

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting

September 10th 2008

Present: , Ally Dunn, Ann Timson, Al Melton, Stephen Welyczko, Pam Thompson, Jack Thompson, Brian Crutchley, Rob Chadwick, Trevor Gordon, Daphne Barritt, Steven Richards, Andy Langton, Gemma Craigie, Jonathan Sathall

Apologies: Cllr Tony Clarke, Cllr Tess Scott, Zoe Martin, Jen Kenny, Michelle Aveyard, MP Brian Binley, PCSO Sarah Major, PCSO Ray Thorpe

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 Robert Chadwick

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed though there was to be a correction on page 2 changing the name Richard to Stephen.

Matters arising from the last meeting

Actions

1 Semilong sign on Barrack Road – Rob said that he would follow this up in Zoë's absence.

2 Street Cleaning rota for Semilong – Rob said he would follow this up in Zoë's absence.

Andy Langton – Neighbourhood Warden

AL reported that fly-tipping in the area had reduced although there had been a peak in September with all the rented properties being emptied before the students arrive for the start of university. There had been a lot of mattresses and TV sets.

21 cars had been removed from the street for not being correctly taxed.

There had been a big clean up of Victoria Park and local meadow areas with the assistance of the probation service. More work can be done with Probation with clearing up areas that are not managed by the council.

TG reported that there had been some cardboard fly-tipped by the flat caretaker at Adelaide House, this has been there since the 25th September. TG had witnessed

some children trying to set fire to it, so he called the police.

AL said the sometime items reported for collection do get missed by the street care teams.

AM asked if AL could have a word with the caretaker about ensuring that unwanted items are collected ASAP.

Action: AL to talk to caretakers to ensure speedy collection of rubbish.

Steven Richards - AGYCC

SR reported that the kitchen facilities were being refurbished and this should be completed in a couple of weeks. Funding has been secured to have a resident cook for the next 12 months. SR plans to re-launch the café in the new year.

The funding for the Ryso printer has been paid and should be installed in the next couple of weeks. Training will be planned so that a handful of people will be able to operate it.

SR suggested that we may like to apply for funding for a folding machine and additional colour drums for the printer. A Caspar+ funding application would have to be submitted by 31st October for the next round of funding in November. Also WNDC stronger communities also have some money.

The lease for the centre has been signed and could be back from NBC in a week.

SR would then look to apply for charity status and plans to celebrate this event with SCF. SR thanked Tess Scott for all her help in organizing the lease.

The NISG have regular dinner event which are well attended. They are now holding these events over 2 days to accommodate the 80+ attendee that they have. SR suggested that we write to NISG formally inviting them to our future meetings

Action: SR to provide SCF with details of how to gain funding for the additional printing items.

Action: RC to liaise with SBRA and Tony Barritt regarding a joint funding application for the additional printing items.

Action: BC to write to NISG inviting them to our meetings.

Finance

OUT - £16.47 for information boards and a toy windmill for the Community Fun-day event stall.

New balance = £522.76 with £3.53 cash in hand.

Urban

BC reported that the planning application for 81 Semilong Road appeared to be on hold, but had not been approved.

SR commented on the recycling banks at Alliston Gardens. He had noticed that they are used from early in the morning till late at night and this must cause distress to those who live next to them. Some suggestions were made about how this noise could be limited and it was agreed that AL would look at getting signs placed on the banks asking residents not to use them at unsociable hours.

TG raised the issue of the hedge height around the flats. Probation would not be able to do this work as it is budgeted by NBC.

TG said that he could do it himself but there would be too much waste to take away. Scheduled maintenance of the hedges is due in November. TG would like to plant additional shrubs but was worried that the council would dig these up during the

annual maintenance. AL suggested TG contact Paul Chambers at NBC to discuss his plans. Tony Clarke was not present to comment on any progress he could have made on asking about the money tenants spend on their maintenance.

TG said that he had had 12 residents interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the area. There had been an article in the Chronicle and Echo the day before and TG had 2 further inquires.

Action: AL to get notices put on the recycling banks asking users not to use them at unsociable hours.

Environment Green

RC handed out the Executive Summaries of the FoNR Healthy Living Hub master plan consultation. (See Appendix A). NO one had any comments to make at this time.

Jonathan Sathall introduced himself as the new Green Warden for Victoria Park, the Meadows and the multi-use Games Area on Semilong Road. His role is to assist the community in making better use of the areas.

RC mentioned that Zoe Martin has been interested at having a Yule event in December at Millers Meadow.

AT asked if JS would also be looking after the Memorial Garden on Grafton Street. JS said that he would look into replacing the plaque that has been missing for several years. AL suggested JS speak to Ted Cotton who lives at the top of Lower Priory Street as he was a local who has lived in the area for many years and may know about the garden. Kate Wills from the Heritage Hunters group at AGYCC may also be able to provide him with information. RC said it would be great if it could be rededicated.

Action: BC to put Zoe in contact with Jonathan regarding the Yule event.

Action: JS to gather information about the memorial garden.

Health

Though Michelle was absent she had sent some information to BC who read this out. Details included in Appendix B

Communication

BC had asked NBC about the recycling calendar for 2009 so that it could be included in the Semilong Handbook and put in our noticeboards. NBC has not yet decided on what it will be doing yet but was promised that they would be looking at it in the next couple of weeks. RC pointed out that NBC are planning to start collecting glass and food waste in the new year.

Crime

No police representative was available to give any specific details this month. AL said that PCSO Sarah Major would be joining the police as a PC in the near future and that PC Mike Childs would be taking a year off from the new year.

AM asked if anyone knew why Millers Meadow had been cordoned off at the weekend. No-one knew why and only rumors were reported.

TG asked about the swartwater scheme as he had asked if he could be included in the scheme. PCSO Ray Thorpe was dealing with this scheme.

Future police surgeries at AGYCC are:

Thursday 16 October at **Spring Boroughs Community Cafe** from 12pm to 2pm

Monday 20 October at **Leicester Terrace Healthcare Centre** from 6pm to 8pm

Thursday 6 November at **Alliston Gardens Community Centre** from 3pm to 5pm

Wednesday 19 November at **Spring Boroughs Community Cafe** from 12pm to 2pm

Tuesday 2 December at **Alliston Gardens Community Centre** from 7pm to 9pm

AOB

TG asked if there was any news on Pot Holes.

PT said that some had been filled in near where she lives.

SR said that the Octagon Residents group in the Mounts had been asked what their top ten priorities were for highways issues and he hoped that we could also be involved in this consultation.

AL said that Lindsey Robinson from the Probation Service would probably like to talk to SCF about future projects for the area

BC said that we could look at getting some more bulbs planted in the neighbourhood if we could get some funding to buy some more, a joint application could be made with SBRA.

Action: SR to pass on details about the Highways consultation to SCF.

Date of Next Meeting

12th November

Meeting closed at 21:10pm

Appendix A

Racecourse Consultation results summary - 5 Aug 2008

Priority Level	Proposal	% of respondents felt the idea was good or Average	% felt the idea was poor	Priorities
Very High				
	Safety in the Park, lighting , increased rangers	94	6	1
	Park Furniture increased	93	7	2
High				
	Play Facilities for Younger Children	88	12	3
	A community Amenities Hub at the Pavilion	87	13	4
	Central Valley, meadow growth	84	16	5
	Facilities for older children	80	20	6
	Barrack Road Toilet Block, establish a seasonal kiosk and ranger station	80	20	7
Medium				
	A community Amenities Hubs at the Pavilion and Central Hub	73	27	8
	Signage and interpretation	72	28	9
	Barrack Road Toilet Block, establish changing rooms	70	30	10
	Improved Entrances to the Park	66	34	11
	New Car Parking Provision	65	35	12
	Central Valley, meandering desire line footpath and creative play	64	36	13
Low				
	Routes through the Park, permanent footpaths	60	40	14
	A community Amenities Hub at the Central Hub	56	44	15
	Barrack Road Toilet Block Demolish and Landscape	58	42	16
	Artwork and Feature Structures	51	49	17

Appendix B

Training available for Health walk leads as per below

Dear All,

Myself and Jo Newberry are organising another volunteer walk leader training course. We are looking for volunteers or paid officers who will be leading walks for community groups or workplaces within the County. The training is recognised by the British Heart Foundation National Centre for Physical Activity and Health and is endorsed within the framework of the Register of Exercise Professionals.

The course consists of:

- What is Walking the Way to Health Initiative - background information
- Why Walking? And the benefits of physical activity.
- Current recommendations and common illnesses
- Route Planning and risk assessing
- Leading walks and qualities of a walk leader
- Insurance and what next?

Once you have completed the training then you will be issued with a certificate and will be a qualified walk leader - we will then look to support you in either setting up a new walk or volunteering to assist with an existing walk. We do like to ensure that the training is used though!

Details of the Course:

Date: Tuesday 4th November

Time: 10am-3pm

Location: Alliston Gardens Youth & Community Centre - Café, Adelaide St, Semilong, Northampton, NN2 6AR

Cost: FREE

Lunch will not be provided so please bring a packed lunch - we will however provide tea, coffee and juice with healthy snacks throughout the day

What you need: Flat shoes as we will be going on a short walk

Maximum number of places: 15

Please e-mail either myself Katie.melia@northampton.ac.uk or Joannenewberry@kettering.gov.uk to register your interest and we will send you confirmation of the course.

Many thanks

Katie Melia

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