

West Swindon Cluster Forum
Minutes of Meeting
11th May 2010

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Nick Martin (Chair), Michael Bray (Vice-Chair), Mary Martin, Peter Greenhalgh, Michael Dickinson

Police:

Adrian Burt, Tim Titchener, Stacey McGarry

Swindon Borough Council:

Bernie Brannan, Jackie Moyles, Georgia Congerton

Resident:

Mr & Mrs Baxter, Mr & Mrs Feather, Dave Starrett, Derek Seaman, Brenda Poat, Brian Poat, Fiona Scott, Jill Wells, Jacky Feasey, Adam Dyer, Martyn Parrott, Jennie Cumming, Norris Kiddle, Ruth Kiddle, Dave Davidson, plus 4 other residents

Apologies:

Councillors Steve Wakefield, Garry Perkins, Keith Williams

1. Matters from the Floor

- 1.1. Street cleaning, particularly in Benwell Close was raised and maintenance of verge and central reservation from Whitehill Way to M4 Junction 16. Jackie Moyles will respond to Benwell Close cleaning direct to Mr Seaman. Maintenance of verge and central reservation from Whitehill Way to Junction 16 is understood to be the responsibility of the Highway Agency, but Jackie will check.
- 1.2. Jennie Cumming and Brenda Poat raised concerns about a lack of presence of the Community Police Team. Tim Titchener stated he would cover this in the Police Agenda item.
- 1.3. It was reported that the new speed tables in Beaumaris Road are not working as drivers are still speeding and ignoring the 20 mph limit. Cllr Greenhalgh stated that these works are not yet complete (gates to be installed), and we need to see how this works out over a longer period. A speed counter is to be installed shortly, to monitor average speeds and he believes there will be serious damage to cars if they drive over the speed tables in excess of 20 mph. Consideration will be given to illuminated signs, and the Police will look at using speed guns in the area.

1.4. Ruth Kiddle asked if West Swindon will develop a Cluster Agreement. Bernie Brannan and Cllr Mary Martin stated that the West Swindon Forum is clear about its priorities and it will only produce an agreement if residents desire one.

1.5. It was stated that the Council's Neighbourhood Wardens have not been working in West Swindon for some time. Bernie Brannan to investigate and respond to Ruth Kiddle.

2. Streetsmart

2.1. Jackie Moyles gave a presentation on Streetsmart, which covers the Council services of grounds maintenance, highways, winter gritting, street cleaning, refuse collection, recycling, street lighting, and cemeteries and crematorium. The main issue raised by residents was the condition of the roads (potholes). Jackie said following the extremely hard winter, over 6000 potholes have been filled, but work is continuing. Additional funding has been made available by the Council and the government. In some areas, major patching work is required and this will be carried out over the summer months. Potholes filled in the winter are less successful due to the wet/frosty conditions. Residents can report potholes by contacting the main Council contact number 445500.

2.2. Jackie was asked to provide a breakdown of the Streetsmart portfolio of Services to the Chair and Vice Chair (Cllrs N Martin and M Bray).

2.3. Langstone Way road conditions were raised again (raised at meeting 8th March 2010); this work may form part of the more substantial work that will be carried out over the summer months. Jackie to check and report back.

2.4. The following items were forward by Cllr Wakefield, as he could not attend the meeting.

2.4.1. Kiln Park, autumn of 2009, Cllr Nick Martin, and Cllr Wakefield had a tour and picked up several items, and contractors were to follow up on removal of bushes and shrubs, removal of fly tipping in ditch, cutting back trees around the park.

2.4.2. Idoovers Drive bus stop parking within its limits; Emily Sykes (SBC) was going to seek funding to see if it was possible to put in markings and thick yellow line. Has she had any success?

2.4.3. Mini Moto Bike being ridden in afternoon on footpaths along and near Freshbrook Way, rider large youth aged about 18 wearing a yellow tee shirt. The bike is black in colour, and its make unknown.

2.4.4. Freshbrook Way Westminster Road speed tables there have been several complaints regarding no marking and the fact that the road width is not restricted. He has explained regarding the road markings, but in the early proposals, there was a suggestion that the road widths would be narrowed? B Brannan to forward to Highways.

3. Policing in West Swindon

3.1. Tim Titchener stated that recently three young people from Swindon had been imprisoned and burglaries in the area have reduced as a consequence. He requested that residents report incidents, and if people feel safe to then take

photographs as evidence. CCTV around Shaw Village Centre and the Church was discussed along with improving the camera at George Tweed Gardens, and it was thought that this would be helpful. It was stated the Church would consider CCTV if there was a value in it; they have been informed in the past that there was not. The Church also switched off the sodium lighting to the rear of the Church as the light annoyed neighbours.

3.2. After some discussion, the following police priorities for the coming months was agreed:

North of Whitehall Way

- Anti-social behaviour, particularly around Shaw Village Centre, George Tweed Gardens
- Off-road motor bikes and mini moto's being used around West Swindon District Centre, Shaw Ridge, and cycle pathways and Link Centre

South of Whitehall Way

- Drug dealing/taking and drinking (Kiln Park) around Toothill, Freshbrook, and Grange Park
- Use of mini moto's (usually see an increase this time of year) (See item raised by Cllr Wakefield)

3.3. Adrian Burt stated that the restorative justice process has been used in a number of successful cases in West Swindon (bringing the victim and perpetrator together). This will be rolled out further if success continues.

4. Open Event to Celebrate West Swindon

4.1. Bernie Brannan stated that it is proposed to hold a summer event to celebrate and raise awareness of all the voluntary, community, sporting, and activities that take place in West Swindon. 10th July is the proposed date to be held either in the West Swindon District Shopping Centre or the Link Centre and Library. Volunteers should contact Bernie Brannan on 464377 or email bbrannan@swindon.gov.uk