

West Swindon Cluster Forum
Minutes of Meeting
Held 8th March 2010

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Nick Martin (Chair), Michael Bray (Vice-Chair), Mary Martin, Keith Williams, Michael Dickinson, Steve Wakefield

Police:

Adrian Burt, Tim Titchener, Alan Johns (Wiltshire Police Authority)

Swindon Borough Council:

Bernie Brannan, Carole Jamieson, Philip Martlew

Residents:

Sam Cole, Sheila Mitchell, James Mitchell, Ruth Kiddle, Pam Pixton, Lesley Sheppard, Chris Sheppard, Christina Barrow, Ross Davidson, Mr and Mrs Wedge, Jon Dyer, Roger Ogle, Annette Richards, W Goodwin, B Rowntree, Jos Jansen, Nick Jansen, Mohan Bal, Andrew Parfitt, Alan Matthews, Sandra Mathews, Martyn Parrott, Steve Prince, Gavin Beaton

Apologies:

Councillors Garry Perkins, Peter Greenhalgh

1. Matters from the Floor

- 1.1. Changes to 'Patch Timings' (hired area of ice rinks where figure skaters practice their figures and edges). The changes in timings was not suitable and during the 'patch' sessions, maintenance works have been carried out. Carole Jamieson explained the pricing and timings are fair, considering the needs of all users. It was unfortunate that necessary maintenance works were carried out during the 'patch' sessions. This will be reviewed. It was agreed that should a further meeting be required, this will be arranged by Bernie Brannan, the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Keith Williams also offered to attend.

Action: B Brannan to contact Mrs Mitchell

- 1.2. Noise levels from Fairground - It was felt by several residents that the noise levels had increase on the last visit by the fair. Carole Jamieson said the fairground reduced the volume on the bass noise on the Saturday evening, but residents still felt it was too loud.

Action: B Brannan to write to organisers to make them aware of comments and state requirements.

- 1.3. Allotments – it was reported that there are at least three vacant plots available, despite the Council insisting they are all allocated.

Action: Chris Sheppard to email details to B Brannan.

- 1.4. Shaw Ridge Primary School – residents reported that there are parts of the old perimeter fence on the outside of the new school fence. This has been raised before.

Action: Cllr Nick Martin to contact Mr Parrott to arrange site visit.

- 1.5. Cars Parked on Pavement – Moresby Close.

Action: Adrian Burt to follow up with advice to residents and enforcement, if necessary.

- 1.6. Proposal for building 200 new houses (off Hook Road between Grange Park and Lydiard Park). The forum is not supporting this development and an update on the proposed Wiltshire Urban Development is an agenda item under these minutes.

2. Police Update

- 2.1. There has been an increase in dwelling burglaries in Westlea. Five teenagers have been arrested, but only one detained. It is difficult to detain due to their age. Some break-ins have been through insecure and unlocked doors and windows, all residents should ensure that doors and windows are secure. There has also been an increase in thefts from and damage to vehicles.
- 2.2. Neighbourhood Watch is being reviewed to try to bring it back into operation. Volunteers are welcome and needed. In particular, a coordinator role is required from a volunteer. Contact PC Tim Titchener on Tel: 0845 4087000 or Email: westswindonsouthnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk
- 2.3. PC Tim Titchener explained and handed out a leaflet on the Policing Pledge, which is available at www.wiltshire.police.uk. The vision of Wiltshire Police is: Wiltshire, the Safest County in the Country.

3. Bus Hardstandings (Meadway)

- 3.1. Philip Martlew responded to questions about the lack of hardstandings and footpaths in Meadway for bus patrons. The issues are the lack of footpaths adjacent to bus stops, and the cost of providing footpaths and, in some cases, the land is not owned by the Council. Options are currently being costed. The Forum asked if temporary hardstandings could be provided in the meantime.

Action: P Martlew to look at costed options and the possibility of temporary hardstandings. Also, to respond directly to Mrs Ruth Kiddle on issue raised about Idovers Drive bus stop.

4. Dog Waste Bins

- 4.1. A need was identified for more dog bins; a location behind Morsby Drive, by the bridge, was given as an example. The Council has 253 dog bins with a further 150 provided by the Parish and Town Council's. The current budget is £42,500 and there is no scope to increase this for 2010/11 financial year. The contact number to report missed emptying of the bins or other issues is tel: 445500. It was agreed that the locations of dog bins in West Swindon be mapped, and then considered by the forum if they are located in the right places.

Action: B Brannan to obtain location map.

5. Hillmead Industrial Estate

- 5.1. Cllr Nick Martin reported that the proposed extension and use of the Hillmead Industrial Estate would be in line with current use as light industrial units.

6. Proposed Wiltshire Urban Development

- 6.1. Cllr Nick Martin reported on the two public meetings held to discuss the proposal for 3500 dwellings to the West of Peatmoor and Sparcells as identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy. Ward councillors are opposing these proposals and are concerned about the lack of infrastructure (roads, schools, utilities, recreation, etc). The advice given by ward members will be published in the next edition of the Link Magazine (www.swindonlink.com).

7. Pot Hole Repairs

- 7.1. Concern was expressed at the standard of pot hole repairs and that no repairs have been done in Langstone Way by Westlea Primary School. Repairs can be reported on the Council's website (www.swindon.gov.uk) or 'Up My Street' (www.upmystreet.com). Residents reported that Swindon's Website and response is superior to other local authority sites. Ward councillors stated they will pursue any issues raised by residents.

8. West Swindon Open Event

- 8.1. Bernie Brannan reported that a Steering Group of Residents and officers have met to discuss ideas. A proposal is being developed to hold an event during early summer on a Saturday in either the West Swindon Shopping Centre or in the combined space of the Link Sports Hall, library and under cover entrance (adjacent to the library). The event will show case West

Swindon with stands and displays from community, voluntary, and sports groups in West Swindon. The event will be supported by the public agencies working in, and for residents of West Swindon. A firm proposal will be brought to the May forum meeting and updates reported in the Link magazine.

Change of date for Next Meeting

The next West Swindon Forum meeting will take place on Tuesday, 11th May (not Monday, 10th May) at the West Swindon Library at 7.30 pm.