

Parklands Residents' Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parklands Residents' Association held in the Parklands Community Centre on Tuesday 10 May 2005 at 7.00 pm.

Present

Ken Dowsett (Chair)	Barbara Lee
Marion Baker	Ann Livingston
Brian Canavan	Maxine Little (Minutes)
Jill Confue	Ann Livingston
Vic Confue	Barbara Muddiman
Gill Coombs	John Muddiman
Brian Cooper	Rhett Norris
Wendy Cooper	Liz Percival
John Croft	Jill Sanderson
Chris Evans	Sylvia Shepherd
Simon Hegarty	Peggy Wayman
Beverley Harrison	Jill Winstanley
Richard Harrison	
	Cllr Brandon Eldred

Apologies

Mike Hallam	Anita Smith
John Livingston	Michael Willis

ACTION

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 March 2005

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

3. Matters Arising

3.1 20 MPH Zone

In mid-April safety tests had been carried out by the County Council to measure the speed of vehicles on Spinney Hill Road. The average speed recorded was 31 mph and therefore the area would not be moved any higher up the "Safer Routes to Schools" list. Brandon Eldred had requested that they retest later in the year, possibly around September and that they also target Coppice Drive.

Members reported that speeding was also a problem along Woodcote Avenue, especially at school run times. A request was made that the Headteachers be asked to send a letter to all parents. It was agreed that letters should be sent from the Residents Association and the County Council.

3.2. Tesco's

Brandon Eldred reported that a petition was to be delivered to the County Council on 19 May to improve the state of the verges and add posts at the corner of Coppice Drive near to the shops. He added that the details of a lorry that had knocked down one of these posts had been passed to the Police and to the County Council and action would be taken by them.

TOPPS officers would be visiting the area at Coppice Drive shops for three days to ticket cars. They would then return within two weeks for a further three days. Brian Cooper asked why it was still impossible to get the mobile TOPPS officer out when they were required. Brandon Eldred asked for the times when there were generally the most problems with parking and he would pass this information on to the TOPPs Management.

BC, BE

Concern was expressed about the general untidiness of the area around the shops at Coppice Drive. Brandon Eldred agreed that he would write a letter to all shops, in his capacity as Councillor, requesting them to tidy up. If this did not work then Environmental Health would be asked to inspect the area.

BE

It was reported that it would be a further 3-4 months before Tesco's would have a complete fleet of smaller wagons to use for deliveries to their Express stores. Residents were concerned that even then, they may still unload on the double yellow lines in front of the store, instead of using the loading bay at the rear.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chair told the meeting that he had received a letter from the Borough Council that had been sent to all members of the Bus Service Working Group. The service 11 contract would remain with MK Metro until Easter 2010 and a new timetable was sent. **(the letter and timetable are circulated with these minutes)**

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported a change to the date of the next meeting which would now be 20 September 2005.

6. Treasurers' Report

The Treasurers advised that they had still not received a copy of the Constitution and without this they could not open an account for the Association. It had not been possible to scan a copy of the document, therefore Wendy Cooper would look at producing a constitution, based on the draft provided by NBC.

WC

7. Highways

John Harvey had turned down the invitation to attend the Residents' Association Meeting.

Residents described several incidents for instance, blocking the box junction, traffic light timings, lack of filter lanes, inconsiderate parking etc. All of these would require attendance of someone from NCC Highways. Simon Hegarty distributed a diagram that tried to summarise these issues and requested feedback from the group. All agreed that these did highlight the problems and also offered some possible solutions. Further suggestions were made by members of the group and Simon would incorporate these into the diagram. Brandon Eldred agreed that as Parkland's County Councillor, he would share this information with John Harvey and ask him to attend a future meeting of the Residents' Association. **(the revised diagram is circulated with these minutes)**

BE

8. Neighbourhood Watch

Unfortunately the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator was unable to attend the meeting. Barbara Lee would invite him to the meeting in November.

BL

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Committee

A request had been received for Chris Evans to join the Committee. All agreed unanimously to elect her to the Committee

9.2 Devon Way

Residents of Devon Way expressed their thanks to Brandon Eldred for the procedures that had been put in place for the recent football tournament.

9.3 Skateboard Park

Brandon Eldred briefed the meeting on discussions that he had held with the youth of the Ward. They had indicated to him that they would like to see a Skateboard Park in the area. He had investigated the cost of this and found that it would be in the region of £50k, and since there was no deprivation in the ward, there would be no council funding for this. He had advised the youngsters that they would need to fund this themselves and that he was willing to work with them to achieve this. Residents agreed that, subject to agreeing on a suitable location that was away from housing and could be easily policed and with the Borough Council funding its maintenance and insurance, that they were favourable in principle to this scheme.

Brian Cooper recalled proposals for a skateboard park in Parklands that had been brought by the Borough Council to the Area Partnership meetings in 2002 and asked what had happened with these plans.

It was suggested that Brandon Eldred may wish to establish a Youth Forum. If this was established then they could be invited to have a representative on the Residents' Association.

9.4 Youth and Policing

Concern was expressed at the general bad behaviour displayed by many of the youths around the area. Incidents were cited of intimidating behaviour around the children's play area, prevent under 8's from using their new facilities, lewd behaviour towards the staff at the Community Centre and general vandalism and intimidation of local residents in their own homes. The meeting discussed possible causes and solutions to these problems. All agreed that lack of police presence and no police response because calls on these matters were downgraded to 'advice only', was a major concern for Residents of Parklands. It was therefore suggested that the Chair or Vice Chair of the Police Authority be invited to the next Residents' meeting. Brandon Eldred agreed that he would request this.

BE

Brandon Eldred reported that a Neighbourhood Warden would be starting in June, although their first 6 weeks would be spent training. It was explained that they would generally work Monday to Friday, although hours could be varied as necessary. Part of their remit was to talk to youngsters in the area and build up a rapport, and reporting any issues. The neighbourhood wardens would have a direct link to the police and an agreement was in place that if a warden calls them out, the police have to respond.

The current situation with a Beat Officer was not working, because they are called away to attend to so many other things. It was agreed that this could be discussed with the Chair of the Police Authority.

9.5 Countywide Traveller Unit

Brandon Eldred had received a request from the CTU to attend a meeting of Parklands Residents' Association to explain what services they can offer, but also to explain to the group the limits of their powers, and how the Police don't always use the powers that they have at their disposal. Everyone was happy for the Unit to attend.

BE

9.6 CCTV – Community Centre Play Area

Concern was expressed that there was not a dedicated camera covering the new play area. It was explained that there was a camera that could be turned to cover the area, but all agreed that an extra camera was needed.

9.7 University College Northampton (UCN) - Entertainment Licence

Brian Cooper advised that UCN had applied for an entertainment licence for the Pavillion on their Park Campus. The application was for the hours;

10.00 – 23.00 Monday – Thursday

10.00 – 0130 Friday and Saturday

12.00 – 2300 Sunday

Residents living on the northern edge of Parklands stated that they regular heard loud music from the Pavillion. Anyone affected was advised to submit objections to the Licensing Committee or send them to Brian and he would pass them on.

ALL

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 20 September at 7.00 pm at the Parklands Community Centre. This would be a General Meeting open to all.

Distribution List

All Attendees

All Officers and Committee Members

John Delahunty

Mike Hallam

PC Andy Young

Parklands Nursery School

Parklands Primary 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 Community Centre

Distributed via e-mail

Jean and Roger Bradshaw

Brian Canavan

Brian and Wendy Cooper

Ken Dowsett

Simon Hegarty

Mike Hallam

Beverley and Richard Harrison

Maxine Little

Rhett Norris

Sylvia Shepherd

Anita Smith

Michael Willis

Cllr Brandon Eldred

John Delahunty

Sally Gedney

Penny Westwood

Andy Young