

BEECHES COMMUNITY GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held on 14 October 2010

Present:

Malcolm Lewis (Chairman), 10 Residents, Caroline Braidwood (Secretary), Members of Cirencester Town Council, Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council, Liza Darroch(The Churn), Claire Bartlett (Bromfords HA), 1 Park Resident, Nick Bridges (Watermoor Community Group), Louise Brannon and Rob (Youth Offenders Scheme)

The Chairman welcomed Louise and Rob and they gave an overview of their work.

Young Offenders' Scheme (Louise Brannon and Rob) – Stroud and Cotswold Team

- Work with CDC on various projects and hope to work with the Community Group in the future.
- Work with 60-70 youngsters in Stroud and Cotswold all are 8-18 year olds.
- Their purpose is to work with young people and their families to reduce re offending and also with victims.
- Referral Orders are imposed by the Magistrates Court involving Community Payback and individual payback schemes
- Work on wider community projects where there is no victim or the victim doesn't want contact with the offender
- Contact can be made through Louise and Rob at Cirencester Police station. They will then carry out a risk assessment and meet the people involved
- They work differently to Probation service and need to match young people with each specific job
- Potentially there are 10 – 15 young people in the area that could be drawn on to work with the Community Group
- 4 – 6 young people would work together in a group at any one time.
- Have some equipment: strimmers, lawnmowers and general garden tools but not allowed to work with large equipment or dangerous materials.
- Youngsters who are drug offenders are given drug support first before considering for projects.
- Work with Children and Young Peoples Department of the County Council which also encompasses the Youth Service.

The problems making contact with Kingshill School were discussed and it was recommended making contact via the Cirencester Youth Council and Cyber Café / Ozone. It was agreed that Louise would work with Claire Bartlett of Bromfords to repaint the bridge over the railway track.

Nick Bridges (Watermoor) thanked Louise for the work that was carried out at the lorry park. What allowed to do ?

The Chairman said how encouraging it is that help and support is available but not fully appreciated before.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Andrea Glennon, Jamie O'Connor and Andy Lambert

2. To Approve the Minutes from the Meeting held on 16 September 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

None

4. Chairman's Report

None

5. Town, District and County Councillors' Reports

Cirencester Town Council: Cllr Geoffrey Adams (Mayor), Cllr Mrs Shirley Alexander, Cllr Mrs

Caroline Braidwood, Cllr Peter Braidwood, Cllr Matt Helm

Cotswold District Council : Cllr Geoffrey Adams, Cllr Peter Braidwood and Cllr John Burgess

Gloucestershire County Council: Cllr Peter Braidwood and Cllr John Burgess

- Beeches road parking restriction has been held up in GCC legal department.
- CDC Cabinet have agreed a \$106 contribution of £500,000 to the Town Council for a community facility in the Ward.
- £120m is to be reduced from the County Council budget
- Town Council website is still not up and running as a considerable amount of information has yet to be added - need to include everything that is happening in Cirencester. It will probably now be launched in January 2011 and will include all Community groups' leaflets and information.
- Christmas Market is taking up a lot of Officer time. There is a waiting list of traders wanting to take up chalets and several local retailers including RAC have taken up chalets.

6. Cirencester Neighbourhood Partnership – Developments in Park Ward

A good initial meeting had taken place with 20 people attending. It was acknowledged that Park has different issues to Beeches. The next meeting will take place at the Cyber Café at 7 pm on Thursday 21 October.

7. Kingshill Development and New Residents

Welcome Packs – Roger Sweeting

700 houses are to be built over next 3 years. Welcome pack will include information and discount vouchers. The cost of printing each folder will be in the region of 50p - £1. RS will investigate other sources and will also approach Kingshill School for information to be included.

It was suggested that a plan of the new roads and names could be included.

Packs will be given out when new householders pick up their keys with alternative arrangements for affordable home occupants.

Chamber of Commerce is also be contacted for information to be included.

Kingshill North – mud on the road as there is no wheel wash for lorries.

Public Right of Way – Roger Sweeting

RS reported that he has asked GCC PROW Officer to confirm with the developer that the footpath will be available in time for the opening of the Kings Meadow bridge as it will be useless without the re-instatement of this path. He is also in contact with Preston PC.

8. Environmental

- The Chairman advised that the **TC Ward Audit** has now been completed and asked for it to be made available so that everyone is aware of the locations of all litter bins etc.
- PB was thanked for arranging installation of the **bin at the bridge** on the inner by-pass.
- **Riverside walk** in Park Ward to be resurfaced and bridge replaced
- RL reported that she had sprayed **dog fouled areas** red and logged positions with CDC. Many have now disappeared. Another resident is now using the spray in a different area.
- **Pot holes** are an on-going problem and can only get worse with reduced funding. Residents are still encouraged to report them.

9. Community

Social Events – Janet Broomfield & Rose Leicester

500 Raffle tickets are now printed with option for another 500 and everyone encouraged taking some to sell. Proceeds will go to the Churn to organise trips for families and other residents.

Junior Wardens Update – Clare Bartlett (Bomfords HA)

Meeting with parents involved in the scheme in 2 weeks' time. Report at next meeting.

Beeches Noticeboards

TC has agreed to use by the Group and the Agenda is on the board for first time. It was suggested that Youth in Beeches could use the reverse and the TC will have a plaque made.

Christmas Dinner – Thursday, 2 December 2010 at Ingleside

JB needs orders and money by 16 November – finalise at next meeting. Need 40 to make worthwhile. 3 courses for £14.99 pp. Hamper gifts also needed for raffle.

Beeches in Bloom

It was suggested that the RAC students may be able to work with the Group to make the Beeches nicer but the project will require lots of planning. SA suggested starting with 'the best front garden competition'.

History of Beeches

JS agreed to take this project on with anyone who has information. She also pointed out the forthcoming Archaeological & History Society talk on 27 October – Archaeological Findings on Kingshill North Site.

10. Any Other Business

RAC students – problems with one particular property were reported and concern that it is repeated with each new influx of students. BOBS scheme has now been extended to RAC. Police have been into the Students Union to talk to students about anti-social behaviour.

Police Community Meetings

Last meeting in Watermoor was very productive and it was good to see the Police involved with the community groups rather than out on a limb. Previous meetings have been very confrontational but the joint meeting was more successful. The next one is with Beeches.

Anti-social Behaviour

It was reported that recent incidents are becoming more of a problem with offenders becoming very aggressive. The Police have been involved and a PCSO has given a warning. It was acknowledged that Police priorities are changing with anti-social behaviour higher on the scale with the use of more effective means of targeting offenders i.e. working with housing associations. Residents were encouraged to report EVERY incident to the Police on **0845 090 1234** and to obtain an incident number. PB advised that PCSO's are good value for money. Concern was expressed that the attitude of young children is changing, that they take little notice of authority and parents are unsupportive. People need to identify nuisance residents and advise Housing authorities. It was agreed to discuss this issue in greater depth at the next meeting.

Parking

It was stated that more vehicles are being parked on grass verges indicating that there are not enough parking spaces. It was agreed that it is a constant problem although Beeches is not as bad as Watermoor.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 11 November 2010 starting at 6.30 pm.

The meeting was closed at 8.00 pm