

**West Swindon Forum**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**14<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Nick Martin (Chair), Mick Bray (Vice Chair), Michael Dickinson, Mary Martin,  
Garry Perkins

Police:

Adrian Burt, Stephen Yeates

Swindon Borough Council:

Bernie Brannan, Pam Pixton, Sara Tough, Liz Evens, Steve Smith

Residents:

Norris Kiddle, Ruth Kiddle, Sarah Foster, Claire Hambleton, John Ilett, Eric Elstone, Elizabeth Elstone, Kevin Ashor, John Hill, Mark Fox, Steve Smith, Brian Hook, Jon Dyer, Adam Dyer, Claire Walker, David Storey, Dave Davison, Scott D'Arcy, Alf Keeble, Sheila Ratcliff, Stan Zedlewski, Laina Storey, Andy Bucknell, Sandra Matthews, Alan Matthews

Apologies:

Councillors Keith Williams, Peter Greenhalgh, Steve Wakefield

**1. Matters From the Floor**

- a. The fairground at the Link Centre had increased noise levels. The owner had responded to one resident. **ACTION:** It was agreed that Bernie Brannan will arrange a meeting with the fairground owner and the matter be included on the May agenda.
- b. Toothill Cottages – when will they be demolished and what is planned for the site? **ACTION:** Bernie Brannan to Contact SBC property Section for an update.
- c. Councillor Garry Perkins responded to a question of why the Council had refused permission for “Lakeland” to locate to Mannington Park. **Response:** The reported article was incorrect and the Council are in discussions with “Lakeland”.
- d. There are an increasing number of cars being advertised for sale on grass verges in Whitehall Way, Tewkesbury Way, and Mead Way. Also, Cash 4 Cars displaying their advertisements over Council signs. **ACTION:** Bernie

Brannan to report to the Investigation and Case Manager for enforcement action.

e. Shaw Forest progress – this is to be included on the May agenda.

## **2. Police Update**

Steve Yeates gave an update on his and Tim Turner's area in West Swindon. There was less crime and arrests at the recent Link fairground and no violent crime. In response to an increasing number of metal thefts, the Police changed their shift patterns, and have made six arrests. There has been a reduction in thefts recently. There has also been two drug warrants in February, and the anti-social behaviour issue in Bloomsbury Close is hopefully now resolved. PC Yeates also explained a new Street Watch scheme. Street Watch Swindon is run by local residents, and is fully supported by Swindon Community Partnership, which includes the Council, and Wiltshire Police. The scheme is seeking volunteers in West Swindon to support their local community.

The advantages are:

- You will only be asked to give two hours a month to support your neighbours and community
- It is an opportunity to meet like-minded residents, who also care about where they live
- You can provide a visible reassuring presence to those residents who feel vulnerable
- Help to reduce the fear of crime
- Provide stronger community links with your local Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Walk around in pairs at any time or date that suits you
- You can raise awareness of any crime or other issues in your area
- You may be a dog walker, why not combine the two?
- Training will be provided

If you are interested or have any questions about Street Watch Swindon, please contact the Swindon Community Partnership on 466506 or email [csp@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:csp@swindon.gov.uk). You can also find details on the national website for Street Watch at [www.street-watch.org.uk](http://www.street-watch.org.uk).

## **3. West Week of Action**

A multi agency week of action is coming to West Swindon throughout the week of **9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May**. This operation will involve a number of agencies including various Swindon Borough Council departments such as housing, community safety, trading standards, highways, neighbourhood wardens, children's services, councillors and other agencies such as the Police, Swindon Commercial Services, and Her Majesty's Court Service. A summary of the briefing is set out below:

We will carry out an audit of the area to determine where and what we should be prioritising whilst we are in the area; however, we do need community

information and we would strongly urge people living in these areas to contact us using the details below to tell us what the issues are in your area. We cannot make any promises but we will certainly be in a strong position to know what we should be prioritising according to community concern. We are also very keen for the people who live and work in the area to come out and help and would welcome any residents or groups who would like to do this. For more information or offers of help, please use the contact details below.

The week aims to balance enforcement action, tackling enviro crime such as litter and graffiti and consultation with communities. Please look out for the Community Safety bus where you can get community safety advice and support and help influence your communities' priorities for local services.

Please contact: 01793 466506 or email [csp@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:csp@swindon.gov.uk)

The Community Safety Partnership proposed activities and venues for the week, which still need to be confirmed are:

Monday May 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 - 2:00	Crime reduction advice and information	Toothill Village Centre
Tuesday May 10 <sup>th</sup>			To be decided
Wednesday May 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 – 2:00	Crime reduction advice and information	Freshbrook Village Centre
Thursday May 12 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 – 6:00	Crime reduction advice and information	West Swindon District Centre
Friday May 13 <sup>th</sup>			To be decided
Saturday May 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 – 1:00	Bike marking and registering	West Swindon Police Point

**N.B. We would like residents to suggest where they would like the Swindon Safe bus to be on the Tuesday and Friday.**

#### **4. Tadpole Farm Development**

Crest Nicholson gave a presentation on the proposed development as part of their pre-planning consultation. The site proposes 1700 houses, and 5 hectares of employment land for 500 new jobs. The traffic study showed an additional 60 vehicles per hour (peak) towards Mead Way. Residents thought this was an underestimation. The scheme includes a rapid bus service to the Town Centre. Concern was also expressed that if the proposed scheme at Ridgway Farm goes ahead, this will have a more adverse impact on the local infrastructure and services.

#### **5. Youth Work in West Swindon**

A presentation, and question and answer session was given by Sara Tough, Liz Evans, and Steve Smith. The youth budget has been reduced by 24%, which is a national trend. Swindon has introduced a new Youth Engagement Team, and there are no plans to change the use of the existing youth centre buildings in West Swindon (Toothill and Freshbrook). These will still be supported on two nights per week, but their ambition is to increase this. Whilst resources have been lost overall, it has been returned in areas where it is needed most. The Youth Service will work as part of the wider South locality, which will now have six youth workers and five support works in its structure, which will give more capacity for youth work as the Connexions role has been taken out. The new team will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

The West Cluster requested two full time, dedicated youth workers to form a similar relationship as it has with the Police. Sara stated this is not possible at the moment, but resources will be deployed where youth work is required. Steve Smith will update progress at the May Forum.

## **6. Toothill Festival**

Pam Pixton updated the Forum on the planned community event on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The event will be held in the Toothill Primary School and extend to the church, shops, community centre on the opposite side of Stokesay Drive. A road closure is being applied for. The event will provide an opportunity to engage with residents about the big lottery funding (£1M over 10 years), and how sustainable initiatives can be supported. The event is planned to start at 10.00 am and finish at 4.00 pm.

## **7. Major Event at Lydiard Park Summer 2011**

Bernie Brannan gave a brief update on the major events at Lydiard Park this summer, as follows:

- 21/22 May (Sat/Sun), Race for Life
- 18 June (Sat), JLS concert (ticketed event – 20,000 expected)
- 9 July (Sat), Big Arts Day (free event 20,000+ depending on weather). Cllr Dickinson pointed out that improved traffic arrangements will be made this year.
- 20 July (Wed), Race for Life
- 20/21 August (Sat/Sun), Invincible Music Festival (ticketed event 10,000)

## **8. Items for May Agenda**

Items for May agenda:

- Update following fair ground noise meeting
- Update on Youth Service in West Swindon
- Shaw Forest Phase 3
- Police priorities for West Swindon
- Swindon Core Planning Strategy