



Minutes of Open Meeting

November 13th 2013, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee: Alan Cooke, Grant Scott; Residents: Ewe Knebloch, Clive Taplin; Others: Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities), PCSO Carol Manton, Ruth Sennett

1. Apologies: Roger Carter, Bill Duff, Nick Wood, Caroline Hendricks, Jane White (Neighbourhood Involvement Officer), Cllr Stephanie Powell.

Alan advised that Jane has announced that she will be leaving her post as our Neighbourhood Involvement Officer at the end of January and would introduce her replacement at the January Committee meeting.

2. Minutes of Meeting of October 9th 2013: These were agreed.

3. Matters Arising:

a) The long-awaited streetlamp for steps at Tilgate Close has at long last been installed and commissioned.

b) Some 3,000 plus wild flower plugs have been planted in the bank fronting 29 to 99 Queensway with help from residents, park rangers and the Sussex Wildlife Trust.

c) The Council's Estate Development Budget has approved the replacement of the notice board fixed to the Vale Community Centre.

4. Correspondence: None.

5. Finance: The financial situation remains very healthy. A separate account has now been established for Friends of Craven Wood – until now CVCA has been meeting necessary expenses, and will be recompensed now that funds are available.

6. Estate Development Budget: Following the submission of ideas for funding put forward and discussed at the Open Meeting on October 9th, the Committee met and discussed the ideas on November 13th and agreed to seek funding for the top five priorities, agreed by the Committee to be:

a) The provision of additional lighting above three entrance doors for 7-12 Southwater Close, 41-51 Queensway and 53-63 Queensway, plus an additional light for the garage area at Southwater Close, located either at the southern end of the garages or on the end wall of 5-15 Queensway.

b) Replacement carpeting for The Vale Community Centre (a separate quick-bid would be submitted to the Council to plaster the new plasterboard surfaces in the Centre, which would then be redecorated free of charge by the Community Payback – see later).

- c) Undertaking a feasibility study of a potential new play area on housing land at the foot of Jacob's Ladder to the south of Parham Close, and conducting consultations with local residents. The area is currently over-run by brambles.
- d) Provision of a concrete plinth and wooden bench close to the southbound bus stop serving Hadlow Close.
- e) Re-painting of the stairwell of 13-18 Hadlow Close, subject to any leaseholders agreeing to fund their proportion of the total cost.

The meeting ratified these applications in the order suggested, and they will be submitted shortly to the Housing Department.

7. Healthy Neighbourhood Fund: A Panel had met twice to consider applications for funds from the HNF grant of £2,500. Grants have been awarded to provide:

- a) A summer dog-show to encourage responsible dog ownership (CVCA)
- b) Monthly coffee mornings for the more elderly residents (CVCA)
- c) A Christmas Fair on December 14th (CVCA)
- d) Hall Hire costs for the Pebbles Dance Group
- e) Training, volunteer costs and tools (Friends of Craven Wood)
- f) The Craven Vale share of the cost of two QPCV Newsletters (CVCA)
- g) Ten 'chair yoga' sessions for those finding floor exercises too difficult (Yoga Group)

In total, some £2,125 has been allocated, with £25 remaining available for distribution, and £350 for a 'showcasing' event next summer for supported activities, plus miscellaneous administration costs of CVCA and the Community Centre.

Further activities are being discussed for 2014 (providing further funding is made available) including swimming lessons for youngsters and a 'well woman' group.

8. Community Payback: Grant and Alan reported on a walk round the estate with the Neighbourhood Officer (Nick Aldwinckle) and Stephen Berry of the Surrey and Sussex Probation Team for Community Payback. A variety of possible activities was discussed including: redecoration of the Vale Community Centre; clearing paths and litter picking on the areas of scrub between Queensway and The Causeway, and installing a set of steps at the end of Tilgate Close up to the path into Craven Wood; painting of more step edges around the estate. These will be followed up, plus any other ideas which might be forthcoming.

9. Project Updates:

- a) *Kitchen Project.* Amy and Nick were congratulated on the kitchen project that is now all but completed. A replacement oven was still needed, together with a child-proof gate.
- b) *Friends of Craven Wood.* The group now has an active bank account and can apply for further funding. An initial grant from HNF will be used to purchase additional tools, to be stored at a secure lock-up on the estate. The next work-day will be on December 21st at 10am, while additional (non-fruit) trees will be planted around the estate on January 19th with the help of Brighton Permaculture.

10. Any Other Business:

- a) PCSO Carol Manton gave an update of policing matters in the area. Two of the 'large dogs out of control' had now moved to another part of the City, leaving one problem large dog. There had been no new reports of drug-dealers in the area,

although Clive did refer to the possibility of one in Sutherland Road, which the police would follow up. Patrols have been reduced recently, due to policing pressures elsewhere in Brighton and Sussex, but it was hoped that frequent patrolling would soon be back to normal.

- b) Alan asked if anyone knew of the true situation at Craven Vale Resource Centre following rumours that its budget was being cut by the Council, but no-one could provide firm information.
- c) Amy spoke about the new monthly group for older residents meeting on the final Thursday of each month (but not in December).

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

The next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

Wednesday **January 8th** (Committee Meeting)

Wednesday **February 12th** (Full Meeting)