

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting

November 12th 2008

Present: Zoe Martin, Pam Thompson, Jack Thompson, Brian Crutchley, Rob Chadwick, Daphne Barritt, Steven Richards, Andy Langton, Gemma Craigie, Jonathan Southall, Sgt. Louise Simpson, PCSO Nikki Brooks, PCSO Marie Cocker, Lucy Liesowic, Benedict Shorland, Fr Anthony McGowan, Ruth Pott-Negrine

Apologies: Ann Timson, Jen Kenny, Michelle Aveyard, MP Brian Binley, Carol Wheat NISG

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

NISG – Northampton Irish Support Group

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

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising from the last meeting

Actions from last meeting

1. AL had spoken to the caretakers about rubbish being left outside the flats.
- 2 The joint application for further printing materials for the Castle Community Press has not progressed. SR was waiting for the correct application form from CASPAR.
- 3 BC had sent a letter to the NISG inviting them to attend our meetings.
4. BC had put Zoe Martin in contact with Jonatham Southall
- 5 JS had not been able to find any information about the Memorial Garden from the library, he has yet to speak to Ted Cotton or Kate Wills.
- 6 Information about the Highways survey had been acted upon and the results sent to CASPAR

Andy Langton – Neighbourhood Warden

AL said that a clean up of the area next to the MUGA is planned for the near future.

3 untaxed cars have been removed from the streets along with 2 cars under the ELVIS scheme.

Probation will be working to remove shrubs around the Bailif Street area.

Action: No Actions.

Lucy Liesowic – Youth Worker Road Safety Mural

Lucy had spoken to local residents who said that they were against having the mural opposite their homes. The ideal location would have been on St Georges Street next to the school entrance but this wall was listed so could not be used. At this time the mural would not be going ahead and the money would be used elsewhere.

Steven Richards - AGYCC

SR said that the Christmas dinner was being held on the 12th December. There are 50 seats and this is almost completely booked up. On the 19th December the centre will be open but there will be no Community Café that day, though refreshments will be provided.

Action: No Actions

Finance

Stephen was not present to give any information. Previous records show that there is £522.76 in the account with £3.53 cash in hand.

Urban

Following actions from previous minutes Rob reported that he had contacted NCC regarding the Semilong sign on Barrack road. Initially he had reported it to Street Doctor and had noticed that the job had been marked as complete but no sign had been replaced. When taking this up with NCC he was told that ‘... we are considering the signage. We have to take into account our budget for such works but a decision will be made by end of December.’

Rob will chase this up again at the end of the year if there is no result.

RC also contacted NBC regarding the street cleaning rota for Semilong. Mick Tyrrell – Team leader – Streets and Environment said ‘I am quite happy for the community to identify priorities with regards to street cleansing as I would rather focus my limited resources on those areas that need more frequent cleaning.’

Rob replied that he would raise this at the forum meeting. Zoe and Brian said they would do a street survey on Saturday 15th October to establish which streets needed most attention.

ZM reported that the pot holes that had been reported had not been filled in. BC confirmed that the holes that he had reported had not been filled in either.

Action: BC and ZM to survey the streets around Semilong for quantities of litter to help set the cleansing priorities.

Action: ZM to re-report the pot holes.

Environment Green

ZM said that CASPAR had some money to site a noticeboard on Millers Meadow and asked the meeting where it should be located. The Forum agreed that it should be located near the crossing on St Andrews Road.

PT said that she had some plants and seeds that could be used in the Memorial

Garden. It was agreed that work on the memorial garden could wait till the spring. JS said that the Sensory Garden at the back of the play area on Millers Meadow is in need of some work and asked what we would like done with it. Zoe and Brian agreed to have a look at it when they did their litter survey.

Action: ZM to let CASPAR know where we would like the noticeboard located.

Action: ZM and BC to look at the sensory garden on Saturday during the litter survey and bring some options to the next meeting.

Health

Though Michelle was absent SR said that the projects were going well.

Communication

ZM had been asked if we wanted an article in the Springboard newsletter. ZM volunteered to submit an update to the editor.

Zoe said that we would also have to look at our poster project for the CFC project.

Brian said that submissions for the SBRA newsletter needed to be received by the end of the week. SR said that he would forward something on behalf on the community centre.

Action: ZM to submit article for Springboard.

Crime

Louise Simpson reported that between 1/10 – 4/11 that had been 37 crimes reported. 7 Burglaries, 5 damage to a motor vehicle and 6 drugs offences. Overall crime is down 5% on last year and if the vice figures were not included then it would be 11%down on last year.

There have been 282 Smartwater kits used so far and deployment is going well. There are 600 kits in total.

Pat reported that a scooter was being ridden around the area at high speeds. LS said that they would look out for it.

ZM said that Sam from SWAN had noted that sex workers had been displaced from the managed area and if anyone had any information about where they were operating they were to contact the police so this can be managed.

Future police surgeries at AGYCC are:

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

Date of Next Meeting

10th December

Meeting closed at 20:30pm