

## **Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting November 14<sup>h</sup> 2007**

**Present:** Ron Frater (PC), Sarah Major (PCSO), Deborah Wright, Naomi Buckart(PCSO), Ann Timson, Jack Thompson, Zoe Martin, Daphne Barritt, Steven Welyczko, Tess Scott, Pam Thompson, Caroline Humphries, Robert Briggs, Brian Crutchley, Robert Chadwick, Stephen Richards, James Ogle (NBC), Steve Summers (Caspar + NR), Ruth Pott-Nugune (Chron), Peter Slack , Michelle Aveyard, Karen Fruish,

**Apologies:** Ally Dunn, Alastair Melton, Tony Clarke, Andy Langton, Wendy Howes, Jen Kenny

### **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 7.40pm and was chaired by Zoe Martin**

**The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.**

### **Matters arising from the last meeting**

#### **Actions**

Steven Richards was putting a proposal together to bid for funding for a community printer – this is pending

RC to draw up a list of priorities to give to the consultation – This is complete

### **Other actions outstanding from previous minutes**

No outstanding actions

#### Guest Speaker (1)

James Ogle from NBC attended to present details of proposed improvements to the green spaces that were improved with hard landscaping earlier in the year. These include Millers Meadow, Victoria Park and Foot Meadow.

The additions to Millers Meadow currently under consultation with the public includes

- Sensory park
- Human Sundial
- Fishing decks
- Swamp underneath the arches (to deter anti-social behaviour)
- Bulb planting
- Roses along the footpath
- Improved lighting
- Additional lighting
- Bat boxes

The forum was invited to fill in a consultation form – if they had not already done so. The consultation period ends on the 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**Guest Speaker (2)**

Deb Wright from Lancara who have been working on a master plan for the future development of the Racecourse for Friends of Northampton Racecourse (FoNR). She presented a short presentation. The master plan is scheduled to be completed for January 2008

Jack Thompson said that he felt that there was not enough parking available at the racecourse. Zoe asked about the current buildings; Steve Summers said that they would all stay and that there is a plan to put new entrances with interpretation boards, these may feature as modern art that can be interacted with (These are planed to be completed by the end of March).

Steven Richards suggested that the Victorian toilets at the Barrack Road entrance could be extended and a kiosk built there which would mean that the toilets could be managed.

Zoe said that she didn't want the Semilong end of the racecourse to become the poor cousin to the Pavilion.

Peter Slack said that the Bat and Wickets pub could open their garden up to the park which might increase usage of the park.

Steve Summer said that the WNDC had said that they liked what they had seen so far and the master plan would help for FoNR to apply for Funding

Michelle Aveyard was working to make people more active and there is currently an organized walk every Thursday morning leaving from Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

*Actions* No Actions

**Neighbourhood Warden - Andy Langton**

Andy Langton was not present this month but Rob said that the issue of Section 46's was under review due to a legal matter.

**Actions:** No actions

**Events**

There are no Events planned at the moment. Steve Summers reported that there was an open event at Spring Lane School on the 1<sup>st</sup> December from 10am to encourage local residents to get involved with their community.

Zoe said that there were a number of courses available in Spring Boroughs and provided a few posters that she had received.

**Actions:** No Actions

**A.G.Y.C.C**

Steven Richards reported that the centers schedule was very full. The Northampton Irish Support Group were now holding a session on Tuesdays from 10am – 2pm with various events including a café.

Service 6 – a drop in event providing health information and advice for youth people – would be canceling their sessions there due to the lack of take up. Rob commented that

a drop in centre would be better served if it was away from the local community to provide some animosity for its users.

No Actions.

**Treasurers update** Steven reported that the balance was £443.73

Steven asked that any cheques that are received are forwarded to him as soon as possible.

No Actions

### **Environment Green**

There was no further green issues to add to the items discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

**Actions** No Actions

### **Environment Urban**

Zoe had attended a meeting to look at the problem of double parking and the amount of traffic on St Georges Street when the school closes. Some of the problems may be caused by town centre workers parking there in the morning. The suggestion of 2 hour parking bays restricting the time limit of parking was favoured by the forum.

There will be a follow up meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

The suggestion of removing one of the barriers on Harding Terrace was not popular.

**Actions** None

### **Communication**

Steven and Brian arranged a date a time to meet to talk about development of the website

**Actions** Brian and Steven to meet.

### **Crime**

Naomi and Sarah reported that crime is continuing to go down in the Castle Ward. 70 people had been surveyed in the past month and the main issues that were rising were litter, graffiti or that there were no problems.

### **AOB**

Pam Thompson had heard that the owner of the property on Semilong Road was considering opening a takeaway and was concerned that this would generate considerable amounts of rubbish in the street. Brian suggested that this would be a 'change of use' and a planning issue. Nothing had been seen on the councils website or nothing had come through the post so we would wait to see if this happens before taking any action.

Pam also raise a health and safety issue with an overflow hat was leaking from a property on Semilong Road – especially as the days were getting colder and a risk of ice forming. It was suggested that this was reported to Environmental Health and NBC.

Jack informed the group that work on the old vegetable wholesalers to build homes had

