

# East Cluster Community Meetings Newsletter – April 2011

## Last Community Meeting:

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011
- 6pm – 8pm
- Liden Primary School, Liden Drive



Welcome to the newsletter –

The meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> was well attended, with over 50 people turning up. The event was very well received, and we are hoping for even more people at our next meeting in May!

The meeting was chaired by Mark Hopkins, East Cluster Locality Director for Swindon Borough Council, with help from Cllrs Rod Bluh, Kevin Parry, Peter Mallinson, Steve Allsopp, Mark Dempsey, and Cluster Chair Mavis Childs.

We are looking for members of the community to help chair future meetings, so if you are interested, please let us know using the contacts section at the end.



We will be holding a number of these public meetings this year throughout the East Cluster. The East Cluster is made up of the wards of Walcot, Parks and Dorcan, as shown in the map above.

As part of what was Connecting People, Connecting Places, and is now OneSwindon, we are giving the public the opportunity to voice their concerns openly with the councillors and other residents of their local area.

We feel that this form of discussion will create an open environment where people will feel comfortable, and know that their opinions and issues are being heard and dealt with.



Over the next few pages, there will be a brief summary of the topics discussed on the night and where the council is going to take it from here. There are also more detailed summaries of the presentations given on the night by Inspector Nick John, East Sector Commander on the police work in the East Cluster, Richard Palusinski of the Swindon Community Safety Partnership on Street Watch, and Paul Davis of the Governor Support team on becoming a school governor.

# Points of Discussion

## Key Issues

- Anti-Social Behaviour; Drink, Drugs, Intimidating, Ball Games, Abuse
- Car parking
  - Lack of car parking spaces
  - NHS personnel parking in Liden and walking over to hospital
  - Use of verges & gardens
- Deliveries to Tesco Express, Liden
  - Lorries breaking kerbstones
  - Deliveries too early in morning
- Dogs
  - Fouling
  - Dangerous/ uncontrolled dogs
- Encourage sense of community and responsibility
  - Lack of community spirit
  - People need to start taking responsibility for their area
  - Low aspirations and self-esteem
  - Bad appearance of front gardens – lack of pride
- Litter, glass and dumping
  - Businesses not picking up their litter e.g chip shops and chip shop wrappers

## Other Issues

- A lot of children unsupervised a lot of the time
- Cavendish Square regeneration – phase 3 space
- Children's play-workers needed
- Council not maintaining the green spaces for the community
- Dry zone – not entirely enforced – small signs (Cavendish Square)
- Engaging with the community
- Getting hold of estate management
- Graffiti and not being removed
- Housing issues – support for people who live in maisonettes
- Lack of facilities/ refurbishment of existing areas
- Lack of neighbourhood watch
- Lack of respect from some tenants
- More visibility of community police
- Motorbikes on paths and late at night
- Promises from the council not being kept
- Reuben George Hall – not used
- Richard Jeffries Adventure Park & not enough play areas
- Rubbish left out on the wrong day
- Vandalism – children's play parks defaced and sabotaged

## Information Stalls

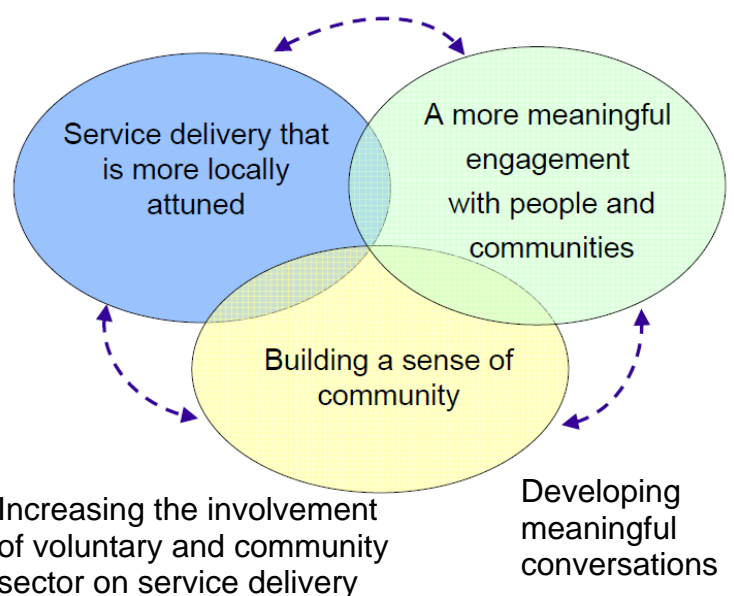
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Health Ambassadors Stop Smoking Service
- Governor Services
- Police Technology Demonstrations
- Community Safety Partnership

## Future Actions

We are currently moving forward with a number of issues brought up and discussed at the meeting, on which we will be able to go into more detail at the next meeting in Eldene and the subsequent newsletter.

If you have any suggestions for things you'd like to see in future editions of the newsletter or have any comments about it in general, please contact Tom Robson at [TRobson2@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:TRobson2@swindon.gov.uk)

Local communities increasingly involved in setting and delivering priorities



# Presentations

## Police Update

A brief presentation was given by the Sector Commander regarding the local police teams for the East Cluster and the action and initiatives that have been ongoing in the last 6 months. Discussions were held around the current crime trends, warning local residents against the rise in non-dwelling burglary and car crime. An explanation of the new social networking sites; Facebook and Twitter was given and encouragement to all local residents with internet access to become followers and interact with the local police. It was also highlighted that without community engagement and local residents telling the police what the problems are we cannot react. A presentation of the latest technology being used was given showing how the Head Cameras assist the local police in managing and detecting crime.

## Street Watch

Street Watch is coming to Swindon. It was originally developed in Hampshire in response to fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and a desire to encourage communities to become stronger within themselves. The purpose of Street Watch is to:

- a) prevent crime and disorder by increasing visibility and maintaining a caring and cohesive community.
- b) assist the police by promoting effective communication and the prompt reporting of activity.
- c) increase feelings of safety by providing reassurance and promoting good citizenship.

Street Watch uses pairs or small groups of local residents to walk around their own area and engage people in conversation, particularly focussing on groups of young people. It is non-confrontational in approach. Street Watch builds up relationships within the community so that views can be understood and common standards set through visibility, education, information, positive engagement, advice and reassurance.

Street Watch is starting in Park South and you will soon see people walking around your area in bright yellow waistcoats. If you would like to be a part of this initiative, drop us an email at [CSPadmin@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:CSPadmin@swindon.gov.uk) or telephone Swindon 466506.

## Become a School Governor

With vacancies on governing bodies across the East Cluster, this could be your chance to make a real difference to a local school.

Governors are collectively responsible for the strategic management of a school and therefore crucial in ensuring progression and planning for the school's future. Meeting on average around once or twice a month, the governing body acts as a critical friend to the Headteacher, oversees the budget, and is also responsible for appointing senior members of staff. It's a challenging and varied role, but is not without substantial benefits for the volunteer.

Governance is a good opportunity for personal development - volunteers can be certain of developing new skills and gaining a broad knowledge of areas such as HR, finance and of course, the education system. The Local Authority also provides a comprehensive training package to schools, so there is plenty of opportunity to make the most of the role.

More than this though, school governance is a chance to meet new people in your local community, and make a substantial difference to the lives of local children. No specialist knowledge is required, and you do not have to be a parent. Anybody over the age of 18 can become a school governor – all that is required is the time to attend 1 or 2 meetings a month, and the desire to make a real difference.

If you would like to register an interest in becoming a school governor please contact:

**Paul Davis – Governor Support Officer**  
**01793 463875 or [pdavis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:pdavis@swindon.gov.uk)**

# Future East Cluster Community Meetings:

Date	Time	Location
25 May 2011	4-6pm	Eldene Primary School
19 July 2011	6-8pm	Park South Community Centre
19 September 2011	6-8pm	Walcot Dome
23 November 2011	6-8pm	Dorcan Technology College

Thank you for reading. We hope you enjoyed it, and look forward to seeing you at a future community meeting!



## Contacts:

For more information, or if you would like to discuss a specific issue at a future community meeting, please contact one of;

- Your local Ward Councillor
- Cllr Mavis Childs, East Cluster Chair  
Tel: 01793 815170      Email: mavis284@btinternet.com
- Mark Hopkins, East Cluster Locality Director  
Tel: 01793 464938      Email: mhopkins@swindon.gov.uk
- Tom Robson, East Cluster Assistant  
Tel: 07795 505828      Email: trobson2@swindon.gov.uk

Please contact these people if you have an issue relating to their department;

- Richard Palusinski, Swindon Community Safety Partnership  
Tel: 01793 466543      Email: rpalusinski@swindon.gov.uk
- Paul Davis, Governor Support Team  
Tel: 01793 463875      Email: pdavis@swindon.gov.uk
- Inspector Nick John, East Sector Commander  
Tel: 0845 408 7000
- Geoff Mann, Area Housing Manager  
Tel: 01793 464445      Email: gmann@swindon.gov.uk