

West Swindon Forum
Minutes of Meeting
11 July 2011

Present:

Councillors : Nick Martin, Mary Martin, Mick Bray,
Michael Dickinson, Keith Williams, Steve Wakefield

Police : Adrian Burt, Stephen Yeates

Swindon Borough Council :
Bernie Brannan, Richard Fisher

Residents :

J Cumming, J Gurung, D Starrett, J Hill, E Elstone, A Parker,
D Mackie, E Eggleston, M Hilton, D Seaman, K Williams,
J Gargett, T Swinyard, C Sydney-Smith, I Cainey, R Kiddle,
N Kiddle, A Keeble, S Cambury, M Edgerton, J Edgerton, 6 residents
not signed in

Apologies:

Cllr. Greenhalgh, Cllr. Perkins, R Ogle.

1. Councillor Mary Martin was elected as Chair and Councillor Mick Bray as Vice Chair.
2. **Issues raised by residents**
 - 2.1 Parking issues associated with JLS and Big Arts Day events, particularly at Bess Road, Tregoze Way, Oliver Close will be dealt with at debriefing meeting. It was acknowledged that there were some issues in these areas to be resolved before the next event.
 - 2.2 Request for double yellow lining at Bess Road and by Barclays Bank, Idoovers Drive. BB to forward to Highways.
 - 2.3 Langsonte Way: parking on one side of the road during weekdays causing a problem with vehicles passing. Cllr. Wakefield stated a study is currently being undertaken in the area and he will respond direct to residents.
 - 2.4 A number of litter issues were raised and location of litter and dog poo bins. Richard Fisher stated that waste management are reviewing bin positions council wide. It was appreciated that some residents are carrying out litter picking in their local area and informed the meeting that the Council will supply equipment for this type of volunteering. The Council will impose fixed penalty notices and prosecute if necessary for dropping litter, but this is mainly focused on the Town

Centre.

- 2.5 A question was raised on who pays for a crossing/bridge over river Rae at Mannington. Cllr. Nick Martin stated he will discuss the issue with Roger Ogle.
- 2.6 A petition was handed to the Forum regarding the condition of the road surface in Edgehill. B Brannan will pass this to the Highways team.
- 2.7 Cllr. Martin agreed to meet with residents after the meeting to discuss the issues with trees in Beverly Close.
- 2.8 PC Steve Yeates gave the reasoning for moving people out of accommodation at Applewood Court because of anti social behaviour. This sometimes resolves the issue of ASB, however when people are evicted they are not rehoused by the Council.
- 2.9 Steve Yeates agreed to investigate ASB by juveniles at Crawford Close and arrange to meet the ASB team and housing to discuss action.
- 2.10 Residents reported speeding issues by cars in Freshbrook Way and mini moto's at the rear of Asda. PC Steve Yeates explained the Police cannot use speed guns in 20 MPH zones. 3 cars have been impounded in recent weeks due to information received from residents. He encouraged residents to forward registration numbers to him if they have concerns about speeding vehicles or any other vehicle related offences.

3. **Police Update**

- 3.1 Following the 3 priorities agreed at the last Forum (reduction in car crime, ASB and drug dealing), PC Yeates reported that there has been a reduction in car crime and ASB. Drug dealing is still being targeted with 5 warrants being carried out recently. Total crime is down by 17.4% in West Swindon. The Swindon West Neighbourhood Policing Team newsletter was handed out at the meeting.

4. **Shaw Forest Update**

- 4.1 Richard Fisher gave an update on Shaw Forest restoration of former landfill sites. Recapping working to prevent water ingress and gas egress will be completed on Phase 3 in the next few weeks. It will be 5-7 years before the park can be completely open. Reed beds have been introduced to deal with water treatment and this will also have a positive benefit to wildlife. Gas is still being burnt-off from the site through a chimney and a feasibility study is being carried out to see if there is enough gas to provide a renewable energy source.

Volunteers are sought to help with the running of the park as volunteer rangers. If you are interested contact Richard on 464461 email: rfisher@swindon.gov.uk.

5. Toothill Festival

- 5.1 Ruth Kiddle explained that following the award of £1 million Big Lottery funding over 10 years a steering committee was formed by Toothill residents to start consultation on how the money will be spent. The Steering Group organised a Toothill Festival, which was a huge success and attended by over 500 residents. As well as being a festival for residents to enjoy, it was also a large consultation event which produced an enormous amount of feedback and ideas. This has been produced into a report which is available to view at the West Swindon Library. The Chair thanked the Toothill Steering Group for the work they have done and continue to do to make this project successful and a benefit to the residents of Toothill.

Date of Next Meeting : Monday, 12 September 2011, 7.00pm
West Swindon Library