

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting

September 10th 2008

Present: Zoe Martin, Ally Dunn, Ann Timson, Ruth Pott-Negrine, Stephen Welyczko, Pam Thompson, Brian Crutchley, Rob Chadwick, Jen Kenny, Trevor Gordon, PCSO Nikki Brooks, PCSO M Locker, Daphne Barritt, Tony Clarke, Steven Richards, Glenn Warier, Dan Taylor

Apologies: Al Melton, Michelle Aveyard, 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

CFC - Climate Friendly Communities

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

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

Matters arising from the last meeting

Actions

- 1 The power sub station overgrowth had been cleared.
- 2 CFC was to launch on Saturday at the fun day.
- 3 The SCT had brought crime figures to the meeting
- 4 SCT Neighbourhood Watch leaflets had been delivered to interested parties
- 5 Semilong Sign - ZM had emailed the council but was awaiting a response. ZM to re-email.

Andy Langton – Neighbourhood Warden

AL not present. ZM gave the update on AL's behalf

There is a 12' height limit on conifer hedges only. Probation service are doing large projects not small neighbourhood projects like hedge clearance at Adelaide Hs.

TG said that people didn't want to park in the car park because of the high hedges, people are intimidated. Is this a CASPAR+ responsibility?

TC- Audit commission found council guilty of not maintaining communal areas. Work is happening in this area to amend the situation. If residents wrote to the council

asking to see receipts for work done in communal areas it might force the council into action.

Steven Richards - AGYCC

Health Walks are going well. There is the possibility of providing differing ability walks.

Money has been received from CASPAR+ for the cafe and kitchen area. Some items have already been purchased.

Notice boards have been erected opposite Leicester Terrace.

A decision on the lease is imminent. Once this has been decided, work can progress on furthering the application for AGYCC to become a charity.

The Street cleansing team had cleared the car parking area outside the centre.

Thanks were expressed to the street cleansing team.

The centre has been included in the Smart Water scheme.

SR asked if anyone had any photographs of the SCT for use in a project at the centre. If anyone has some images, can they forward them onto Richard.

Finance

OUT - £6.99 for a raffle prize for the Community Funday event stall.

New balance = £542.76

Re FUNDAY - posters have been printed and put up. the day would have a sporting theme but there would be other activities too. 11-4pm on Victoria Park

The forum was having a stall to promote the CFC initiative. There would be a quiz to promote energy efficiency ideas

Urban

The power sub station by the Co-Op had been cleared.

ZM - Planning permission had been requested for 5 dwellings on Semilong Road from 79-83

TC - £ Dwellings per unit should be acceptable as 4 dwellings per unit had already been declined and 3 was in line with other applications in the area.

ZM asked if the potholes the BC had reported had been mended as none of the holes she had reported had been. BC hadn't noticed if they had been filled yet.

Environment Green

ZM - A Green Spaces officer was in the process of being recruited.

Health

MA absent. No update

Communication

BC No progress on the Welcome Pack design this month

BC had been working on the posters for the Funday instead.

There was a newsletter planned for after the AGM

Crime

A breakdown of the 9% crime reduction figure was explained after TG had asked for a breakdown of the figure the previous meeting

There had been 726 crimes reported in the past year. There had been 653 reported

for this year. This figure was mainly made up of arrests made for curbing crawling and prostitution as part of the police operation in the area.

200 Smart Water kits had been distributed in the area. AGYCC, Spring Boroughs Community centre and the 2 primary schools had also been included in the scheme. Other areas would be considered. Please contact the police to be considered for the scheme.

Theft, criminal damage and violence were the areas with the biggest reductions. TG - 12 people were interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch scheme from Adelaide House and Lower Adelaide Street. TG also reported that people had reported a car attack to the police but the response of the police had put them off reporting further incidents.

SCT would also be having a stand at the Community Funday at Victoria Park.

TC - Online figures would be made available for Castle Ward but they might reflect some of the Town Centre crimes.

ZM reported that there were still people hanging about on the sorting office site.

SCT - there is still a dispersal order covering the site so people need to report incidents to the police who can then move them on. The neighbourhood Warden was continually clearing the area. The order ends in November.

PT - reported that there were children playing on skate boards on Northcote street that were in danger from the traffic. The SCT noted this report.

TG - Questioned the figure of 336 curbing crawlers over 3 months. Was this accurate and what could be done?

SCT - Higher policing means higher figures. The actual problem has decreased massively over the past few years and the problem is continuing to decrease. There has been an operation in the area over the past 3 months which is why the figures are higher than normal.

TG asked if offenders can be named and shamed in the papers?

SCT - last time this was done it did not result in the desired effect so this practice is currently being reassessed.

AT - Vouched for how bad the situation used to be and that the current situation is much better.

TG - Flytipping was getting better but there was a mess outside the car part outside the Gateway centre

AOB

ZM- AGM on Wednesday at AGYCC after the SCT meeting at 6:30. There would be food on offer.

Steve Summers was now finished his work at CASPAR+ and ZM wanted to extend the thanks of the Forum for all his work.

TC - The next meeting regarding parking at St George's School was to be on 17th September. The official complaint had been dropped. Work was still continuing.

SR - Were there any more plans regarding the Royal Mail sorting office site?

TC - Nothing that he knew of

TG - asked what the street cleansing rota was for the area

TC - Rota available on line

*ACTION - ZM to find this out and report back to the Forum

Date of Next Meeting

8th October

Meeting closed at 20:35pm