

West Swindon Cluster Forum  
Minutes of Meeting  
Held 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009

PRESENT:

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

**Police:** Chris Palframan

**SBC:** Bernie Brannan, Ian Young, Pam Pixton, Gwillam Lloyd

**Residents:** Terry Thompson, Ruth Kiddle, Norris Kiddle, L Mayhard, Claire Walker, Matt McGrady, Derek Seaman, John Roberts, Jo Osorio, Mark Hearn, Lesley Hearn, Pat Morse, Terri Rhind, Joy Archer, Andrew Archer, Beccy Flanagan, Roger Richman, Chris Richman, B Davidson, Roger Ogle, Tony Ball, 3 residents not signed in.

APOLOGIES: An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mary Martin.

**Minutes**

1. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.
2. Matters from the floor:
  - 2.1. Mrs Rhind stated the new signs at Meares Drive are spelt incorrectly.

**ACTION:** Gwillam Lloyd to action amended/replacement signs.
  - 2.2. Question raised as to when new signs are being fitted along footpaths and cycleway in West Swindon. Simon Lymn is to present a proposed Signage Strategy at the 9<sup>th</sup> November meeting.

**ACTION:** Simon Lymn (SBC) to attend 9<sup>th</sup> November meeting.
  - 2.3. Residents parking in bus stop on Idovers Drive. GL stated this is a problem throughout Swindon, and an audit of all bus stop parking bays is being carried out, and he will be making proposals to try to resolve issues.

**ACTION:** GL to brief ward members.
  - 2.4. Residents are parking across verges in Meares Drive. It is considered this problem is connected to the Cartwright Drive issue to be discussed later on the agenda.

2.5. Freshbrook Centre speed limit signs have faded and cannot be seen. GL stated if they are within the parking area of the Centre, then it is the Centres responsibility, if on the road, then it is the Council's.

**ACTION:** GL to check and action.

### 3. Policing in West Swindon

Chris Palframan updated the meeting following the new neighbourhood policing team structure, which was put in place on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009. During the first 2 ½ months, there have been three positive drug warrants following public information. Operation Hawk has successfully reduced Anti-Social Behaviour, and plans are in place to roll this over the Halloween period. Crime in West Swindon is showing a downward trend, and residents should be seeing more community officers on beat. It was confirmed that an operational order and plan is in place whilst the fairground is in West Swindon. The car boot sale was checked for stolen property as this is where items from domestic burglaries usually end up, but none were found. A number of questions were put from residents regarding:

- Drug taking in Stratford Close
- Under aged drinking in Kiln Park (shrubs need taking out that screen this area).

Chris pointed out that crime figures are only for reported crimes, and we need residents to report incidents and pass on information.

**ACTION:** Stratford Close and Kiln Park reports to be followed-up.

### 4. Recycling

Ian Young gave a presentation on recycling in West Swindon. Ian pointed out that transparent plastic bags are no longer provided, but the council will accept them, and ordinary supermarket plastic carrier bags can be use for mixed plastics. The council is currently achieving around 47% diversionary recycling rates. Ian pointed out that black plastics and batteries cannot be taken, although retailers may be made responsible for taking batteries in the future. A bid has been submitted for funding to set-up recycling for food waste. A copy of Ian's recycling presentation can be found at [http://www.swindonsp.org.uk/ssp-index/connectingpeopleconnectingplaces/west\\_cluster.htm](http://www.swindonsp.org.uk/ssp-index/connectingpeopleconnectingplaces/west_cluster.htm) (press Ctrl from your computer keyboard and left click on your mouse to access the website direct), this presentation will be available from 9 October 2009.

### 5. Cartwright Drive

Gwillam Lloyd informed the meeting that a report had been completed in August 2009 following research and investigations into the traffic and safety issues around school runs. In wet conditions, there are around twice as many cars parked in Cartwright Drive and side roads than in sunny conditions (115 wet, 58 dry conditions). Solutions for the problem estimate from £5K - £150K, these

range from overrun areas for buses to pass, but Thamesdown Transport are not keen on this idea due to poor visibility, and that these areas may well be used for car parking; activated signs, although considered they may not help; double yellow lines, but there is concern from residents that they may speed up vehicles if there are no parked cars, putting double yellow lining in short stretches may be a compromise; extending the zigzag lines on the pedestrian crossings, this may deter parking as there is a 3 point penalty; parking on verge, however, trial holes have revealed that electrical, gas and media cables are buried quite shallow in the verge; change bus times, although it is felt the problem is not just related to buses, and the buses timetables have just been recently reviewed and unlikely to be changed due to the knock-on affect to other routes; getting local people to own the problem and more initiatives to get parents walking their children to school. Gwillam summarised the discussion and said this is a challenging Swindon wide issue. In the short-term, he will talk to the school about travel coordinators and working with the children, parents and governors, look at yellow lining (and/or extending zigzag lining) in some areas of the road. In the medium to long-term, school safety zones and sustainable travel plans may provide the solution, but ultimately, this requires cultural change.

**ACTION:** GL to report on progress.

## 6. Connecting People Connecting Places Cluster Plan

Bernie Brannan (Cluster Lead for West Swindon) explained the process and consultation that is underway to draft the West Swindon Cluster Plan. Information from residents in previous surveys and current conversations have identified the following concerns for residents:

- Activities for teenagers
- Level of crime
- Cleaning of streets (fly tipping and graffiti)
- Grounds maintenance
- Speed humps
- Cycle tracks (that don't go anywhere and signage)
- Rebuilding/refurbishment of district centre

The plan will identify our vision, priorities, and how we aim to get there. At this stage, it may not have an answer for all the issues; however, it should identify how residents and all agencies will engage in West Swindon to inform and consult, decide together on our priorities, and how we will act together. Resident's views are welcomed either through their resident/local groups, ward councillors, West Swindon Cluster Forum, or at [http://www.swindonsp.org.uk/ssp-index/connectingpeopleconnectingplaces/west\\_cluster.htm](http://www.swindonsp.org.uk/ssp-index/connectingpeopleconnectingplaces/west_cluster.htm) (press Ctrl from your computer keyboard and left click on your mouse to access the website direct). Bernie Brannan and Ward Councillors will be talking with a number of local groups over the coming months and a draft plan will be brought to the West Swindon Cluster Forum Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Date of Next Meeting

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 7.30 PM at Link Centre.**