

Parklands Residents' Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parklands Residents' Association held in the Parklands Community Centre on Tuesday 29 January 2008 at 7.00 pm.

Present

PCSO Lucy Atkinson	Maxine Little
Tony Bull	Ann Livingston
Brian Canavan	John Livingston
Brian Cooper (Chair)	Barbara Muddiman
Wendy Cooper	John Muddiman
John Croft	Ged Norris
Ellis Dasent	PC Liam O'Neill
Chris Evans	Liz Percival
Pauline Gothard	Jill Sanderson
Phil Gothard	Sylvia Shepherd
Mike Hallam (schools item)	Ray Walters
Richard Harrison	Sylvia Walters
Simon Hegarty	Peggy Wayman
Matthew Lee	Jill Winstanley

1. Apologies

Barbara Lee	Rhett Norris
Cllr Malcolm Mildren	Cllr Portia Wilson

ACTION

2. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting held on Tuesday 27 November 2007

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

4. Matters Arising and Chair's Report

4.1 Traffic and Parking Issues

The Chair reported that with information provided by Richard Harrison he had contacted TNT and managed to speak with a Director about the parking up of lorries at Coppice Drive / Spinney Hill Road. The Director had visited the area and agreed to contact all their contractors. However not all offenders were from these companies, and some were foreign. It would be difficult to track down all of these drivers.

Brian Cooper had attended the Area Partnership Meeting on 10 December to represent Parklands Residents, where parking issues had also been raised again with Council and Police. A meeting had also been arranged with Cllr Mildren the following week and these issues would also be highlighted again to him.

BC

TOPPs had been provided with a list of football fixtures, so that they could attend to monitor parking in Devon Way. If they did not attend, residents were advised that they could contact them on 01604 235688 or 0845 6800153.

It was reported that the Community Centre were struggling with parking being available for people attending the Centre who had paid to hire the rooms for functions. A suggestion had been made that some spaces be designated for hirers of the rooms. Brian Cooper would raise this with Cllr Mildren.

BC

Liam and Lucy explained to the meeting the problems that they faced with policing the parking around the schools at dropping off and picking up times. Often although vehicles were parked inconsiderately offences were not being committed. The officers attended as often as they could and advised drivers parking carelessly about this issue and also ticketed for any offences that they could, eg parking on zig zag lines, they had also been putting notes on cars advising them.

The Chairman reported that he had still not received any reply from Cllr Eldred or Mike Hallam regarding the poor state of the additional speed notice signs on the lamp posts in Spinney Hill Road and Oulton Rise. Mike Hallam would take this back to the council.

MH

The issue of reinstating the 7 tonne limit signs was still ongoing.

Parking around junctions was also still dangerous. Since motorists no longer seemed to observe the highway code, residents asked whether double yellow lines should be painted at T junctions. Mike Hallam agreed to discuss this with Cllr Bob Seery, Cabinet member for Highways at the County Council. He was collecting project requests for spending for the new financial year.

MH

Brian Canavan highlighted the ongoing problem of the barriers that had not been replaced after the changes to the junction at Spinney Hill Road / Coppice Drive and Kettering Road. Mike Hallam agreed to feed this back to Cllr Seery.

MH

Simon Hegarty requested that plans submitted via Cllr Eldred to Cllr Seery previously showing the group's suggestions to ease congestion at Coppice Road shops be included in the funding for the coming year. Mike Hallam asked that Simon forward the plans again and he would pass these on.

SH / MH

Lucy Atkinson had approached the HR department at Nationwide, but parking in Goodwood Avenue was still a problem. Residents were concerned that they had not heard anything about the possible residents parking scheme for Goodwood Avenue, again Brian Cooper would discuss with Councillors.

BC

4.2 Parklands Middle School Site

Simon Hegarty provided further update on progress with the campaign to prevent the proposed development of the Parklands Middle School site.

- There was still no date for the planning application to be heard by WNDC, who had still not had the information that they were waiting for from Atkins and Northamptonshire County Council. Again, if the application should go to committee before the next meeting everyone would be contacted.
- The Section 77 Application to the Secretary of State to permit development on the site had been to the advisory panel in November. They had not supported the application and had contacted NCC for more information. The application had been due to go back to the panel on 24 January, but the outcome was not known.
- Sally Keeble MP had arranged a meeting for a representative from the Residents Association to lobby Paul Clark MP. Paul Clark is the Private Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families, Ed Balls. Simon had met with Paul Clark on behalf of the Residents Association, and had explained to him the reasons why the playing fields should be retained asking him to urge the Secretary of State not to grant the Section 77 permission to sell the playing fields in Parklands.
- Simon reminded residents to continue to provide photographic evidence of traffic congestion on the estate, also reporting any problems to the police so that there was a formal record.

- Information had been obtained from the land registry that land near to the entrance of the community centre was owned by the Borough Council. This land would be needed to widen Devon Way to allow for access to any new development. Simon Hegarty had passed this information to Cllr Mildren to discuss with Borough Council Officers, asking him to ensure that officers were aware of the significance of this land to any proposed development.
- With regard to the Village Green application, the County Council, as registration authority, had received one objection to the application ... from themselves! This had been written by a QC. A copy had been provided to the Residents' Association and 6 weeks given for the group to respond. This would be circulated for comment. The meeting laughed when a quote from the QC was read out that suggested that Parklands Residents Association was not a valid organisation.

Matthew Lee questioned why a development could be allowed when surely if more houses were built the traffic would be even busier and the roads would not cope. The meeting applauded Matthew and Ellis for their commonsense, and comments were made that these young people at aged 13 had more sense than council officers and elected members.

5. Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report

6. Treasurers' Report

Simon Hegarty submitted a claim for travel expenses for the visit to Westminster to lobby Paul Clark MP. The meeting voted to allow this to be paid from association funds.

BL / JW

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Youth Facilities

It was heard that young people did not have much to do in the area, and did not want to join existing groups such as the uniformed organisations. Many young people would like a more informal setting to meet in. Mike Hallam reported that funding was still being sought for a skate park, and ideas such as a youth shelter were discussed, however it was generally agreed that the siting of this would be an issue since no one would want it near to them. It was agreed that a youth club may provide an answer and Maxine Little offered to approach the county council to find out more information about what youth facilities were available to the area.

ML

Issues of recent juvenile nuisance were discussed, including youths climbing over security fencing in Goodwood Avenue, breaking into allotment sheds, and the motorcycle accident near NSG. Other crimes were also mentioned of a brick being thrown at a window and paint being sprayed on a vehicle. Liam and Lucy were concerned that they had not picked up on these incidents and it became apparent that they had not been reported to police. Residents were reminded of the need to report all incidents, even if it was felt that nothing would happen as a result. All incidents logged helped police in identifying patterns etc. that would all help them to solve crimes.

7.2 Co-opt New Committee Members

It was proposed by Brian Cooper and seconded by Tony Bull that Ellis Dasent Matthew Lee be co-opted as committee members to represent the young people of the estate. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting also agreed that as junior members they did not have to pay any contribution to association funds.

7.3 Contacting the Police

Sylvia Shepherd advised that she had recently attended a talk given by Northamptonshire Police who had provided details of a service offered to people with disabilities preventing easy use of the telephone. A special number is provided which bypasses the usual system. However to use the service requires registration. Anyone wishing to register was advised to contact Lyn Copin on 08453 700700 ext 8326.

7.4 County Councillor Representation

The meeting expressed their concern that Cllr Eldred no longer attended any local meetings of either the Residents Association or the Area Partnership. Various members reported that they had tried to make contact with him, but that he did not return calls or e-mails. As Mike Hallam appeared to still be in contact with him, Mike was asked to take back a message to Cllr Eldred that residents would still like him to attend, and put forward their views to the county council. Resident added that they had been pleased with the way in which he had worked with the residents association in the past and wished for this to continue.

MH

7.5 Stolen Uniforms

Liz Percival had attended a meeting at the Town Hall recently where they been advised that some Water Board uniforms had been stolen. She reminded everyone of the need to ask all utility company workers for ID, and not to be afraid to leave them outside while making a telephone call to check the identity with the company.

7.6 Lighting at Schools

Lights had been left on in the boiler block at NSG (old Middle School site). Also lights being left on at the primary school when the school was unoccupied was also an issue, causing annoyance to neighbours and also contributing to wasted energy from the school.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting and would be held on Tuesday 25 March 2008 at 7.00 pm in the Parklands Community Centre.

Distribution List

All Attendees
All Officers and Committee Members
All Parklands Ward Councillors
Lindsey Ambrose
PCSO Lucy Atkinson
PCSO David Bullock
PC Liam O'Neill
Tony Nuamah
Parklands Tigers Football Club
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

Brian Canavan
Brian and Wendy Cooper
Mike Hallam
Simon Hegarty
Maxine Little
Rhett Norris
Sylvia Shepherd
County and Borough Councillors
Council Officers
Police Officers
School Heads
Parklands Tigers FC