



Minutes of Open Meeting

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

Present: Committee: Laura Buckley, Roger Carter, Alan Cooke, Bill Duff, Betty Field, Grant Scott, Nick Wood; Residents: Patricia Bartley, Caroline Hendriks, Jackie Holder, Rosemary Johnson, Angelina Kinsey, Ewa Knebloch, John McGarry, Jenny Taylor; Others: Cllr Warren Morgan, Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities), PCSO Carol Manton, Anita Doherty (Queens Park CA), Ruth Sennett; Guests: David Larkin (Countryside Ranger, B&HCC), Huw Morgan (Sussex Wildlife Trust)

1. Apologies: Jane White (Neighbourhood Involvement Officer), Nick Aldwinckle (Neighbourhood Officer), Cllr Stephanie Powell, PCSO Laura Hall
2. Minutes of Meeting May 8th 2013: These were agreed.
3. Matters Arising: Despite several requests over 18 months, the new streetlamp in Tilgate Close has still to be connected to the rest of the highway lighting network. Cllr Morgan offered to raise the subject yet again.
4. Correspondence: All residents are invited to the next meeting of the City Assembly, to be held in Moulsecomb on Saturday November 16th.
5. Finance: The financial situation remains very healthy.
6. Wild Flower Planting, Queensway. David Larkin explained that the City Council had been awarded funds for wild flower planting throughout the City and had identified the Craven Vale Estate as a suitable location, in particular the slopes fronting the three blocks covering 27-99 Queensway. Although each of these 36 property-renters had been given details of the meeting, none had attended. David explained exactly what was proposed, with two-metre wide stretches of wild flower plantings surrounded by grassed areas, using seed collected from various City locations. Details of the flowers and the grass-cutting regime were explained, and the meeting unanimously approved the proposal: the scheme will start later in October.
7. Estate Development Budget. Money is available from the Council for improving the public areas of the Craven Vale Estate, in competition with other Council properties and Estates. Various proposals were put forward for the committee to consider at the next committee meeting on November 13th:
 - a) Replacement carpeting and re-painting of the walls in the Vale Community Centre
 - b) Cleaning and repainting of communal staircase, 13-18 Hadlow Close
 - c) Weeding and replanting of flower beds, Hadlow Close
 - d) Improved lighting for Southwater Close flats and garages
 - e) New play area in vacant land between Parham Close and Rochester Street

- f) Security doors for Southwater Close blocks
- g) Wooden benches by bus-stops, notably by the Hadlow Close stop

These proposals would be discussed with the Neighbourhood Involvement Officer in November, and a prioritisation list presented to the next Open Meeting on December 11th, before submission to the Council. No work could be undertaken before April.

8. Healthy Neighbourhood Fund. The Association has been given £2,500 to distribute to groups and individuals throughout Craven Vale, Baker's Bottom and the Causeway development to support any activity that could be expected to contribute to the area's health. Residents were asked to put forward ideas for consideration by a panel that would include some committee members plus Amy Allison, Ruth Sennett, Jane White and Cllr Warren Morgan. They would meet at 6.30 pm on November 13th (before the next Committee Meeting) to agree which ideas warranted grants. Those put forward for consideration were:

- a) A summer dog-show to encourage responsible dog ownership
- b) Monthly coffee mornings for the more elderly residents
- c) A course on bread-making by the Community Chef
- d) A healthy living group, particularly for women
- e) Healthy breakfasts to be provided weekly
- f) A 'lollipop lady' to be funded for schoolchildren crossing Freshfield Road

Further applications are welcomed at any time, and a second round of applications would be considered in the spring if there were still funds available.

9. Updates on current projects.

- a) The Kitchen. The kitchen project was well under way, and an oven and refrigerator would be ordered once the electrics, plumbing, flooring and counters were completed – hopefully within the next few days. Cookery courses were planned once the kitchen was fully-functioning. The cupboards at the other end of the Centre would shortly be replaced.
- b) The Diamond Jubilee Book had been well-received, and copies were still available.
- c) The Web-site. The web-site (cravenvale.org.uk), developed by Grant, has recently been upgraded to offer audio capabilities, and has been well-received.
- d) The Friends of Craven Wood. This is now a well-established group. The next working session would be on October 16th, and new volunteers are always welcome. The bank account was still awaiting clearance by the bank.
- e) The QPCV Newsletter. The next edition was due shortly, and Amy was arranging meetings at 11am for the next few Mondays to edit it – contributions will be most welcome.

10. Any Other Business – Community Association

- a) Pumpkin carving for youngsters had been arranged for Wednesday October 30th at 4pm
- b) Betty had contacted the Council on at least six occasions about the paper recycling bin near Tilgate Close, which has now not been emptied for at least 8 weeks. Cllr Morgan offered to chase.

- c) There would be a Christmas Party for all residents between noon and 4pm on Saturday December 14th. Laura would arrange an artwork exhibition by local youngsters.
 - d) A replacement notice board was needed for the Vale Community Centre. Alan has drawn up a small grant application that would be given to Jane White.
 - e) John McGarry asked what could be done to reduce the speed of vehicles in Freshfield Road – Cllr Morgan replied that the Council had no funds with which to install any calming measures such as speed-bumps.
 - f) Betty asked whether the step-painting around the Estate could be completed by Community Payback. Grant would speak to Nick Aldwinckle.
 - g) There was a complaint that some block-lighting in the Southwater Close area was on permanently – could this be turned off during the day.
- 11.** Any Other Business – Tenants Association. Patricia raised the problem once more of the fire doors that the Council insisted should be constructed inside tenants' homes, leaving main entry doors unprotected.
- 12.** Any Other Business – Local Action Team. Carol discussed recent police activity, with recent incidents concerning out-of-control large dogs, which were being responded to. She asked for people to be vigilant over drug-dealing, and asked particularly for details of car number-plates. Betty recounted an experience with cold-calling by builders offering to fix roofs and gutters, and residents were advised that no money should ever be paid in advance for such work.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

The next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

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

Wednesday **December 11th** (Full Meeting)