



Craven Vale Community Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting

January 9th 2013, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee: Grant Scott (Chairman), Alan Cooke (Secretary/Treasurer), Roger Carter, Betty Field, Roy Pennington, Nick Wood; Residents: Nigel Bowie, Tina Janes, Rosemary Johnson, Marta Lacouture, Sebastien Lacouture, David Perkins, Jenny Taylor, Geoffrey Willcock; Others: Cllr Gill Mitchell, Cllr Warren Morgan, Cllr Chaun Wilson, Peter Mustow (Neighbourhood Involvement Officer), Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities), PCSO Laura Hall, PCSO Carol Manton

1. Apologies: Cllr Geoffrey Bowden, Cllr Stephanie Powell, Sue Bowes
2. Minutes of Meeting November 14th 2012: These were agreed.
3. Matters Arising: Parking. A city-wide parking review had been undertaken, and the recommendations (including that Craven Vale and Baker's Bottom should not be further consulted) will be discussed by the Transport Committee on January 15th. The Green party is still lobbying for Baker's Bottom to be consulted, and Cllr Mitchell agreed to keep a watching brief.
4. Correspondence: The latest edition of the *Resident Involvement Update* had been received.
5. Finance: The accounts are still showing a healthy surplus.
6. Bids to Estate Development Budget Fund: The Committee put forward their recommendations from the Committee meeting of December 12th, to bid for (in order of priority):
 - Kitchen equipment, including any electrical work (Note: CVCA has also applied to People's Health Trust for the cost of such works – their decision will be made before the EDB panel meets)
 - Official road-sign for 'Jubilee Walk'
 - Cycle racks in Craven Road
 - Weed-suppressant liners and shingle for gardens in front of flats
 - More block signs for Craven Road

There was unanimity on the proposals, and no counter-proposals were suggested. Following a question by Peter, the Committee said that they preferred the video method of putting forward projects, rather than the bus-tour.
7. Proposed expansion of CV area. Following a decision of the Committee on October 10th, Amy and Nick had canvassed opinion of the residents of The Causeway and

Monument View as to whether they wished their roads to be included in the Craven Vale Community Association area and the Craven Vale LAT. Almost all residents contacted wished for this to happen, and it was now necessary for the existing members of the association to agree this request. Following discussion, twelve residents present at the meeting were in favour, with one against, and one abstention. It was therefore agreed that they would be invited to the next meeting. Alan asked whether this invitation could also be extended to the twelve households in Olivier Close, off Evelyn Terrace, but it was stated that a full canvass would have to be undertaken first.

8. Updates on current projects:

a) The Kitchen. Amy advised that the re-ordering and re-decoration of The Little Vale was almost complete, with only replacement windows and a telephone line to be installed.

b) The Diamond Jubilee Book. Meetings are being held every Monday at 11am in the Vale CC for those who wish to get involved, who have photographs and other memorabilia, or who wish to be interviewed for the book. The Lottery award has been received. The deadline for input is the middle of February.

c) The Web-site. Grant will soon be advertising a meeting for those who wish to get involved in setting up a community website for Craven Vale and Baker's Bottom. Amy and Nick had attended a one-day course on media training with regard to Facebook and Twitter.

d) The Friends of Craven Wood. Grant, Amy and Paul have arranged a meeting for January 23rd to discuss the various aspects of setting up a group. All are welcome to attend. The relationship with other groups covering all of Whitehawk Hill was discussed.

9. Any Other Matters – Community Association

a) Betty asked when the new lamp in Tilgate Close would be activated. Alan said that he had recently reminded Gordon Stanford of this requirement, but with no response to date.

b) Cllr Morgan asked for everyone to keep an eye out for those who might be suffering financially from the new Welfare and Benefit provisions, and particularly to alert the Council if loan-sharks are identified.

c) Alan commented on the Alley-cats scheme run by Bevendean Community Association and asked if anyone would like to take responsibility for keeping an eye on our two alleys - Craven Path (Grant and Amy offered) and the public footpath at the back of Rochester Street, which had been partially cleared by the Park Ranger's team, but still had much fly-tipping.

d) It was stated that the activity centre at Leach Court, Eastern Road was underused, and potential new users should contact Annie Heath. Alan said that the Vale Community Centre was equally underused, and often available for groups.

10. Any Other Matters – Tenants Association:

a) Nick asked whose responsibility it is to replace sealed electrical units fitted to hallways, bathrooms and kitchens, while others explained the difficulty experienced by elderly and infirm residents with the new units. Cllr Mitchell offered to investigate whether the Council could assist.

b) Rosemary said that she had received a 'last warning' about not having installed a fire door, whereas – as a new resident – she was unaware of the requirement. Cllr Morgan offered to raise the issue.

- c) Sebastien Lacouture asked what was the policy regarding fire alarms in communal areas, following a fire in a flat below him, and the lack of any warning. Cllr Mitchell agreed to speak to Robert Keelan about the possibility of the Council and/or the Fire Service attending the next open meeting to discuss this issue with residents.
- d) Betty mentioned that a flat in Tilgate Close had been empty for at least six months. Cllr Morgan offered to investigate.

11. Any Other Matters – Local Action Team:

- a) PCSO Carol Manton updated the meeting on the Communities Against Drugs initiative, and reported that the on-going survey of residents still showed a generally positive response. She also stated that there was much unpublicised activity going on.
- b) Carol also asked for an update on the priorities of the Association. They remain as: drugs; anti-social behaviour; and dog fouling. The question of vehicles parking on the verges and ruining them was raised, but this is a Highways matter, and not one for the police.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm - the next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

Wednesday **February 13th** (Committee Meeting)

Wednesday **March 13th** (Full Meeting)