

West Swindon Forum
Minutes of Meeting
10th January 2011

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Nick Martin (Chair), Mick Bray (Vice Chair), Michael Dickinson, Peter Greenhalgh, Mary Martin, Steve Wakefield, Garry Perkins

Police:

Adrian Burt, Tom Turner

Swindon Borough Council:

Chand Hassan, Suzanne Montgomery, Paula Harrison, Pam Pixton

Residents:

David Barnard, Geraldine Barnard, Lorraine Williams, Keith Williams, Claire Beaton, Gavin Beaton, Mark Fox, Julie Pullen, Nigel Pullen, Gaynor Wright, Liz Fellman, Mark Woods, Clive Heard, Mervyn White, Jan Wilkinson, Trevor Caple, Madeline Caple, Russell Weymouth, Tim Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, A Keeble, D Peacey, C Auniza, F Donachie, P Thorp, L Thorp, Gary Hollingshead, Claire Walker, Simon Davies, Scott D'Arcy, Steve Bailey, Troy Wilson, Kerrie Stone, Holger Haiplik, Bev Cejer, Barrie Brocks, Sandie Brocks, Jill Drinkwater, Roger Ogle, John Hill, M Paul Weston, V Hulme, N Merkens-Dow, L Merkens-Dow, Andrew Parfitt, Colin Goddard, Steph Exell, Gail Reeve, Richard Pagett, Kevin Fisher, Allan Johns, Mollie Groom (representing East and Broad Town)

Apologies:

Keith Williams, Bernie Brannan

1. Matters From the Floor

- a Colin Goddard – 9 The Elms, Nine Elms, raised a road safety issue on the Wash Pool Road. It is not a seasonal problem. The road speed limit breeds a sense of safety, but there is, in his opinion, a sharp bend, and a reverse cumber, which causes under/over steering. From the Wash Pool direction it is 30mph and from Tewkesbury Way 40mph. Requests that the Councillors present look at the matter as it is dangerous and Mr Goddard has had his garden wall demolished by cars losing control on 4 occasions. There is no grass verge/pavement and children and adults walk along this area.

- b Toothill Cottages – are to be demolished. The plan could be a build for 2/3 plots. Will either be a self-build or a local Company may buy and develop the site.

2. Hook Street Proposed Development

Planning Application has been refused, but will be going to appeal. All objections must be in by 21st January 2011. Those who have already objected are urged to do so again as DPDS have submitted amended plans on 22nd December 2010. The Councillors present are all against the scheme and it is understood that Officers of the Council support the same.

A resolution was put forward to object to the development proposed by David Barnard and seconded by Alf Keeble. This was agreed, with 1 objection. Suggestion put forward that a secondary resolution be put forward to the Council, which is to seek compulsory purchase.

3. Tree Work and Progress on Phase 3 Shaw Forest

Carry over until next meeting in March.

4. Ridgeway Farm Development

Richard Paget made a presentation to the group, which was very well received. Even though the development is out of the Swindon boundary, the impact (if this development was to go ahead) would have a serious adverse impact on local roads, waste/drainage which is not sustainable.

Cllr. Mollie Groom from out of the Borough (Lydiard Millicent) came to ask if the group would support their objections and add weight to the number of proposed objections.

Cllr. Garry Perkins informed the group that he was seeking support to a Swindon Borough Council objective being sent to Wiltshire County Council.

Action: It was agreed that the West Swindon Forum would also send their objection to Wiltshire County Council – proposed by Cllr. Garry Perkins and seconded by Cllr. Michael Dickinson. Show of hands – all agreed, 1 abstained.

- 5. Steph Exell from Oakhurst Resident Association requested support from the group in respect of the development of Tadpole Farm. Cllr. Peter Greenhalgh stated that this was different to the other development issues as the infrastructure was in place and therefore the support could not be given from the Cluster, but individuals may wish to put in their own separate objections.

6. Steam Railway/Amenity Railway Station

Dave Peacey (Vice Chair of Cricklade Railway) spoke to the group about the Cricklade Railway. This was informative as it was inspiring to learn about the

enormous project that has been done thus far, and it is all done by volunteers. Dave thanked the partners, who helped to make this all possible, the Council for the grant and the Officer support.

Early next year hope to move it into Moulden Hill Park and into Sparcells to make a station.

Phase 1 – finished. Funded from S106 – Shaw Forest Park, Lane.

Phase 2 – footpath network/cycle ways

Phase 3 – Visitor Centre/Railway Station, football pitch/changing – an offer of an authentic Victorian Railway Station. Fixture and fittings have been offered from the refurbishment of Reading Station free of charge, but there is no funding for Phase 3 at this time.

Sunday 13th February 2011 – tree planting at Moulden Hill (500 trees).

7. Fire Brigade (West Swindon)

Graham Mellor presented an overview of the previous year's calls in the West Swindon area:

- 689 calls
- 201 proper incidents
- 71 real fires
- 48 deliberate fires (but this could mean a bonfire and a fence close by catching fire)
- 23 accidental fires (e.g. chip fryer)
- 24 non-fires related (e.g. rescue cats, gas leaks, etc.)
- 89 false alarms
- 1 death

8. Police Update

Presentation by Alan Johns (civilian from Wiltshire Police Authority), the purpose was to give the opportunity to those present to complete a questionnaire in order to help shape the future of the Police service in the next 4 years due to the funding cuts (£15million to be cut in the next 4 years). 130 less Police staff and 200 less support staff.

9. Toothill Big Lottery

Due to time factor, Pam Pixton informed the group that there was a meeting next week where all parties were invited to attend.