

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

**January 14 2009**

**Present:** Zoe Martin, Brian Crutchley, Rob Chadwick, Steven Richards, Ruth Pott-Negrine, Ann Timson, Jen Kenny, Mike Kenny, Trevor Gordon, Stephen Welyczko, Jonathan Evans-Southall, PCSO Raymond Thorpe, PCSO Nikki Brooks, PCSO Marie Cocker, PC James Norden, Alastair Melton

**Apologies:** MP Brian Binley, Andy Langton, Cllr Tony Clarke, Cllr Tess Scott, Michelle Aveyard, Gemma Craigie

### **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, except for the agreed time for the next litter count. It had been agreed that one would take place in the next 3 months, not in the next month.

Action BC to amend last months minutes.

### **Actions from last meeting**

1 BC had contacted NBC regarding the PlayBuilder scheme but had not yet received any information. JE-S said the details would be available soon but it was anticipated that funding criteria would probably be similar to last year.

**Action:** BC to email a list of the pot hole he reported to ZM

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

AL was unable to attend this month due to late working.

**Action:** No

### **Steven Richards - AGYCC**

Prior to Christmas, SR had met with the deputy leader of NBC and talked at length with him about the future of community centres in the town.

Since the New Year NBC has been consulting on its budget for the next 12 months

and there are plans to save £190k from community centres. SR was concerned what this actually meant as there was no detail about how this money would be saved. SR felt that if £10k had to be saved from the centre then he feels he may be the first to go.

**Action:** No Actions

### **Finance**

Since the last meeting £93.08 was spent on an advert in the Chon asking for tenders to complete the HIMO survey. Stephen confirmed that our new balanced was £429.68 in the account with £3.53 cash in hand.

The 20<sup>th</sup> January is the deadline for the tenders.

### **Urban**

RC reported that the street cleaning manager was appreciative of our litter count and willing to support us on the next survey.

TG reported that there was a lot of litter appearing in front of the old sorting office on Barrack Road due to the number of people sleeping rough there and asked if anything could be done.

ZM suggested that maybe Andy Langton could arrange for the litter to be removed.

TG asked if the Police have any powers to move people on.

PCSO MC said that the dispersal order for that area finished in November 2008.

TG asked the police if they could move them on.

PC JN said that only if they were causing a nuisance and it was easier if they were left be.

ZM suggested that the litter problem could be reported to street cleaning.

PT said that the pot holes on Lower Adelaide Street and been filled in, but then the holes had appeared again as if they had been dug up.

ZM said that she would report the pot hole again.

TG said that there was also a lot of litter appearing in front of the sub station next to the co-op.

ZM said that RC usually reported it a couple of times a year.

TG said that there was a lot of litter on Harding Terrace.

ZM said a lot of fly-tipping had been seen on this street during the litter count survey.

AM asked if Central Networks could be asked to look at clearing the sub station every couple of months?

RC said he would suggest it to them.

RP-N said that double parking had been an issue on the said streets just off St Andrews Road

PC JN said that they do regularly patrol the area and do take double parking seriously.

TG said that he had spotted some graffiti appearing on the school wall on St Georges Street and on the Gateway Resource Centre sign.

BC asked if he had reported it to NBC

TG said that he had.

PCSO – MC said that she had reported it also.

AM asked if there were any plans for the roads to be resurfaced?

ZM said that NCC were not planning to resurface our roads in the near future.

RP-N stated that NCC had a huge backlog of work to be carried out across the county.

ZM suggested that any specific issues were reported to the street doctor in the first instance.

TG said that he had difficulty in getting bulky items collected by NBC. He had requested a number of items to be collected by email. After a couple of weeks he called and there was no record of his email and they could not find his address by the postcode. They said they would call back, after 2-3 days TG called them again and eventually got the items collected. But he felt this level of service would encourage people to fly-tip.

**Action:**

RC to contact Central Networks and ask if they could schedule cleaning the sub station on Semilong road every 2 months

**Environment Green**

ZM said that after a CFC meeting it was decided that we would do our own poster campaign with a number of poster designs that could be cycled throughout the year. The posters would be based on the themes of recycling, insulation, energy conservation, etc.

We also looked at organising a table top sale in conjunction with Castle Primary School. It was suggested such an event should only run for a couple of hours.

JE-S said that for the development of the sensory garden on Millers Meadow we could propose almost anything - even having the plant containers relocating.

JE-S said that a fly-tipping environmental action group was being set up and volunteers were required to put forward ideas.

There is a public meeting and consultation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 7.30pm at Lime Trees Hotel on Barrack Road to discuss the play mounds planned to augment the play equipment located on the racecourse near the Barrack Road. Follow the link for more information:

[http://www.healthylivinghub.org.uk/blog/\\_archives/2009/1/10/4054335.html](http://www.healthylivinghub.org.uk/blog/_archives/2009/1/10/4054335.html)

**Action:**

ZM to arrange another CFC meeting

**Health**

MA was unable to attend but had forwarded some information: this will be put on the Semilong website.

SW said that he had been attending one of the regular sessions and could recommend it.

**Communication**

BC said that he would print the handbook in time for the next meeting.

BC and JK had attended the Bangladeshi celebration just before Christmas to commemorate 37 years of independence and the fact that the Gateway Resource Centre had won an award.

SW said that he had the opportunity to help deliver food parcels before Christmas and he found it a very rewarding experience.

RC asked TG how the Neighbourhood Watch scheme was going. TG said that he already had 23 people interested and that he was holding a meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> Feb at Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre. The Neighbourhood Watch Association and Sgt Louise Simpson and representatives from CASPAR have also been invited. Flyers will be delivered in the near future.

**Action:** No Actions.

### **Crime**

PC JN said that PC Mike Childs was currently taking a year out of the service and he would be replacing him in the Castle Ward –Safer Community Team.

In the past month there had been few crimes – mostly random damage to vehicles. There were still some Smart Water packs available.

Surveys were provided to be filled in, the deadline for which was 16<sup>th</sup> January.

TG asked about the distraction burglaries that he had read about in the Chron.

PC JN said that these had taken place in Daventry and that there currently wasn't an issue in Semilong.

PCSO NB said that she could get hold of some posters.

### **Actions**

PCSO NB to provide distraction burglary posters

### **AOB**

ZM said that we had not had any guests for a while and asked the group if there was anyone they would like to see.

TG said that he would be interested in talking to a representative from the SWAN project.

PT said that she had heard that there were plans to close the Kingsthorpe Housing Office and that this would make it difficult for some people to pay their rent.

PT asked if there was any news on the 'Semilong Only' sign on Barrack Road.

RC said that he would follow this up and thank you for reminding him.

### **Actions**

RC to chase NCC regarding 'Semilong Only' sign

### **Date of Next Meeting**

11th February 2009

Meeting closed at 21:00pm