

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting

August 13th 2008

Present: Zoe Martin, Ally Dunn, Ann Thomson, Ruth Pott-Negrine, Stephen Welyczko, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Brian Crutchley, Rob Chadwick, Mr and Mrs Briggs, Mrs Humphries, Jen Kenny, Trevor Gordon, Angela Hemmings, Abade Ahmed, Polly Ingram, Michelle Aveyard, PCSO Charlotte Prigmore, PCSO Nikki Brooks, PCSO Sarah Major

Apologies: Andy Langton, Brian Binley

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

NISG - Northampton Irish Support Group

The meeting opened at 7:36pm and was chaired by Zoe Martin

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

Matters arising from the last meeting

Actions

1 Census Draft proposal sent to Tony Clarke. Next step is to send it to CASPAR+

2 Pot holes in the roads had been reported

3 Tony Clarke had mentioned the fishing platforms to the council. There was some dispute over the amount of blockage the boats had caused and how much there had been boats used. It was thought that the platform would be better used as a pond dipping platform rather than for fishing as licences must also be sought for people wanting to fish.

4 TV sets had now gone.

5 TC reported that Cllr Tess Scott had brought to the attention of the council the need for a fly tipping officer for the area. The matter is ongoing.

A representative from Octagon reported that they had been informed that there were to be no enforcement until an officer had been appointed.

TG asked whether flytippers have been named and shamed.

TC - Free pick ups for bulky waste was only for Spring Boroughs residents. AL has difficulty in identifying fly-tippers so it is not always possible to name and shame the

relevant parties.

6 The broken fence n St Andrew's Road had been fixed.

7 Lucy Liesowich had spoken to SCT and young people who had been spotted drinking. TG reported young people were still drinking. The SCT reported that they had also spoken to young people they had seen drinking but they have to get them whilst they are drinking.

Andy Langton – Neighbourhood Warden

AL not present

TG reported that the hedges were too high at the back of Adelaide House. A cone couldn't be removed because the undergrowth was too high and therefore posed a risk to people clearing it

Steven Richards - AGYCC

Youth Fire fighters taster course was starting on Tuesday 19th august from 3:30 to 5:30

The bid for the printer had been submitted. Application goes to the Community Chest fund on Friday. The money could be here within a fortnight. The printer spec was available for people to se.

An application had also been made for costs to run the kitchen and community cafe The IT suite was to receive 10 new machines which had come from a joint bid with the Northampton Irish Centre. The money was coming from CASPAR+

SR confirmed that the big room would be available for the SCF AGM on 17th Sept.

Finance

Out £39.98 for flowers sent to Rob Chadwick

In £100 from DDC for the Climate Friendly Communities work

Balance £549.75

The Castle Ward Community Day on Sat 13th Sept. SCF were hosting sports day and SW asked if there were any volunteers.

ZM, JK and SW all volunteered for the event

Urban

No update from Rob Chadwick

St Georges St

TC - At the meeting yesterday the school announced that they were looking for a crossing patrol. Some traffic surveying had been done. A proposal for 2 hour parking had been rejected by the council in favour of 2hr meters instead.. TC said this would be unacceptable to the local community. Yellow signs and zig zags have been painted.

ZM - Potholes - ZM read a response from the council regarding the email she had sent to the them about the state of the roads in the area.

They said that the roads were not serious enough and had just been through the 4 year routine inspection.

SCT reported that the hole on Lower Adelaide Street had been repaired in hours

BC reported 5 bad holes but had not been back to check if they had been repaired.

ZM had reported 2 and asked members of the forum to continue to report them.

The sub station next to the Co-op looked a bit overgrown

*ACTION - RC to report to relevant person

TG reported that Uppingham Street pavement looked dangerous and had been

reported. SCT had had no feedback from residents during a recent consultation
ZM said that drains could also be reported to the Street Doctor

Environment Green

No update from BC

ZM - CFC Scheme

The last meeting had been 3 weeks ago. Funding had been received so what did the forum want to do with it? How could people be encouraged to stay local instead of shopping in town? Any suggestions

SR reported that the NISG had recently started an allotment project.

AG suggested that bike racks would be a good addition at the Co-Op

*ACTION ZM to follow up with the subgroup

Health

MA - All projects were filling up except the Men's Health project. Duke St church was hosting a 12 week health course from 12th Sept

Wednesday was Weight management and has 25 attending

Breath Easy was growing with 25 attending

A babies group was starting

The men's health event with quiz had 58 attend with some Saints players.

AA - A health trainer was to be based in the library covering subjects including healthy eating and smoking cessation

Communication

BC - Welcome pack drafts were circulated.

MA suggested including info on the local GP surgery

SCT suggested adding their details

AD asked if additional languages could be included.

SCT said this could be problematic as an accredited translator would need to be employed.

SR suggested using community contacts instead

ZM - No response from letters sent out to local businesses

SR - Welcome pack could include discount for the Community Cafe

TG- Could we sort a Semilong discount card?

ZM - As no response from businesses this looked unlikely

Crime

Down 9%

TG asked for a breakdown of the figure

New Vice officer PC Jenny O'Donald. No reported problems recently

Mr Thomson reported that there had been incidents of minimotors causing a nuisance

SCT have been working on the issue

* ACTION SCT to provide breakdown of the 9% figure

65 Curb crawlers had attended the CHANGE course

Smart Water project - had started in 2 streets

SR asked if AGYCC could be include in the scheme

TG reported that some offensive graffiti had been written on the school

TC explained that racist graffiti had to be removed within 24 hours

SW - Tensions had risen on Gordon Street due to late night football sessions by

young people. The police response had been poor.

TG asked if the Neighbourhood Watch scheme could be extended
SCT have tried to get people involved but the take up had been slow

*ACTION SCT to drop leaflets to TG

TG asked if it were possible to have notice boards in the flats

MA CASPAR+ money is being spent on 11 boards in the area.

Mrs Timson explained that boards are subject to a lot of vandalism and cost a lot to maintain

TC - At present the council don't report what they spend on their maintenance and cleaning fund and he is trying to get them to do this

AOB

There used to be a Semilong sign. Where had it gone?

*ACTION ZM to find out

AA - asked the forum to attend the Somali Social Club meeting

ZM thanked Abade Ahmed for the invite

Date of Next Meeting

10th Sept

Meeting closed at 21:05pm