



## Minutes of Open Meeting

13<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

**Present:** Committee: Grant Scott (Chairman), Alan Cooke (Secretary/Treasurer), Bill Duff, Betty Field, Roy Pennington, Nick Wood; Residents: Patricia Bartley, Shirley Blount, Rosemary Johnson, plus one other; Others: Cllr Warren Morgan, Amy Allison and Jo Hill (Trust for Developing Communities), Sue Bowes (Safe in the City – B&HCC), Alan Qualter (C.R.I.), PCSO Carol Manson

1. Apologies: Roger Carter, Cllr Chaun Wilson, Peter Mustow (Resident Involvement Officer)
2. Minutes of Meeting January 9<sup>th</sup> 2013. These were agreed.
3. Matters Arising:
  - Robert Keelan had responded to the concern over communal fire alarms and said that the Fire and Rescue Service would prefer that they not be fitted. The manager at Roedean Fire Station had been invited to the meeting but was not able to come – he has been invited to attend on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Parking in Baker's Bottom. Roy reported that there would not be another parking consultation before 2014/15, and that light-touch parking would not be an option. A 'yes' decision would join Baker's Bottom with Zone H, not C or U. Residents of Craven Vale would be asked for their comments.
4. Correspondence: None.
5. Finance: CVCA has been given £625 by the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund, to be allocated by the end of March. A further £2,000 is expected for the next year beginning in April. Amy put forward five small projects which could benefit from this sum:
  - Free access for one month for up to 12 adults in a get fit programme at the Stables Gym (£250)
  - Wet-weather clothing for those running the Racecourse Rascals football group (£50)
  - One copy of the QPCV Newsletter (£75)
  - Inter-generational activities during the Easter and May half-term breaks – treasure hunts, craft activities etc (£175)
  - A showcase event linked to the Jubilee Party planned for June 2<sup>nd</sup> (£75)These recommendations were agreed.

A resident enquired whether next year's grant could be used to support an arts and crafts club at the Community Centre, similar to one established in Rottingdean. Amy agreed to discuss the project with her.

6. Update on study of attitudes to drugs (Sue Bowes).

Sue reported the results of two door-to-door surveys undertaken in Hadlow and Southwater Closes in September and November. 164 households were targeted, and there were 33 successful interviews or completed questionnaires.

The main issues raised (by 12 of the 33) were drug dealing and drug use, followed by anti-social behaviour. Although the general impression was that the area had improved recently, three areas of potential improvement were raised – improved lighting at communal door entrances in Southwater Close (this will be considered for an EDB grant application for next year); poor door security systems, although Warren said that even the most hi-tech and costly systems now in place in Whitehawk were not without their problems; and the need for greater police presence. Carol said that – on average – the PCSOs spent three days a week on the Estate, and were called off to help in city-wide activities on two days a week.

Alan Qualter asked that any known addicts should be referred to him for advice. It was suggested that the various self-help groups that met in Kemp Town Crypt and elsewhere should be advertised on the Estate.

7. LATs in the local area

It was agreed that, although the Craven Vale Local Action Team was accepted by the Council as representing Baker's Bottom, any resident who felt that the Queen's Park LAT was more suited for addressing specific problems in the area should be free to visit the meetings of either, or both, the LATs.

8. Updates on current projects

a) The Kitchen. Work on the Little Vale is now complete, apart from the provision of a telephone line, due to delays in responding by Council officers. CVCA has been awarded a grant of £5,480 by the People's Health Trust towards the cost of upgrading the kitchenette into a full kitchen. Together with an earlier grant of £800 from the Good Food Group ('Harvest'), and the expectation of an EDB grant towards the cost of plumbing and electrical work, it is now hoped that the kitchen will be ready by September. Alan is to write to Mears to ask when the necessary work will be undertaken on the toilet.

b) The Diamond Jubilee Book. The final text was now with the publishers, with an expectation of 1200 copies being available by the middle of May, in time for the planned Jubilee Party on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

c) The Web-site. This has been delayed by the cancellation of training courses. Nick, Claire and Amy have however set up a Facebook page for the Vale Community Centre.

d) The Friends of Craven Wood has been set up, and all are invited to the first Annual General Meeting to be held at the Vale at 7pm on Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>.

e) QPCV Newsletter. The Spring edition will shortly be underway, and any who wish to get involved in its production should meet at The Vale on Wednesdays at 11am.

9. Any Other Business – Community Association

Grant was asked what future work was expected from the Community Payback team currently re-painting step edges on the Estate. However, the programme is

under the control of the neighbourhood officer, Nick Aldwinckle, and their plans are not known.

**10. Any Other Business – Tenants Association:**

a) Pat was unhappy about the quality of cleaning in her communal area, although others had found the standards satisfactory.

b) A complaint was made about a flat in Craven Road, where the registered leaseholder had sublet and the residents were causing aggravation. Carol said she would visit.

c) Rosemary had now received an apology regarding the summons for not installing the necessary fire-door.

d) Shirley explained the problem in her flat where water entering her kitchen from the roof area had been reported in December, but nothing had been done despite water now regularly coursing down the wall, perilously close to an electric switch. Food is getting damp, but despite promises nobody had visited. Warren promised to take this up with the Council.

e) It was noted that, although the Housing Department recognised CVCA as being the Council's tenants' organisation, no-one ever attended, stating that it was the responsibility of the Resident Involvement Officer to pass on any problems. This Officer was on leave at the present, but no replacement neighbourhood officer was sent, resulting in a complete absence of council officers at the meeting, and an inability to ensure that matters were followed up. Alan reported on an earlier meeting that he had held with Nick Hibberd on this unsatisfactory situation but – regrettably for us – he had since been promoted elsewhere.

**11. Any Other Business – Local Action Team**

Carol explained that the PCSOs and others had been very busy on the snowy evening of March 11th when there was traffic chaos and accidents on Queensway.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm

The next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

Wednesday **April 10<sup>th</sup>** (Committee Meeting)

Wednesday **May 8<sup>th</sup>** (Open Meeting)