AL updated the forum regarding the mural due to be painted at Castle Primary school by youths working with youth worker Lucy Leisowich. The group had no objections to the proposed design. the money for the project (£700) was coming from the curb crawler rehabilitation scheme.

## **AGYCC**

The after school club has folded but they want to come back. The YMCA has served redundancy notices to some staff. service 6 might take the after school club slot. No word on the sign which is due to go up.

The printer has nearly been decided on. The application for it is due in 2 weeks.

## **Finance**

No change in the account  
balance £513.73

## **Urban**

ZM updated forum on Castle School in RC absence.

There had been another meeting today that TS and TC had also attended, although some key decision makers from the council had not need there which had been frustrating. people had agreed to the barrier being open during the day. No developments on how the crossing on Barrack Rd could be made better. The council was worried about setting precedents. Still no response from the council regarding a decision that was due from 29th November. A crossing patrol person was not a priority. There was the possibility of Section 106 money for a barrier.

Re proposed flats. 90 had been proposed and the money for the barriers could come from the proposed development. TC said that he had asked for a written response from the council and portfolio holder regarding the problems at Castle Primary. Date of next meeting arranged for 6th Feb.

ZM asked for people's views regarding the proposed barriers.

Members said that the speed of traffic over the barrier could cause problems.

Where there walking initiatives that could be adopted by the school? Yes and these were not being well used at the moment as parents perceived that traffic problems as a reason to not go to school on foot.

Re: Royal Mail development. There had need no further contact from the developer. Another potential developer had been mentioned although TC said this had been him trying to get information from WNDC. No speedy resolution in sight due to legal problems.

SW said that the membership fees at Semilong WMC had doubled and that he feared that membership of the club may decrease and the club could be in trouble. Concerns were raised over planning permission for a sign on Hester St. It was made clear that if the sign was not illuminated, then there was no need for planning permission or that permission may have been granted several months ago.

## **Environment Green**

BC updated that there were new signs due to go up in Millers Meadow before the end of the financial year. The signs could include a brief history of the park. Did people have objections to the use of the name Paddy's meadow. As it was probably not due to any link with the Irish and most likely from a man called Paddy who taught children to swim there, people could see no reason for objection. the Irish Support group were happy with the use of the term. Any other feedback was due by Friday 11th Jan.

## **Health**

MA updated the group with activities happening in the area.

The Irish SG were having a health day in march but it was for the wider community. Various health tests and information was to be made available to people at the event.

An Action Plan had been agreed by a steering group. local residents were invited to join the steering group.

A Well Being event was to happen /c 14th April. MA asked if it could be held on the Racecourse and not at the Saints ground as had previously been arranged. MA was advised to check with the Friends of the RC. notification on the purchase of equipment for the Racecourse would be made by FOTRC in January.

### **Crime**

the Safer Communities team note that it had been a busy period showing a usual spike in crime figures in the area for this time of year. The level of crime is at 10% and the target is 15%. the current figures are comparative to last year.

100 Curb Crawlers were caught during operation "Uncanny".

A CRASBO has been granted against a known prostitute in the area. She is not allowed into a zone covering Semilong and Spring Boroughs. If residents see her, they are urged to inform the police. A leaflet with the photograph of the woman (Dawnette) was circulated. Tina Harvey from Safety for Sex Workers urged people to realise that this and other women are human and have many problems which forces them into prostitution. This was noted by the forum.

There had been a robbery to a delivery driver on Hester Street and 2 residents had been arrested. They were known offenders.

There had also been criminal damage on Norfolk Street. residents were urged to empty cars of valuables and lock cars at all times.

A SmartWater initiative was being launched to label property so that it could be returned after recovery after burglaries.

### **AOB**

ZM asked the Forum how it wanted to move forward. it was suggested that a representative from SWAn should be invited to the next meeting.

Tina Harvey asked residents to support a campaign to stop new legislation going to the House of Lords regarding the detection of rapists. More information on the legislation could be found at the website [www.freewebs.com/sosw.uk](http://www.freewebs.com/sosw.uk).

TC would need help with the Multi-occupancy audit. this raised questions of how to class and count these figures for the audit. TC asked if anyone had ideas?

AD asked if anyone had not received the emailed minutes. MA and Mrs Thomson had not. email addresses were checked.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

13th February

Meeting closed at 8:40pm