

Parklands Residents' Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parklands Residents' Association held in the Parklands Community Centre on Tuesday 18 January 2005 at 7.00 pm.

Present

Ken Dowsett (Chair)	Mike Hallam (minutes)
Wendy Cooper	Cllr Brandon Eldred
Brian Cooper	B Lee
M.J Willis	J Winstanley
N. J Croft	Peggy Wayman
P. Westwood	Gill Sanderson
B. Muddiman	Liz Percival
J. Muddiman	Tracie Robbins
Ann Livingston	Simon Dignan

Apologies

Maxine Little	Andy Young (Local Beat Officer)
Simon Hegarty	Annette Smith
Jill Coombes	John Livingston
Marion Baker	

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made special mention that Penny Westwood (Head of Northampton School for Girls) had come along to address the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 02 November 2004

The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated, were agreed as read.

3. Matters Arising

Matters Arising were taking in the form of Penny Westwood (1) addressing the meeting regarding traffic concerns and a general update from Cllr Brandon Eldred (2).

(1) Address from Penny Westwood (Head of Northampton School for Girls)

Mrs Westwood explained that the school was working with Northamptonshire County Council to look at the issue of traffic calming near the school. She said that she had written to all residents near the school to discuss the idea and was also attending our meeting. Since September she had stood outside each day and watched pupil's arrive for school. There were several problems, which she wished to see addressed

- Drivers were using the school driveway to turn their cars around.
- Speeding past the school, with pupil's crossing the road.
- There was no crossing point to get to the Spinney Hill Road site.

Penny Westwood explained that she had a personal responsibility for pupil safety. She said that the police and road safety team from Northamptonshire County Council were horrified by the safety issues around the School. Mrs Westwood stated that she was attending the meeting for two reasons

- To explain that the County Council had agreed to put in a pedestrian crossing in Spinney Hill Road (without lights). The funding is secure and it will definitely be in put place, but the date of this is currently unknown.
- To ask for further ideas and opinions as to how improve road safety around the school and its two sites.

Mrs Percival said that children were misbehaving and pushing other children into the road. Mrs Westwood explained that she would bring the matter up in school and explained that the children were told to cross Spinney Hill Road in the same place.

Brian Cooper stated that he had noticed the problem of parents dropping children off and doing u-turns in the road. He also stated that there were parking problems in the Community Centre car park caused by parents dropping children off.

Mrs Westwood explained that since September a lollipop lady had been employed to help pupils cross Spinney Hill Road. She explained that they had also advertised for an afternoon lollipop lady.

A resident said that pupils dropping rubbish was a problem at the Oulton Rise bus stop and asked if a bin could be put at that bus stop. Councillor Eldred said that he would ask for a bin to be put there.

A resident expressed his concern that pupils wouldn't use a pedestrian crossing. He also explained that there had been problems with pupils throwing stones.

A resident asked if it was possible to get barriers put by the pedestrian crossing. Mrs Westwood said that she was looking into securing funding for this.

A resident stated that there were additional parking problems when Spinney Hill theatre was used in the evenings. Mrs Westwood explained that under the new plans, there would be bus parking bays in the school car park. These would ease traffic problems in the day, but would also be able to be used as car parking bays in the evening (for the theatre).

A resident stated that the caretaker only puts four cones out along Devon Way and used to put out more. Mrs Westwood said that she would ask the caretaker why, but also explained that they had taken police advice on the cones.

A resident stated that most of the pupils were polite and helpful. Mrs Westwood said that she was pleased to hear this and would pass this back to the pupils/

Mrs Westwood asked whether the residents thought the pedestrian crossing should be flat or raised. The consensus of opinion was that it should be raised.

Mr Cooper asked if NSG work in conjunction with the primary school on traffic calming. Mrs Westwood explained that they did and would continue to do so. E.g. In the past they had worked together to stagger finishing times.

Mrs Percival asked why the lights had been on in the mobile classrooms all over Christmas. Mrs Westwood said that problems such as these could be reported to Charles in the bungalow in Devon Way.

(2) Update from Councillor Eldred

- He had e-mailed John Harvey regarding traffic light timings (Spinney Hill Road/Kettering Road junction) and was waiting for a reply.
- Regarding the change of use to the former hairdressers in Coppice Drive he said that the last he had heard it was going to be a mortgage advisor shop. Councillor Eldred said that nothing had yet gone through planning.
- Cllr Eldred had written to Mick Young (former leader of NCC) regarding traffic calming near schools. Cllr Eldred explained that we were 198th on the list, as we were not classed as a deprivation area. He stated that he had now re-resent the letter to Roy Mayhew (leader of NCC).
- Cllr Eldred stated that Phil Moore had been replaced by Andy Young as our Community Beat Officer. Cllr Eldred stated that we also had to share PC Young with other areas. He had written to Ken Willis to state that he was not satisfied with having a part-time CBO. He said that he had also put a bid in for one of the extra beat officers being deployed.

A resident stated that they only saw PC Young on his motorbike and several residents voiced concerns that he had been difficult to contact. It was agreed to invite PC Young to the next meeting. The chairman stated that it should be the number one priority to have a reliable CBO who would spend as much time as possible in the area.

- Cllr Eldred had spoken to Tesco's and they had cut deliveries from 4 to 2. Cllr Eldred stated that he was trying to get this reduced to 1. He also explained that Tesco's had agreed not to deliver at peak traffic times. Several residents voiced concerns that they were still delivering at peak times and Cllr Eldred asked to be kept informed.

Ken Dowsett stated that Tesco's had been given permission to widen their side gate (Spinney Hill Road side), but at their expense. Cllr Eldred said that he had spoken to residents living near the shop, but they were not in favour of this idea. Cllr Eldred said that Paula Stenning (store manager) was to attend the Area Partnership meeting on February 10th.

A resident asked why Tesco's could not use smaller lorries for their smaller stores. Another resident stated that Tesco's only used one type of vehicle for all deliveries.

- Cllr Eldred stated that work on the phone mast was underway. He had sent a letter to Marconi along with a copy of the petition. Marconi replied to thank him for the letter and said that they would take the residents views on board.
- The chairman stated that there were possible health and safety issues. Cllr Eldred stated that if we could prove it, we could have it taken down.

A resident asked Cllr Eldred why Topps could not be brought out to address some of the parking issues at Coppice Drive shops. Cllr Eldred explained that there was a problem in that Topps were saying that it was a police matter and that the police were saying that it was a Topps matter. Mr Cooper explained that the police would only get involved if vehicles were causing an obstruction.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that work on the new Play Area was due to start shortly, following successful fund raising by the Parklands Play Area Committee. He stated that they were trying to think of a local (non-political) personality to open the new play area. Names already mentioned had been Colin Calderwood (of NTFC) or Ben Cohen (of Northampton Saints). It was also suggested that it might be worth approaching Ian Sampson (of NTFC), as he had already helped out with fundraising for the play area.

The grant form had been obtained, but there were some questions that could not be answered. The Chair said that he was still investigating these before the form could be submitted. The Chair stated that they also required a breakdown and written statement of the Association's accounts.

5. Secretary's Report

Wendy reported that she had received a letter from Abington Library saying that they had recently opened. They were inviting us to either visit the library as a group or had offered to come to a meeting to give us a talk. A resident asked whether we still received the library bus and the Chair confirmed that we did.

Wendy stated that the Association needed to get insurance (as part of grant application)

6. Treasurers' Report

There was £47.00 in the account

8. Neighbourhood Watch

Barbara Lee had been back in contact with the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator but unfortunately he had been unable to attend the meeting. Barbara would invite him to the next meeting.

The meeting heard about the recent incidents during 'Trick or Treat' when walls in Coppice Drive were vandalised and elderly residents were fearful. It was also reported that the Post Office had been raided and that a bonfire had been lit under the wooden door at the Post Office. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that Neighbourhood Watch would be carried forward to the next meeting when it was hoped that both the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Local Beat Officer would be able to attend.

10. Any Other Business

A resident asked if a replacement for the Community Centre Co-ordinator had been found. Wendy stated that she and Steve were doing the job temporarily and that a replacement had been advertised for.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting was the AGM at 7pm on 15th March 2005.

Distribution List

All Attendees

All Officers and Committee Members

Bob and Angela Harris

John Delahunty

Cllr Brandon Eldred

Andy Young

Parklands Primary School

Parklands Nursery School

Northampton School for Girls

All Shops on Oulton Rise and Coppice Drive

Copy to be displayed at The Barn

Copy to be displayed at The Community Centre

Distributed via e-mail

Jean Bradshaw

Brian Canavan

Brian and Wendy Cooper

Ken Dowsett

Simon Hegarty

Mike Hallam

Maxine Little

Rhett Norris

Sylvia Shepherd

Michael Willis

Cllr Brandon Eldred

John Delahunty

Sally Gedney

Penny Westwood