

East Cluster Community Meetings Newsletter – June 2011

Last Community Meeting:

- Wednesday 25th May 2010
- 4pm – 6pm
- Eldene Primary School, Colingsmead



Hello, and welcome to this month's newsletter –

The meeting on 25th May was chaired by Mark Hopkins, East Cluster Locality Director for Swindon Borough Council, and Cllrs Kevin Parry, Fay Howard and Ellen Osa were present.



Key Issues

The major points that came out of the discussions were as follows:

- Redlands Airfield
 - Residents of Liden, Covingham and Nythe being disturbed by low-flying aircraft
- Core Strategy
 - Eastern Villages development area
- Boundary Changes
 - Concerns about the splitting of Liden between two wards
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Litter
 - Respect for the community
 - More enforcement
- Reuben George Hall

Some of these points will be expanded upon over the next couple of pages.

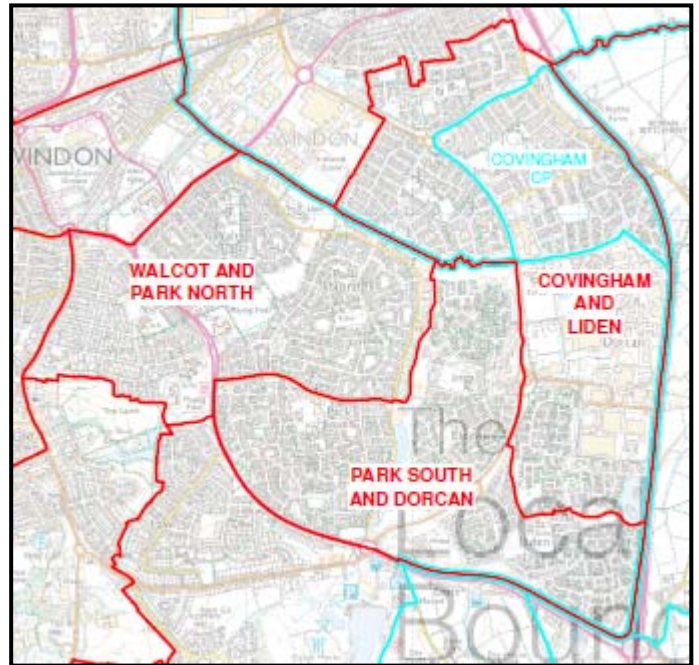
Boundary Changes

One issue that came up repeatedly on the night was that of the ward boundary changes affecting the East Cluster and Swindon as a whole. Under the new arrangement, which will come into force at next year's local elections, the existing Walcot ward will be linked up with Park North, with Park South forming a new ward with Eldene and the south of Liden. The north of Liden and the Dorcan industrial area will be attached to the existing Covingham & Nythe ward, as shown in the diagram overleaf. Unfortunately the deadline for comments on the review has passed, but full details of all the changes borough-wide and comments that have already been received are available online at:

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-west/wiltshire/swindon-electoral-review>

Redlands Airfield

Redlands Airfield is based on the outskirts of Wanborough, a couple of miles from M4 junction 15. Redlands has had planning permission from Swindon Borough Council since 1990 to operate a microlight flying club and school on the grounds. It is also often used for skydiving and parachute jumping. Recently, however, complaints have been received from residents near the airfield of noise from low-flying aircraft disrupting their lives. The planning permission for the airfield is due to undergo a review on 12th July; if you have any opinion/complaint about the airfield, please let your local ward councillor know before then.



Local Development Framework

SBC's planning department were present at the meeting with the draft copy of the Core Strategy, a document detailing the development and future of Swindon over the next 15 years. Included in the plan for the East Cluster are new sporting facilities and improved transport links. Full details are available in the main document, which can be found online at;

<http://www.swindon.gov.uk/corestrategy>

Actions from Previous Meetings

At the meeting in Liden on 02/03/11, the issue was raised concerning deliveries to the local Tesco Express. Deliveries were considered to be too early in the morning, disturbing residents' sleep at the weekend. Additionally, the loading area at the back of the shop is too small for the lorries used, so the kerbstones in the area are being broken and the grass verges torn up. SBC representatives have been in touch with the manager of the store, and have come to an agreement that deliveries will now occur mid-morning. Talks are also ongoing between SBC property services and Tesco HQ regarding the expansion of the loading area. The manager of Tesco Express Liden has asked that residents with further concerns contact him direct in-store. We will update this issue at future meetings and in future newsletters.

Information Stalls

- SBC Planning – Core Strategy
- Health Ambassadors
- SBC Governor Services
- SBC Leisure Services – Spots vs Stripes
- Wiltshire Police
- SBC Housing
- Swindon Community Safety Partnership

Police Update

PC Nick Payne, Beat Manager for Parks & Walcot, gave a presentation on the identity of the East Sector policing team and what initiatives are currently taking place. Crime stats were presented that showed crime in the East Sector was down to 255 incidences between April 2010 and January 2011 from 359 in the same period a year ago. In addition, a graph was presented which showed that anti-social behaviour in the cluster has fallen overall between April 2009 and April 2011, while ASB in other clusters has risen or remained consistent over the same timeframe. This reduction in crime is a result of a mixture of increased patrols and new programmes such as Street Watch.

The new initiatives moving forward presented at the meeting included new investment into the Neighbourhood Tasking Team, the re-launch of the Facebook Group with up to date information, the aforementioned Street Watch scheme, and Operation StaySafe, a new scheme targeting vulnerable youths and tackling anti-social behaviour at night. For more information, please visit;

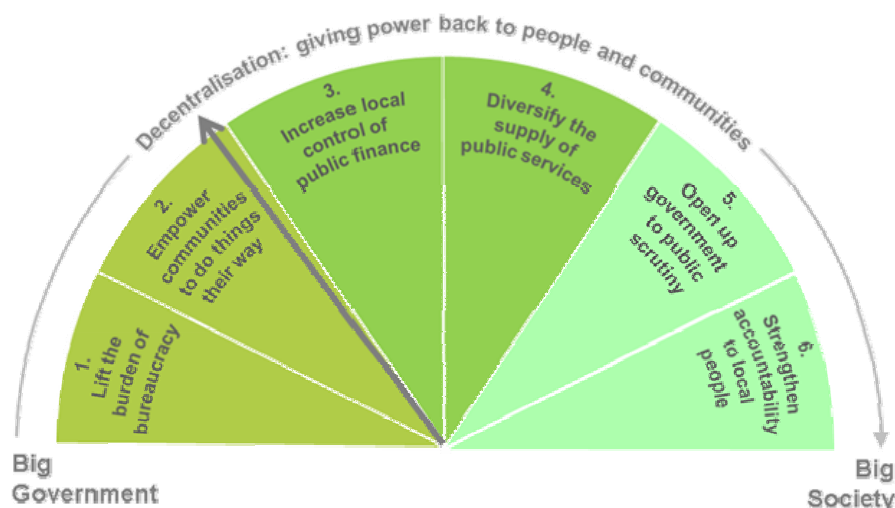
<http://www.wiltshire.police.uk>

Giving More Power to Communities – An Introduction to the Localism Bill

Pam Gough from the Council's Policy team gave a brief introduction to the Localism Bill which has been introduced by the government. The Bill looks at ways in which local people can get more involved in how their local area is run, including in regards to Council services, planning, housing and governance. This is part of the move towards what the Government is calling 'The Big Society'.

Decentralisation and Localism Bill Headlines:

⇒ Six essential actions required through every level of government:



We will be the first government in a generation to leave office with much less power in Whitehall than we started with



The Bill is currently in the House of Lords and so it is early to say how it will be interpreted by communities in Swindon. Measures outlined in the Bill give voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and council officers the right to challenge local authorities to let them run services.

Communities will also be able to bid to buy Council assets when they come up for sale, so local groups will be able to save buildings which are important and valuable to them.

If people feel strongly about a local issue they will be able to hold a vote or referendum. The outcome of the vote will be taken into account when the Council makes decisions.

The Bill also sets out some new ways in which communities can get involved in planning. Community groups can prepare neighbourhood plans which set out how they would like their area to develop and change. Plans would then need to be approved in a local vote.

As the Bill passes through the legal process there will be more chances to discuss what Localism will mean for people living in Swindon and the Council will continue to talk to communities about how we can work together in the future to support positive change in local areas.

Summer & Rural Community Programme

This programme will be taking place throughout the borough over the summer months, with events in the East Cluster taking place at Buckhurst Field on 27th July, and 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th August. The aim of these events is to promote physical activity and the health benefits that come with it for all ages, not just young people. There are 4 target groups; 8-11, 12-17, 18+ and Masters. The Masters group is a toned down event for those who are less physically able. There will also be a crèche available for the under 5's. Activities range from Cycling and Walking for the adult groups to a series of non-contact sports for all 12+ groups, including football, tennis, cricket and basketball.

The objective of this programme is not only to help people get fit, but also to identify volunteers in the community and give them new skills and support so they can be more effective in their role. The event on the 24th August will be supported by the Spots v Stripes programme. Spots v Stripes has been launched by Cadburys in partnership with the Olympic Games to promote fitness and community around the country in preparation for the Games next summer. They will be bringing a series of inflatable games and obstacle courses to Buckhurst field which can be used by people of all ages. If you have any questions, would like any further information, or would like to get involved, please contact Doug Imrie at dimrie@swindon.gov.uk

Future East Cluster Community Meetings:

Date	Time	Location
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;

- Pam Gough, Policy
Tel: 01793 463140 Email: pgough@swindon.gov.uk
- Doug Imrie, Swindon Borough Council Leisure Services
Tel: 01793 465405 Email: dimrie@swindon.gov.uk
- Paul Davis, Governor Support Team
Tel: 01793 463875 Email: pdavis@swindon.gov.uk