

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

**June 11th 2008**

**Present:** Jen Kenny, Andy Langton, Mr and Mrs Briggs, Caroline Humphries, Stephen Welyczko, Pam Thompson, Tony Clarke, Ruth Negreene-Potts, Rob Chadwick, Brian Crutchley, Steven Richards, Michelle Aveyard, Daphne Barrit, Lucy Lisowiec, Ann Timson, Naomi Buckart, Zoë Martin, Ally Dunn

**Apologies:** Jack Thompson, Al Melton

### **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

**NHW** - Neighbourhood Warden

**JAG** - Joint Action Group

**HMO** - Houses of Multi Occupation

**The meeting opened at 7:38pm and was chaired by Zoe Martin**

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed though there were some amendments to be made.

### **Matters arising from the last meeting**

#### **Actions**

- 1 Rob had circulated the planning information by email so members could object to the flats on St Georges Street online via the WNDC website.
- 2 Zoe reported that the Himo Project tender document was almost complete with just a few amendments to be made. After this the document would be given to TC to check.
3. Zoe said that Steve Summers was unable to attend our meeting tonight, she added that Steve had said that the FONR were aware that they needed to do more consultation.
4. TS had spoken to Tony Woods from NBC about the art installation on the Racecourse and if planning permission had been given. Tony had said that he had given permission for the art to be installed as the FONR need to spend their money before the end of March. TC and TS expressed concern about this decision being made by one councilor.

**Andy Langton – Neighbourhood Warden**

AL said that the fly-tipping at the car park at the top of Lower Hester Street had been cleared. Cleaning teams had been regularly monitoring this site as more rubbish had been dumped. The Semilong Working Men's Club car park was also a site where fly-tipping had occurred and this would be cleared soon.

There has been a suspension of issuing Section 46's for bin bags being put out early in the town as NBC is having staffing problems. These will resume when these issues have been sorted out.

AL reported that NBC is no longer collecting commercial waste, this work is no contracted out to private companies.

Steven Richards reported that there has been an increase of fly-tipping at the recycling banks opposite AGYCC.

AL has a meeting with the collection team and will be trying to come up with solutions.

Marble Arch was identified as an area which had litter problems at the moment

### **Steven Richards - AGYCC**

2 Health Days were coming up on 8th and 15th July. There would be information on diabetes, and heart disease on 8th whereas the 15th would have more practical attractions such as massage and other therapies.

- Health Walks were every Wednesday at 11am

- The Youth club had lost its long term volunteer leader and it now has a new leader. SR was concerned that there could be uncertain times ahead for the club.

- The grant criteria for the copier has changed and a new amended application is in hand

### **Finance**

No change - account stands at £489.73

### **Urban**

#### **St George's St**

**TC** - There had been a meeting re the stage 2 complaint and some progress had been made. Head teacher was present at the meeting. The council has conceded that a crossing supervisor might be needed. The Safe Routes to School might be able to cover that.

2hr parking bays were now an option as was a traffic survey for the area. the council were not keen on a barrier being installed.

The School has given the council a month to look into the possibilities. The complaint was therefore on hold for a month to give them time to respond.

on 19th June a zig zag and a 20mph speed limit is being installed. Next meeting 25th June

**ZM** - A draft document had been drawn up for the Multi Occupancy Census which people were welcome to look at and contribute to once some final changes had been made.

**Action** - ZM to go through aims of census and circulate to TC

- 3 points were agreed with the forum

**Action** - TC to contact Head of Planning at the council (CCing private sector

housing) to ask them to register all HIMO properties.

BC - a planning application had been made for 4 business units on St Andrew's Road at the bottom of Baker St where the antique and fireplace unit is currently based. Plans were passed around ref no. N/2008/0589

**Action** For ZM - SR - asked if a complaint could be made about the state of the roads around Semilong, especially Gordon, Hester and Adelaide streets. This should be reported to Cllr Bob Seery and Street Doctor service - 08456 011 113

### **Environment Green**

BC thanked those who had completed the CASPAR feedback survey's for the works on the parks, especially Millers Meadow. In general, people seemed quite pleased with the work that had happened.

BC had secured some bulbs from the Open University which the council which had been planted by Brian Crutchley

ZM thanked BC on behalf of the Forum

ZM - Steve Summers from the FoR had sent a letter in response to the Arrow on the Racecourse. He wanted to remind people that the master plan was at the start of the consultation process and people were welcome to take part in the consultation. The plans were not set in stone. He also added that the art installations had happened quickly and that the consultation on them had not been good enough. An invitation had been extended to him to attend the next SCF. The next FoRC meeting was on 3rd July at 7pm - all welcome.

TC noted that the fishing platforms were causing problems for fishing boats to get past. The forum noted that no-one had ever seen a fishing boat go along the river at Millers Meadow.

**Action** - TC to research into the problem and report back to the Forum

### **Health**

MA - All health programme were now up and running. here was also going to be a quiz night at the BBOB on 18th July with screening for Men's Health - Man Alive project.

The Weight Management group was doing well.

Parking was becoming an issue and MA had concerns about what would happen to the parking situation once the health Centre expanded into the old pub. Would it be possible to use the grass for parking? At this stage MA wanted to gather people's thoughts on how the parking problem could be resolved.

Mrs Timson noted that an estate review might highlight these problems and be able to identify some possible solutions.

SR was hoping to get some new "No parking" signs

It was noted that the BBOB club was celebrating 75 years this year and that SCF and AGYCC could do something with them in the way of a joint celebration

### **Communication**

BC had started on the welcome pack which was circulated.

ZM asked the Forum for ideas over which vouchers could be included.

Suggestions included the Fish and Chip shop, Indian Paradise, the laundaret, the Co-Op and the MOT garage.

a delivery plan was to be made once the packs had been drawn up.

TS noted that the electoral roll could be a good source of information.  
SR asked if the pack could be made multi-lingual.  
BC said that the map would include pictures  
JK said that Castle school had people who could translate the information in to several languages.  
ZM thanked BC for his work on behalf of the Forum

### **Crime**

The dispersal order included Holy Sepulture Church and Barrack Road but mainly covered St James'.

50 dispersals and ASBO applications and 1 arrest had be made since it had been put in place.

The litter problem on Marble Arch was noted and the camera on Ash street might be moved to help this.

Problems at the MUGA had been sorted by increasing the SCT visibility in the area. The Alliston gardens blocks had also been noted for some problems which the SCT were aware of.

### **AOB**

Lucy Lisowicz apologised for not attending many meetings but explained that by the nature of her work, she was normally working with the young people at the time of the Forum meetings.

What's Your games had been filmed at the MUGA. LL has designed a summer programme. A newsletter could possibly be circulated to Semilong as well as other areas.

**Action** - LL - Flyers to be given out at next SCF

The Young Firefighter scheme was also running and LL asked if the forum could extend the invitation to young people in the area. The scheme runs on Tuesdays for young people aged 13+.

The road safety project mural had been redesigned due to a consultation. The Forum will have a say in how the next one will look

MA - 3K was left over from the Health Days on the Racecourse.

St Peter's Church on Black Lion Hill was re-opening as a community venue. The open day was going to be on 28th June.

SR - Dunster Street parking meeting was an angry meeting which ended with a group being formed. Could the Forum invite them to the next meeting?

**Action** - SR to get contact details so we can invite them.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

9th July

Meeting closed at 21:50pm