

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting

July 9th 2008

Present: Andy Langton, Mr Briggs, Ruth Pott-Negrine, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Brian Crutchley, Steven Richards, Lucy Lisowich, Stephen Welyczko, Tess Scott, Trevor Gordon, Steve Summers, Zoe Martin, Ally Dunn

Apologies: Rob Chadwick, Daphne Barritt, Michelle Aveyard

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 7:40pm and was chaired by Zoe Martin

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed though there were some spellings to be ammended.

Matters arising from the last meeting

Actions

- 1 ZM had carried over the work on the census as Tony Clarke was not attending.
- 2 ZM had reported the state of the roads to the council
- 3 TC Fishing platforms was to be carried over
- 4 LL had brought fliers to distribute
- 5 SR had brought contacts as requested

ZM suggested that as Rob Chadwick (Vice Chair) was ill, that flowers should be sent on behalf of the forum. Motion agreed by all present

Andy Langton – Neighbourhood Warden

AL reported that a clean up had been at SWMC car park. This was a one off because it was private land but as the area was also used for recycling glass, that they had helped on this occasion. 2.9 tonnes of rubbish was cleared away. There had been complaints about black bags but action could not be enforced at the moment because of changes to council collections. However, AL had knocked on doors and spoken to people about their bags. 10 untaxed cars had been towed during the past month. AL had chased up the problem of the broken fence in the MUGA and this problem should be sorted soon.

On St Andrews Rd, new fencing had been installed TS this had been her action from a JAG meeting. The BC had sorted this.

Flytipping - 185 tippings reported in Castle Ward compared to 139 St Crispin, 132 thorplands and 158 Lumbertubs.

SW reported that there were 5 TV sets dumped at Alliston gardens recycling area.

*ACTION - AL to report

TG asked if there was any better way of the council co-ordinating the collection of items as things had been left lying for a while by council staff, clearing areas/flats.

AL - Should be happening properly already as scheme working in other areas.

TS - RE Flytipping enforcement officer question from last month. There were no plans in the short term to recruit one however TS was going to raise this as the next council meeting

*ACTION - TS to raise need of Fly tipping Enforcement officer at next Council meeting

ZM - What needed to happen to successfully prosecute someone for fly tipping?

AL - Evidence needed such as CCTV pictures but it is difficult to get permission to use the images.

TG commented that he had photos of fly tippers but when presented to the council they took no action.

AL- On 22nd July there is to be a major clearing up operation in Victoria park to clear areas used for anti-social behaviour. The probation service is involved and will be opened by Mayor as part of Mayoral Payback scheme

TG said he had reported a broken fence to the council at Adelaide House but nothing had happened. How long should it take normally?

*ACTION - TS to follow up with housing dept

*ACTION - AL to ask probation if this would be possible

TG asked if probation could look at overgrown weeds in front of Adelaide House

Steven Richards - AGYCC

On the first health day which happened yesterday (8th July). Several people were referred to their GP as a result of initial screenings.

2nd day happening on 15th and would include more complimentary treatments.

People needed to prebook.

The application for the printer was being submitted tomorrow (10th July)

Health walks continued on a Thursday

Finance

No change - account stands at £489.73

Sat 13th Sept was the Community Celebration event including the Castle Community Olympics.

There would be coaches there, Sol Central represented, Street Dance, Bangra and Bollywood dance, SCF Sports Day but public liability insurance would need to be applied for.

SS - The Association of Residents Associations could provide cover.

Urban

ZM - Hester Street - there had been an application of individual dwellings

TS - Application was to include 4 flats and something into the garden. The application was now reduced to 3 apartments

ZM - An email and photos had been sent to the council but the complaint had been opened and closed without addressing the problems.

ZM handed out contact details for complaints

*ACTION - everyone to complain to Street Doctor about local potholes and to note reference number of complaint

Environment Green

No update from BC

SS noted that funding for a new Green Spaces Warden had been confirmed and was due to start in Autumn as part of CASPAR+ They would be responsible for developing the use of green space in Castle Ward

Racecourse Update - SS

ZM - Why was the Arrow partially still fenced off?

SS - Not officially open yet. Singage due to arrive on 19th July. Signs would include a variety of information about the Racecourse.

The Master Plan document was with the BC for consultation process. People could feed back at Friends of RC meetings, Balloon Festival and via a blog website.

RPN had spotted a mini motorbike on the RC and on Millers Meadow.

ZM - Climate Friendly Communities update - A meeting was happening next Thursday regarding funding and finding out more about emissions.

Youth Work

LL - Distributed fliers for Youth Club summer programme including conservation project at Bradlaugh Fields and a multi-cultural event on 28th July.

The Forum then took part in an exercise to design the mural for the primary school
The Safer Communities Team had donated £900 to Springlane Primary fashion show which was being organised to raise money for an outdoor classroom on Monday 14th 7-9pm £4

TG - Kids had caused damage and spread litter and were playing inappropriately

*ACTION - LL to speak to SCT and the young people.

Communication

No Update

Crime

No Update

WELCOME PACKS

ZM - 2 letters had been sent but no responses had been received in return

AOB

No AOB

Date of Next Meeting

13th August

Meeting closed at 21:05pm