

BEECHES COMMUNITY GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held on 10 January 2013

Present: Malcolm Lewis (Chairman), Janet Broomfield, Tony Cooper (Vice-Chairman), Mike Jupp, Roger Sweeting, Doug Emmott, Keith Handley, Ros Lewis, Cllr Deryck Nash (CTC & CDC), Cllr Peter Braidwood (GCC), Cllr John Burgess (CTC, CDC and GCC), James Trotter (Bromfords), Claire Bartlett (Bromfords & CTC), Cllr Deryck Nash (CTC and CDC) and Caroline Braidwood (Secretary)

Cllr Deryck Nash gave an update on plans for the community building and School

- To be opened by Sept 2014
- GCC has funding for school and CTC has £500K for community building from s106 agreements
- Architects have been appointed and archaeologists carrying out exploratory digs
- Contractors – Carters and the architects – Roberts Limbrick
- Public exhibition when plans are available
- Site will be open at weekends with container on site exhibiting plans for residents to view
- Suggest BCG representatives meet with School Governors to form joint Committee and establish relationship and way of working.
- Agreed to keep the Group informed

1. Welcome and Apologies

Jenny Smith, Rose & John Leicester

2. To Approve the Minutes from the Meeting held on 8 November 2012

Unanimously agreed to be an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

Grit Bin for Fosse Close – Cllr John Burgess

Has been installed in the wrong place and will be moved by the weekend. Getting spreader and TC will spread on the bridge. Arnolds Way needs handrail to access the shop at the garage. Cllrs Burgess and Braidwood to investigate.

Crossing and Speed Signage on Burford Road – Cllrs Braidwood and Burgess

Repeater sign. GH hasn't got one available and the full work is imminent. No start date for traffic lights at the bottom of Burford Road but funds have been released so should be soon. Roundabout is being remodelled

Cirencester Parking Partnership – Cllrs Braidwood and Burgess

Next meeting – 22 Jan at the Corn Hall. Opportunity to talk about parking in general. Cllr Braidwood about to attend meeting with GCC and CDC re parking strategies

Path under Golden Farm Bridge – Cllrs Braidwood and Burgess

Path is owned by CTC. Therefore GCC is unable to carry out work.

4. Chairman's Report

During the flooding before and after Christmas the Group had organised volunteers to man Bingham House (place of safety). Unfortunately complaints had been received from Emergency Planners and there seems to have been confusion about roles and responsibilities. A debrief meeting had been held at CDC where Thames Water and EA were put through the Mill. It was agreed to thank Martin Conyers for his work. The Chairman advised the sad death of Andy Brown's son. Malcolm and Janet had attended the funeral.

5. Finance Report (Attached)

Noted

6. Police, Town, District and County Councillors' Reports

Police – not available

7. Cirencester Neighbourhood Partnership

Dog Fouling Petition

It was acknowledged that many ways had been used to try to tackle the problem and that it is worse in winter / dark nights. Some people do pick up but leave the bags. It was

agreed that more bins are needed but CTC is concentrating on grit bins first and will then look at dog waste bins. It was further agreed to register with ENCAMS and order publicity material.

Quiz Evening Fund Raising Event for The Churn

Cllr Roly Hughes (CTC) is organising a Quiz evening on 22 March at 8 pm at the Jubilee Club. Bookings needed by 15 March.

8. Reports

Community Speed Watch – Keith Handley

The organiser, Andy Fogden is waiting for the Town Council (Jamie) to progress the application before implementing Community Speed Watch scheme. The new Chief Constable keen to introduce it across the county.

Neighbourhood Watch – Keith Handley

Keith has carried out a letter drop to many new properties in Beeches and had received 32 responses out of the 400 delivered. The biggest response came from Corinium Via and 1 enquirer from Crabtree Lane. He is now waiting for Andy Fogden to arrange a date for an initial meeting.

Pop Inn Progress – Malcolm Lewis

Nothing to report.

Litter Picking – Doug Emmott

Doug said that he is looking for ideas as the situation never gets any better and there needs to be a culture change to make any improvement. Various suggestions were made e.g. go on strike, take photographs and publicise, collect on one day and pile up in Centre of Cirencester, contact Friends of the Earth or Bill Bryson for support. It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

Welcome Packs – Mike Jupp and Doug Emmott

Nothing to report. 30 Packs were prepared and delivered in November.

Mulberry Court – Claire Charlesworth

Not available

Bromford Living – James Trotter

New guidelines for welfare reform rules (commonly known as a bedroom tax) in 2013. Council tax claimants will only be able to claim for the number of bedrooms that they use and their benefits reduced accordingly. Some tenants are looking to move to smaller properties.

Benefits cap start in April 2013 and Universal credit – October 2013.

Bromford tenants can contact James for advice and further information.

Playgroup at Arnolds Way seems to be going ahead but needs help to publicise. It was suggested that the Playgroup is put in touch with Fairshares.

Invitation to Fairshares Peer Research Focus Group – 15 January 2013 11am-1pm

Doug Emmott will attend.

Proposed Bus Route Between Beeches and Kingshill Meadow

Mike Jupp explained:

- Plan for bus route to access the new Kingshill Meadow estate between Mike's house and bungalow.
- Originally proposed as a road with pavement and cycleway but it is now shared space. North Home Road considered dangerous for regular bus route.
- Instigated petition of 300 houses on N Home Road and has the help of friends.
- Estimated buses will run every hour but conflicting information has been circulated.
- It may, at most, be an extension of the existing service to Beeches = 5 – 6 per day.
- Mike asked if the Group would help with printing costs of £50-60

The Chairman explained that regardless of personal opinion, this is a community issue and the cost could be borne by the Group.

Proposed by Janet Broomfield **Seconded** by Roger Sweeting

10 in favour and 4 abstentions

Cllr Hughes suggested an on-line petition on the website and Facebook

9. Social Events

The Chairman welcomed Janet Broomfield back to the Group.

Feedback from recent Events:

First Anniversary of the Pop Inn – Monday, 19 November

Took place despite rumours to the contrary and was very successful.

An enjoyable Pantomime trip took place yesterday.

Christmas Dinner – Friday, 7 December

Excellent and well supported.

Forthcoming Events

Summer Fete – It was agreed to hold a summer Fete in June to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. The Chairman asked for volunteers to help with planning.

Fund Raising Dinner in September

The Chairman advised that he and Janet Broomfield are planning a fundraising dinner event in September in support of the Air Ambulance.

10.

Any Other Business

20's plenty – Keith Handley advised that August data shows that casualty numbers increased in 2011 from 2010

11.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 11 February 2013 at 6.30 pm.

The meeting was closed at 7.40 pm