

**West Swindon Cluster Forum
Minutes of Meeting
Held 13 July 2009**

Present:

Councillors Nick Martin (Chair), Michael Bray (Vice Chair), Mary Martin, Garry Perkins, Peter Greenhalgh, Keith Williams, Steve Wakefield

Police: Adrian Burt

SBC: Bernie Brannan, Gwillam Lloyd, Simon Lymn, Philip Martlew, Steve Woodman, Martin Hambidge

Residents: Steven Warren, Brian Hook, Chris Baker, Ian Calney, Karen Palmer, Norris Kiddle, Ruth Kiddle, Derek Lawson, Andrew Parfelt, Terrance Ratcliffe, Sheila Ratcliffe, Louis Guy Wilson, Jo Osarso, Terry Roberts, Susan White, Claire Benton, Gavin Benton, Claire Walker, Roger Ogle

Apologies:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Michael Dickinson

Minutes

1. Issues raised by residents at the meeting

- 1.1. Mr Hook stated that the traffic calming (chicane) position at the Tewkesbury Way end of Tregose Way has created a blind spot, particularly if a bus is coming down the hill (from Lydiard Park direction).

ACTION: Gwillam Lloyd to investigate and report back to Councillors Nick Martin and Peter Greenhalgh.

- 1.2. Mr Osarso stated he was disappointed that Cartwright Drive is not be discussed as part of the meetings agenda. Gwillam Lloyd explained that Halcrow had produced a draft report on the parking issues on Cartwright Drive, and he would issue a copy of the report to Ward Councillors. He also explained that he was due to meet with bus operators to understand their thoughts on this issue.

Action: G Lloyd to provide an update for the September Forum.

- 1.3. Mr Ratcliffe raised the lack of garden maintenance at Toothill Cottages. Cllr Nick Martin explained these properties are being sold. Mr Ratcliffe volunteered to maintain the gardens. Sale of the cottages should commit the buyer to maintain the boundary.

ACTION: B Brannan to confirm in writing to Mr Ratcliffe and to request grounds maintenance section to maintain overgrown boundary.

2. Neighbourhood Policing in West Swindon

Adrian Burt explained that following a six-month review by the Police, KPMG and Home Office in May 2008, efficiencies had been realised across the force. These efficiencies focused around saving time and processes.

Adrian, then conducted a further review in February 2009, specifically in Swindon to ensure there was synergy with Connecting People Connecting Places, and also ensure these savings were being reinvested back into frontline, visible policing. As a result the Police have restructured the neighbourhood policing teams. The new structure, which commenced 1 July 2009, provides an increase in police from approximately 40 to 70 officers, and Adrian has responsibility for the West Swindon team. So far, there has been positive feedback from residents with an increase in warrants, arrests, and visibility around the neighbourhoods. Adrian also updated the meeting on Neighbourhood Watch. A new protocol has been produced on how the Police engage and exchange information on neighbourhood watch; this includes regular contact and newsletters. Local councillors, partners, and the Police meet twice a month to discuss specific issues in the area. The Police are still recruiting special constables and volunteers from the community, and Adrian welcomed the community to contact him on any policing issues.

3. Traffic Calming and Whitehill Stream Culvert

Freshbrook Way

Gwillam Lloyd outlined proposals for changes to the existing traffic calming on Freshbrook Way. Gwillam explained that the proposals took on board the issues that were discussed at the January 2009 meeting and that the scheme now proposed also included works on Beaumaris Road and Rowton Heath Way.

In addition, he explained that a report outlining funding proposals for this year's Local Transport budget was due to be considered at the cabinet meeting on 22 July. On the assumption that Cabinet approved the identified budget headings for this year's Local Transport Plan then he envisaged the works on Freshbrook Way and Rowton Heath Way/Beaumaris Road would commence on site towards the end of November. Halcrow are due to finalise the detailed design of the scheme by the end of August, and he would be consulting with Ward Councillors on final scheme details soon afterwards.

Whitehill Stream Culvert

Outline scheme proposals were presented for the design of the new culvert to carry Whitehill Stream under Westlea Drive. The new culvert would sit along the existing one and is programmed to be installed at the end of September. Gwillam explained that tenders presently being sought for the works, and that the Environmental Agency were considering the final design proposals.

In addition, he explained that the location of certain streetwork undertaker services, Gas, Water, and Electric, are points of concern at the moment because

of the way they dipped down in depth after they went across the existing culvert. As a result, it may be necessary to provide some alternative support or divert these services before the new culvert can be installed. Gwillam will liaise with Ward Members and the Cluster Forum if there is a significant impact.

4. West Swindon Access Survey

Simon Lymn and Philip Martlew reported that in March 2008, a survey was undertaken in the Link Magazine asking for people's views on their experiences using the footpaths and cycleways in West Swindon, and what could be done to improve them. There was strong support for supporting the overall idea of trying to improve the local walking and cycling environment. The survey showed, however, that the top three least attractive features were:

- Rubbish, litter, general maintenance issues
- Graffiti and vandalism
- Lack of sign posting; difficulty of route finding

Simon outlined the Council's Streetsmart scheme and the single number for all maintenance issues (Tel: 445501) and free graffiti removal scheme offered to all SBC residents. It was agreed that the main priority over the use of the cycle/footpath network was around the provision of signage and lack of legibility. There was general support for continuing to roll out the pre-formed markings. There were also concerns over the provision of lighting in certain areas.

ACTION:

SL/PM to bring forward a proposed signage strategy for West Swindon to the Cluster Forum in September.

SL/PM to take on board error/omissions in current edition of cycle map to amend in future iterations.

5. Connecting People Connecting Places (CPCP)

Most clusters (seven clusters within Swindon) have now held their first meeting. In West Swindon, this is our second meeting. Our next move is to work towards developing a cluster agreement for West Swindon. The Cluster Agreement is a record of shared understanding and commitment between the people who live, work and/or learn in West Swindon, and the people who provide services for them.

Initially, it will focus on four or five agreed priorities for the area; some work was done on this at the last meeting on identifying the priorities. The agreement, at this stage, is intended as a tool for encouraging further engagement to realising CPCP potential, so the process is potentially more important than the product. Bernie Brannan is meeting with community groups and using existing events in

the area to start this process. Local Councillors will be forwarded the dates of these meetings if they wish to attend. It was recognised the importance of the Council developing a CPCP website or link from the Council website to inform residents of developments and signpost to future information. This work is in hand, and further information will be provided at the next meeting (14 September 2009). There is currently information on the Swindon Strategic Partnership website.

<http://www.swindonsp.org.uk/sspindex/connectingpeopleconnectingplaces.htm>

6. Saltway Field (former school playing field)

Cllr Nick Martin explained that funding has been found to rebuild the perimeter fence and fell some trees. It was agreed that the site should be used as open, public space until a decision is made whether it is feasible to be used for junior football.

ACTION:

- **M Hambidge to arrange grass cutting and work to enable the site to be set as a community, open space.**
- **Steve Woodman to determine feasibility of using site for junior football.**