

## **Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting**

**December 10th 2008**

**Present:** Zoe Martin, Brian Crutchley, Rob Chadwick, Steven Richards, Michelle Aveyard, Gemma Craigie, PCSO Raymond Thorpe, Benedict Shorland, Ruth Pott-Negrine, Ann Timson, Jen Kenny, Mike Kenny, Trevor Gordon, Stephen Welyczko, Cllr Tess Scott, Cllr Tony Clarke

**Apologies:** MP Brian Binley, Andy Langton, Jonathan Evans-Southall,

### **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.

### **Actions from last meeting**

- 1 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.
2. ZM had noticed that pot holes that had been reported a couple of months ago had now been filled in. BC said that the holes he had reported had not.
3. ZM, BC and RC produced a litter survey of Semilong – They also visited the sensory garden at Miller Meadow.

### **Andy Langton – Neighbourhood Warden**

AL had sent his apologies for this month. There was no update.

**Action:** No Actions.

### **Steven Richards - AGYCC**

SR said that the Christmas dinner was being held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. They will be catering for over 50 people. The centre is open until the 19<sup>th</sup> December and Steven will be on holiday until the 19<sup>th</sup> January.

**Action:** No Actions

### **Finance**

Stephen was apologised for not making the last meeting. Stephen confirmed that our balanced remained at £522.76 in the account with £3.53 cash in hand.

### **Urban**

RC reported the results from the litter survey carried out on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The top 10 streets were:

Semilong Shopping Area, Lower semilong road, Norfolk Street, Arnold Road, Norfolk Terrace, Uppingham Street, Leslie Road, Gordon Street, Baker Street, Harding Terrace

Gemma asked if it would mean other areas would be left out. Rob assured the meeting that the survey was to help set priority areas and that no street would ever be left out of being cleaned. Rob also noted that a lot of litter accumulated at the Semilong Road end, also that there were no condoms or needles spotted proving that the streets have much improved in the past few years.

Though it was noted that it would be hard to gauge how long it had been since they had last been cleaned. It was agreed that we would do another survey in the next 3 months to see if anything had changed.

TG asked if there were any plans to do a litter pick of the area. It was stated that there had been a couple of litter pick in that past 6 years and it would probably be best if this was scheduled for a warmer season.

Tony Clarke talked about a planning application on Semilong Road, saying that he would appose it. He also suggested that the Forum and councilors look to have a co-ordinated approach to commenting on future application. He said that reasons for previous applications refusal were available on the NBC website and this would give good cause against refusal of other application within the same street or area.

**Action:** No Actions

### **Environment Green**

TG said that he still has had no luck with the topiary of the hedges around the flats between Mill Road and Lower Adelaide Street. He had not been able to get a satisfactory response from NBC regarding the cost of the work and its relation to the service charge that he pays each year.

TC said that NBC doesn't break the costs down for the tenants despite them asking in the past. He added that Housing will be looking at the issue and agreed that he felt tenants were not getting value for money. He suggested to TG that he write to ENTACT to take the issue up on his behalf, and then remembered that this group no longer operates.

ZM said that we must discuss the climate friendly communities' money at next months meeting.

During the litter survey ZM, BC and RC had a look at the sensory garden on Millers Meadow. The gardens were in a very poor state considering it had only been installed in the last 12 months. A number of options for its future were suggested.

- 1.Reinstate it
- 2.Take the planters away and or relocate them
- 3.Leave the planters and turf or pave them

4. Allow the local school to adopt them
5. Install some exercise stations

MA suggested that we look for funding and should contact Tony Spizick at NBC  
GC said that JS had informed her that the sign at the play area at Millers Meadow will be changed stating where the nearest phone box is.

**Action:** Brian to contact Tony Spizick at NBC regarding the Play Builder funding options

### **Health**

Michelle said that the project had been running for 12 months now and 128 local residents had attended the programs on offer.  
Walkie-talkies had been provided for the walking group and indoor curling equipment had been purchased.  
MA said that if SCF wanted to hold an event then she would be happy to attend to promote the health services available.

### **Communication**

BC said that the Handbook would be ready for printing by the New Year.  
SW asked if the CASPAR website could be updated to include details about SCF.  
GC said that she was the contact to have any additions added to the website.  
The website address is [www.castlecaspar.org.uk](http://www.castlecaspar.org.uk)

GC thanked everyone who helped with the delivery of the Springboard newsletters around the Semilong area.

**Action:** No Actions.

### **Crime**

Raymond said that he had not brought any statistics with him but could confirm that there were no outstanding issues in that area at this time.  
285 smart-water kits had been deployed in the area.  
The head of Castle Primary School had done a survey of properties and businesses along St Georges Street regarding the parking problems but had only 4 replies so far. A follow-up survey will be done in the new year which the police hope will gather more responses.  
Police surgeries at Alliston Gardens and Leicester Terrace community centers will continue to take place throughout next year – see the police website for details.

### **AOB**

Tony Clarke said that there was currently a consultation on the Kingsley Conservation Area which was currently being displayed at Cliftonville. He had asked if the display could be moved to somewhere more local to residents of Semilong and hopes that it will be located at Northampton University's avenue campus.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

14th January 2009

Meeting closed at 20:40pm