

# BEECHES COMMUNITY GROUP

## Minutes of Meeting held on 13 January 2011

### Present:

Malcolm Lewis (Chairman), 13 Residents, John Burgess (Town Council, Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council), Claire Bartlett and James Trotter (Bromfords HA),

### 1. Apologies

Shirley Alexander, Andy Licknowski, Caroline and Peter Braidwood and Mike Jupp

### 2. Minutes from the Meeting held on 11 November 2010

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

### 3. Report from the Social Committee

- Very successful Christmas dinner raised over £431
- Planning a fete to be held in the Ingleside Garden – including a pig roast donated by Bromford Housing.
- Plans for the Beeches in Bloom campaign waiting for response from The Royal Agricultural College. Will approach Stratton Ass. For advice based on their experience of running the Stratton Horticultural show for many years. Claire B suggested involving unemployed trainees currently with BCTV – CB to feedback to JB

### 4. Councillors' Report

- With a cut of 31% CDC has received the worst (or 2<sup>nd</sup> worst?) settlement in the country and will need to find a further £1million of savings over and above those planned.
- County Council cutting £108 million over 4 years. Of the 1,000 posts to be cut (250 p.a.) most should be found with retirement, retraining and redistribution rather than via redundancies.
- Meeting held in the Barn Theatre re **residents' parking**. All to be reviewed Sept/Oct this year.  
Particular concern expressed by those living in Purley Road. As currently all those who have paid for permits are not able to park in their own street. This could be addressed by creating parking zones.  
Similar problems around Towers St, Chester St and The Avenue.  
Agreed parking charges should be **reduced** not **raised** as currently planned.
- Plans for a 20mph speed restriction to cover all the town inside the ring road is about to go to consultation. If there are objections it could take more than one year to complete.
- Concerns re lack of warning signs around the Beeches Road school pick up point on the bridge to be addressed. Cllr B.
- Pot holes are a major challenge this year – some 90,000 already done to a higher (and hopefully longer lasting?) standard. Huge backlog of road repairs to address so the maintenance budget has been retained in full at the expense of any new road building projects which have all been shelved.
- Town Council is hoping to work more closely with Highways to find ways to clear town pavements of snow and ice. Could include redeployment of staff and ways to encourage local businesses to be more proactive. Insurance issues may prove difficult to resolve. Thought some residents would scatter grit if they could collect it from a central point. Cllr B to report back
- The Town Council have brought together all the owners of grass verges and public spaces that need mowing (all 3 councils, Bromford and others) to try to find a way of working together more effectively and at less cost.

## 7. **Kingshill Development and New Residents**

### **Welcome Packs – Roger Sweeting**

Roger showed a proof of the pack which should be ready for distribution to the first 200 by the end of Jan. The first Bromford tenants are expected in by the end of March. Great admiration and thanks expressed to Roger and Bromford Housing.

## 8. **Environmental/Litter Picking**

- Doug proud to have a really good team who have made a clear difference to the black spots of the ward.
- Doug tackled the whole of Beeches road by himself – which was a big task. Thanks and applause to Doug
- Kingshill School produced a team to clean up the railway track and the one teacher and two pupils were able to make a start. There are some concerns about how sustainable this is and how Kingshill could be encouraged to take more responsibility.
- Will soon ask Highways to help clear the ditch by the Golden Farm Pub as this is needed before the team can attempt a clean up. DE
- Hoping to find out which areas the Town Council team cover in order to work with the newly formed Park Ward to cover any uncovered black spots. DE
- Need to continue chasing the publishers of the free Glos. Independent who are based in South Wales as large numbers of copies are being dumped. TC
- Need to plan another clean up around the London Road footbridge before the spring vegetation grows and cutting is not allowed because of nesting birds. DE
- Date for next clean up day to be agreed. DE.

### **Other**

Some concerns about children playing on the greens - suggested this should be raised at the following meeting with the Police. JL and RL

## 9. **Any Other Business**

**The meeting finished promptly at 7.15 in order for all present to move on to the joint meeting with the Police Safer Communities Co-ordination meeting, hosted by the Beeches Group and starting at 7.30 in the Barn Theatre. See on for brief notes of this meeting.**

## 11. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011 starting at 6.30 pm.**

The meeting was closed at 7.15 pm

**Brief notes from the joint meeting with the Police Safer Communities (SCT) Co-ordination meeting, hosted by the Beeches Group and starting at 7.30 in the Barn Theatre. Formal Minutes to be prepared by the SCT.**

**The following attended:**

3 Councillors – for Beeches, Park and Chesterton wards  
3 reps of Police Safer Communities Team  
1 rep of the press – also a Beeches resident  
2 Reps from Bromford Housing - one also a Beeches resident  
1 Cotswold Voluntary Service (CVS)- Bowling Green resident  
1 Glos Rural Community Council (GRCC)  
1 Cirencester Neighbourhood Partnerships (and the Churn Project)  
Residents of each wards – 11 Beeches, 3 Chesterton, 6 Park, 7 Stratton and Whiteway (inc 3 from Bowling Green) and 3 Watermoor.

1. The meeting heard about changes in the structure of the local police force where by new areas coincide (almost entirely) with district council boundaries and Chief Inspector Jim McArthur leads for the Cotswold District.
2. Increased emphasis of local policing with foot patrols carried out by a mix of police and PCSOs who will be managed by 5 beat managers. PC Stuart Plant will be the Beat Manager for Cirencester and he will have a team of five – Simon King remains in Chesterton, Vicki Beale moves from rural north and CDC to the Town Centre (Park and Watermoor) Renne ? to the Beeches and Dan Sinclair leads in Stratton and Whiteway areas. Their shift pattern is being changed to allow them more access to local meetings.
3. Agreed to close the SARA (Scan, Analyse, Respond, and Assess) Plan on the Tetbury Road Subway as the joint patrols including SCT and Ciren College security staff have been effective but it will need continued monitoring. SCT
4. Agreed to maintain the SARA plan on the Victoria Road Playing fields while various actions including the possibility of locking gates on either side out of school hours is assessed. Some concern that this would prevent the one, safe and traffic free pedestrian route from Beeches to the town to be explored. SCT and School.
5. Individual concern in Melmore gardens area to be addressed. SCT
6. Grass areas in the Beeches area being used by children (not all local?) for playing despite 'No Ball Games signs'. Check validity of signs (PCSO DS). All urged to approach in a more constructive manor and given an example used with great success in the Bowling Green area. Chesterton would be another example where positive action by community members has resolved these issues.
7. If annoyance becomes a real issue and resident lack the confidence (for whatever reason) to approach the children (or if known their parents) those affected can phone the Police non emergency number – 0845 090 1234. This should always result in an incident number and where possible the attendance of the SCT. Failing this they will follow up with an interview within the next two days. Damage to cars might warrant a 999 call.
8. Agreed to reimpose a SARA plan on area of the Riverside Walk, Abbey Grounds, Gloucester and Dollar Street recognizing that there is anti social behaviour on week day evenings as well as at the weekend and drinking away from licensed premises is an increasing problem. Some of this work will be done in close cooperation with the new street pastors as and when they start work.
9. SCT will monitor parking in Whiteway which is causing disruption to traffic flows.
10. The meeting closed around 8.45.