

BEECHES COMMUNITY GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held on 11 November 2010

Present:

Malcolm Lewis (Chairman), 12 Residents, Caroline Braidwood (Secretary), Members of Cirencester Town Council, Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council, Claire Bartlett (Bromfords HA), 1 Park Resident, Nick Bridges (Watermoor Community Group)

The Chairman gave vote of thanks to Councillors for the installation of parking restrictions on Beeches Road. Cllr Burgess confirmed that it had taken 15 months.

1. Apologies

Liza Darroch(The Churn), Jamie O'Connor (Scouts)

2. Minutes from the Meeting held on 14 October 2010

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes that are not Included on the Agenda

Clare Bartlett confirmed that she is helping to identify potential sites for young offenders to work in the community. 2 have already been identified. It was agreed to pass this on to other groups.

It was also advised that the brewery spending £600K on improving the Beeches pub and that it will serve food.

4. Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

5. Town, District and County Councillors' Reports

District

- Next year's Council tax is frozen.

County

- Budget to be reduced by £108m
- Battling to protect Cirencester from cuts.
- Library in Cirencester is safe but not in other areas and looking to use the building for other services e.g. registrar. Library catalogue will be on line and residents will be able to order and have books delivered to the library or to home (for disabled). Currently each book costs £7.50.
- Youth Service will cease but some provision may be taken by TC.
- Considerable reduction in rural bus services. Some currently cost £76 per seat to operate.
- Highways budget for maintenance will be retained but new work will cease for the foreseeable future.
- Over 1000 redundancies will be made including one third of Managers.
- Adult social care will only reduce minimally.
- Cuts begin imminently. Any building that becomes surplus will be offered to the community.
- Castle Street parking restrictions are still going through the process despite objections.

Police Authority

- Looking how to protect front line services with £180K reduction in budget.
- The additional 63 PC will continue for 2 years.

General

- Investigating how to combine public services under one roof in centres such as Cirencester to reduce costs.
- Kingshill Sports and Community Development - TC and developer funded so will continue.
- TC will probably be in the strongest position to carry out some of the work dropped

by others.

6. Cirencester Neighbourhood Partnership

Park Ward

- Second meeting was not as well supported as the first but those present are trying to do something about parking.
- The leader of Cyber café is very good and go ahead – contacting Primary School re parking issues.

7. Kingshill Development and New Residents

Welcome Packs – Roger Sweeting

- A4 sheet of useful CDC information to be included e.g. waste collections etc.
- Bromfords will cover cost of printing
- Design of front cover is out for comment. Community Group and Bromfords on the front with other logos on the back.
- Some printers cannot handle the size of the folder.
- Beeches shop prepared to offer free newspaper delivery for one month to new residents.
- Unlikely to be available before January 2011
- New Brewery Arts also prepared to include info and discount offer.
- Concentrating on new residents in Kingshill N & S for the time being but may be available to existing residents in the future.
- Clare Bartlett will provide youth information.
- Initial print run 1000
- Have been able to advise Stanbrook on information not included in their Guide which will be in the future.

Public Right of Way – Roger Sweeting

No change. Waiting for Mike Barton (GCC –PROW) to talk to developers. Must be done by Autumn 2011 and important to maintain pressure. Plans for the development are on view at Tesco. The foot bridge will be fully functional in Autumn 2011.

8. Environmental

There was a complaint about noisy neighbours playing very loud music late at night and into the early hours. When confronted they apologise but the behaviour continues. It was recommended that after making a person complaint, CDC and the PCSO should be advised and neighbours encouraged to do the same which will increase the number of complaints. It was acknowledged that it is easier to deal with nuisance in housing association properties. It was agreed to produce an information sheet for residents on what to do in such circumstances.

All residents were encouraged to obtain an incident number when making complaints to the Police.

One resident complained about overgrown Leylandii and was advised find out whose property it is growing in and to speak to the owners.

9. Community

Social Events – Janet Broomfield & Rose Leicester

Christmas Dinner

Jenny Hincks has donated a hamper basket and £150 worth of contents has also been donated. Most of the draw will take place beforehand. Nearly £500 worth of tickets have already been sold.

19 from Beeches and 8 from Watermoor will be attending the Christmas Dinner - need a few more.

Junior Wardens Update – Clare Bartlett (Bomfords HA)

Only 2 parents attended and it was considered too much work to carry out alone. Also some Junior Wardens have left the area. Will need to be re-launched when suitable facilities are available as there is currently no community facility within Beeches.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Following problems discussed at the last meeting further anti-social behaviour had been

witnessed and the Police contacted. Offenders have now been spoken to and all has gone quiet. A flyer was delivered to all neighbouring properties and including the offending property, explaining what to do.

Beeches in Bloom - Janet Broomfield

No progress to report at the moment. Will consult Cllrs regarding City Bank and new Officer at TC will be able to help. Green Strategy is longer term.

Round Table raised £1,000 at Bonfire Night and may be worth approaching for help with a teen shelter. Put in touch with Clare.

10. Any Other Business

Some residents complained about very low level anti-social behaviour on green spaces: children playing ball games and dog fouling. However, everyone agreed that children should not be prevented from playing on grassed areas unless causing damage and that everyone needs to respect everyone else's space.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 13 January 2011 starting at 6.30 pm.

To be followed by the Police Community Meeting

The meeting was closed at 7.30 pm