

**Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting
October 10th 2007**

Present: Ann Timson, Ally Dunn, Andy Langton, Daphne Barritt, Steven Welyczko, Tess Scott, Pam Thompson, Caroline Humphries, Robert Briggs, Brian Crutchly, Stephen Richards, Tony Clarke, Peter Slack, Mike Childs, John Moffat, Alastair Melton

Apologies: Jack Thompson, Zoe Martin, Wendy Howes, Jen Kenny, Friends of the Racecourse

Abbreviations Used:

SCF - Semilong Community Forum
NBC – Northampton Borough Council
NCC – Northamptonshire County Council
AGYCC – Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre
MUGA-Multi use games area (at the bottom of Semilong Road)
WDNC-West Northamptonshire Development Corporation
PCSO- Police community support officer
FOR -Friends of the Racecourse

The meeting opened at 7.36pm and was chaired by Rob Chadwick

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising from the last meeting

Actions

Rob to circulate the plans for the Safer Routes to School when available. Rob said that these were not significant apart from the 20mph speed limit and the discussions about barriers

Brian explained how the newsletter was finally printed and distributed after problems the previous month. The letters were printed and distributed in time for the AGM

Further actions outstanding from previous minutes

No outstanding actions

<p>Guest Speaker F.O.R sent apologies that they couldn't attend. They did however, ask if they could come back to next month's meeting instead. It was agreed that they could attend.</p>
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<p><i>Actions</i> No Actions</p>

<p>Neighbourhood Warden Andy Langton</p>

<p>Andy reported that a clearance on Quorn way has started at a cost of 20k by CASPAR+. The second phase of the Millers Meadow development was starting with another consultation. Ideas including a sensory garden, fishing platforms, improved lighting and 2 grand entrances were likely. additional planting of bushes was mentioned and questions were raised as to the safety of adding more cover. Remaining tree stumps were being ground down. Section 46 notices were due to be issued for the early dumping of bin bags on October 22nd. PS asked if the notices would be issued in more languages than just English? AL confirmed that they would be issued in several languages and there would also be a Q and A sheet with the notices. AT noted that there were still areas of the park that were very dark. Which areas were going to be lit?</p>
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Also the trees along St Andrews Road needed the bottoms trimming back. AL explained that the proposals regarding lighting were still being drafted. Re - trees - this would be addressed PT asked what the regulations were regarding length of time roadworks could remain open. AL did not know. It was suggested that Street Doctor would be the best place to go to find out the regulations.

Actions No actions

Events

No update apart from that the AGM had happened and that it had been quick and efficient. SCF thanked AGYCC for their hospitality.

Actions No Actions

A.G.Y.C.C

SR reported that lead had been stolen from the roof of the centre 3 times over the past month. The Council were going to replace it with a lead substitute. There had been no water damage despite recent heavy rain.

The cafe was picking up.

Health Walks had started departing from the centre on Thursdays but so far had not been well attended.

Treasurers update Steven reported that the balance was £443.73 £70 was still missing from CASPAR+ but an invoice had been sent so payment should be forthcoming shortly BC added that we were still waiting for a bill for the printing costs of the newsletter

RC asked if people were happy with how the balance stood. Its was discussed that some of the money could go towards a printer. SR suggested that it could stay at AGYCC to be used by various community groups to use at cost. TC noted that there may be grant money available from Community Chest Fund or CASPAR+ for the purchase of the printer if it was for general community use

ACTION POINT

SR offered to ask local groups if they would be interested in using/having a printer at AGYCC. SR Also offered to bring a list of prices for various models to the next meeting.

Environment Green

RC passed around the latest update on the re-development of Millers Meadow and Victoria Park. RC asked if people had been happy with the previous phase' consultation process BC suggested that some of the consultaiton should be done at the park. AD added that the CO-OP might also be a good venue to hold a consultation and that inclusion in the Semilong newsletter would also be useful PS asked if a sensory garden would be a good idea and although it was agreed that this would be a useful tool for children and some adults BC voiced concerns over a budget remaining to maintain it after the development money had been spent PS noted that park signs and entrances had been omitted from the planning notes. BC noted the absence of art installations which had been in the original list of proposals an questioned the use of lighting which had been reconsidered AD also noted the absence of cycle signs linking Brampton Valley way and Sustrans routes to station TC Drew attention to the fact that not all suggestions would materialise as they had to be prioritised

Actions RC to draw up a list of priorities to give to the consultation

Environment Urban RC asked for an update on the flats proposal at the back of castle Primary school TC suggested that it was a case of overdevelopment and that the developers were probably starting with a large number of flats with a view to reduce the number as objections arose. Flats would be too numerous and over-look houses and playground

TC also noted that with a growing Muslim population in the town, parking needed for the mosque would continue to be a problem at peak times. The Council was at the start of a long process to see about building a purpose built Mosque for the Muslim community in the town. TC also noted that individuals could lodge objections to the development but stated that councillors were already against the proposals and would fight the current plans as they stood. Next update would be best in 6 months time.

Actions None

Communication

The newsletter went out eventually after considerable printing problems. 2000 copies were printed and delivered. BC also noted that the website needed updated and requested some help with this. SW offered to help

Actions None

Crime

MC One Man had been banned from Semilong for curb crawling and that there had been more coverage of this in the media

One nuisance neighbour was due in court and should be given an ASBO

Some problem kids at the bottom of St Andrew's road near Aldi/Kingsthorpe Hollow were being dealt with and the situation was improving.

PT noted that car vandalism was increasing especially to car mirrors and paintwork.

MC said he would look into an incident reported by PT

BC stated that the Youth Worker had been awarded £700 which had come from the curb crawlers fine system - Change Course.

SR noted that the police surgery at AGYCC had not been well attended and asked for suggestions

PS asked if students were being updated at the university

MC explained that both Bosworth College and Northampton University students had been addressed by the police.

AOB AT wanted to raise awareness of the new bus pass mailing for senior citizens. Passes for disabled people must be applied for every 5 years instead of every year as in previous years. All people entitled to a free bus pass would be sent the letter by mid November.

TC passed around the Central Area Action Plan outlining how the Northampton central gateways (rail and bus stations, main roads) should be marked. TC noted that money had been earmarked for a needle at the rail station at a cost of 375K SR noted that Service 6 (the new youth service provider on behalf of the council) were pulling out of AGYCC due to lack of response.

The next meeting is on 7th November 2007 at the BBOB Rugby Club on St. Andrews Road at 7.30 – 9.30pm

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date

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