

BEECHES COMMUNITY GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held on 11 February 2010

Present:

Malcolm Lewis (Chairman), Liza Darroch (Churn Project), Sgt Stuart Plant (Community Safety Team) and 12 residents,

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Peter Braidwood, (County, District & Town), John Burgess (County and District), Diane, Jim and Roger

The Chairman welcomed Nick Bridges, Chairman of the Watermoor group, and explained how the Watermoor, Chesterton and Beeches groups need to work closely and support each other.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Scouts are about to plant 2000 blubs on railway track.
Mike has obtained 18 saplings from Dobbies.

3. GROUP REPORTS

3.1 Social Responsibility

Welcome Packs

- Roger has these in hand.
- Vaults has agreed to supply vouchers and request has been sent to Tesco.
- Claire suggested that Fosseyway may be able to give funding.

Churn Newsletter Distribution

- In hand but more delivers needed.
- Deadline for next edition – early March.
- Are there any areas of Beeches not covered ?
- Available at the Library and TC offices.
- Circulation is about half that of W & G Standard.

Report on Meeting with Police

- Police are not given information about problem families from other agencies – no sharing of information.
- Some young people have been on a mechanics courses and it is easier to help them when more about their background is known.
- COPScheme intended to keep youth out of criminal justice system by engaging with victims and help address problems.
- Working well locally and being extended to Cheltenham and Gloucester.
- Victims are given the option whether to take part.

3.2 Road Safety Group

Kingshill Development Update

Berkley Building site:

- Wheel wash should have been in place for vehicles leaving the site. Developer has now installed a generator at the entrance to the site and muddy water is flowing down road.
- Gloucestershire Highways consider that the cones are informal rather than illegal. Project director has been contacted re fence along the side of the bungalows and has advised that the gate should be locked.
- Berkeley Homes no longer replying to emails.
- Work on the new access from the Tesco's roundabout is scheduled to be completed by 25 February when temporary access of North Home Road should be closed off.
- Concern that damage to roads and pavements must be repaired. Lorries parked on pavements are damaging stones.
- Public foot path across the site has been closed by GCC for 6 months whilst work is being carried out. Roger has objected on behalf of residents to ensure it is not lost for

good - must remain vigilant that it is not closed off permanently.

- Newsletter from Berkeley Homes states work will be completed by the end of February but work has been delayed by bad weather and trying to catch up.

Traffic Headway

Nothing to report.

3.3 Clean Environment

Work with Town Council

- Owner of the old Swan Sanctuary site is looking for ideas to use the land efficiently.
- Our Future Cirencester is looking at green issues. Jackie Stearn's group – Green Space Project.
- Litter problem in City Bank – plans in hand to address.
- The story of the Roman sites in the Town needs to be told - Historical Town Walk
- Railway Society also has wealth of information.
- Community Veg plot – volunteers plant then produce is made freely available for everyone - work with TC to develop.

Litter

- Most of the black spots eliminated.
- Ditch near to Golden Farm pub has been collecting rubbish for centuries.
- Town Council has agreed to clean out ditch so litter pickers keep clear - date awaited.
- Take photos to record before and after.
- Needs to be done before 25 March because of birds nesting.
- Railway track – in fairly decent condition but there is rubbish at the side of the bridge

Dog pooh

- Is considerably worse since the snow.
- Agreed to invite Claire Blizzard (CDC Environmental Officer) to come to talk to group and advise what can be done.

4. OTHER ITEMS

Stall at the Fun Day

- Doug is looking at this.
- Chesterton will have own stall.
- Suggest part of our stand should inform what the Group has been doing towards clearing litter and future plans.

Railway track bridge mural.

- Painted over by GCC when work done on bridge.
- Claire willing to investigate if money can be found to replace.
- Chesterton about to paint underpass near Fire Station.
- Need to find suitable paint.
- Youth will take ownership.
- High quality graffiti which is less likely to attract damage or over painting.
- In other areas gangs mark their territory but it's not a problem in Cirencester.

Junior Wardens.

- Great loss if it falls as Claire is occupied on other work.
- Claire meeting with them on Saturday with 3 parents who are interested in taking over and looking at how to operate.
- 13 April – trip to Burford Wildlife Park. Suggested that some of the group also attend to develop relationships and help.

Gardening scheme

- Claire had grant from NHS for garden behind Austin Road flats.
- Looking to do same at Paterson Road this year.
- Develop allotments with help from RAC students at Austin Road where trees have been removed – 25 plots.
- Austin and Paterson Road – Fosseyway has no plans to demolish and will be looking to refurbish by the end of next year.

Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting on 25 February

- Liza's work establishing Community Partnerships for the Churn Project during the past 2 years will end in October and this meeting is a vital first step in agreeing what could/should happen thereafter.
- Residents' comments will be heard by service providers who have duty to consult and provide relevant services.
- Meeting will decide how the partnership will work.
- Individual groups will continue but need to consider how to continue without Liza's leadership.
- There is no funding available to roll out to Park and Stratton/WhitewayWards.

Tree Planting

- Trees planted all around Beeches – supported by stakes and netting – who planted them?
- Believed to have replaced Laburnum trees which were removed.
- Suggest article in Standard.

Sign for Corinium Gate, London Road – (6 Houses)

- CDC has not approved name.
- People are keen to use names of old Cirencester trades people / businesses.
- Suggestions for names should be sent to Lisa.
- Google search comes up with the names of 27 people born in Cirencester.

Working with Watermoor Group

Deferred to the next meeting.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- All agreed preference to start future meetings at 7pm
- Agreed that Mike and Roger and Doug would provide articles for the coming newsletter
- In view of the support given, everyone was encouraged to spread the word that food is served in Vaults on Thursday evenings.

6. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 11 March 2010 at 7.00 pm at Ingleside House, Beeches Road, Cirencester

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.45 pm