



Minutes of Open Meeting

February 12th 2014, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee: Alan Cooke, Bill Duff, Grant Scott; Residents: Shirley Blount, Rosemary Johnson, Ewa Knebloch, Gary Poole, Geoff Wilcock; Others: Simon Bannister (B&HCC Planning and Public Protection), Cllr Gill Mitchell, PCSO Dawn Kitson, Ruth Sennett

1. Apologies: Nick Wood, Sharon Terry (Neighbourhood Involvement Officer), Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities), Sue Bowes, PCSOs Carol Manton and Laura Hall, Cllrs Geoffrey Bowden, Warren Morgan and Stephanie Powell. PCSO Dawn Kitson was thanked for offering to stand in for Carol and Laura.
2. Minutes of Meeting of December 11th 2013: These were agreed.
3. Matters Arising: All covered by the remaining agenda.
4. Correspondence:
 - a) The Housing Inclusion Team had sent a leaflet advertising 'Council Tenant and Leaseholder Energy Advice Workshops'.
 - b) 'Mind in Brighton and Hove' were advertising a 10-week course aimed at elderly people acting as carers.
 - c) The Council have advised that key fobs for all blocks with security doors are to be changed.
5. Finance: The financial situation remains very healthy despite significant sums being spent on enhancing the Community Centre.
6. Local Action Team matters: Simon Bannister addressed the meeting on the seven-year history of LATs in the City, and their association with neighbourhood policing. They allowed residents to raise matters of safety and security with the police, council officers and councillors, and many, including that for Craven Vale, have progressed to being led by residents instead of by elected officials.

Simon is now updating the original 'book' on LATs and is looking for guidance and ideas from LAT members. An on-line survey had been sent to certain individuals in CVCA, and paper copies were made available at the meeting. The new 'pack' will be circulated when complete.

The two main priorities of drug dealing and out-of-control dogs remained the most important, plus the problem of car-parking in Baker's Bottom, which is also being addressed by Queens Park LAT. Grant commented that the main problem facing CVCA was in knowing who to contact when issues arise, and Simon agreed that this was an important issue for the new 'book' to address.

Dawn Kitson gave a report prepared by Carol Manton: a negative response had been received from the owner of out-of-control dogs in Craven Road, even after Animal Welfare had visited; a noise issue on the Estate was being followed up; and the next surgery dates would be February 26th and March 26th at 6:30 pm at the Vale CC.

7. Fire Safety improvements in flats: work had started in Hadlow Close to raise the standard of fire safety in common areas and plans were in hand to complete this across all relevant blocks by the end of March. The work was mandated by East Sussex Fire and Rescue following a new law which was passed as a result of a bad fire in a block of flats in London several years back. As landlords, the Council is legally obliged to implement these improvements, but will do so at no cost to either tenants or leaseholders. A variety of improvements to doors and bathroom windows was necessary, depending upon the layout of each flat.
8. Estate Development Budget: Following the last open meeting in December, the Committee had submitted the five priorities for EDB grants as agreed. However, at the subsequent committee meeting in January, it was recommended that Craven Vale should also apply for an additional £1,000 to purchase yellow masonry paint for step-painting around the Estate, to be undertaken by Community Payback. Following discussion, the meeting unanimously ratified this decision.

All 2013/2014 EDB projects in Craven Vale were complete or nearing completion. Cycle racks were now being erected in Craven Road, and gravel and membranes would be delivered to help with weed control around some of the blocks.

9. Project Updates:

- a) *Kitchen Project*. Alan advised the meeting that an oven had been purchased for the new kitchen, but that it had been found to require more electricity than is available in the Community Centre. This oven has now been sold to another community group at a small loss, and a suitable replacement oven was now being purchased. Work remaining to be completed was the installation of a child-proof gate, and the plastering of bare plaster-board for which a small EDB grant has been requested. Once this has been completed, Community Payback has offered to redecorate the whole Community Centre. Outstanding electrical work would be completed once the new oven was in place.

The kitchen is now being used for a weekly food bank on Fridays, in association with FareShare.

- b) *Friends of Craven Wood*. On January 19th some 115 small trees were planted around the Estate with the help of Brighton Permaculture. From March 1st onwards, regular working session in Craven Wood would take place between 10am and 1pm on the first Saturday of each month. We were sad to be losing one of our most valuable regular helpers, Roger Carter, and others were invited to become regular workers in the Wood.

10. Any Other Business:

- a) It was commented that many of the communal bins were now in very poor condition, leading to seagulls accessing food put in them – Cllr Mitchell offered to speak with Cityclean about any possible refurbishment or replacement programme.
- b) Shirley Blount raised the fact that, following repairs to her roof last winter, the problem has resurfaced this winter, with much rainwater entering her flat. She had received an unhelpful response from Mears. Cllr Mitchell would raise this with the Council and Mears.

- c) Cllr Mitchell asked whether any contact had been received regarding the proposed car parking consultation in Baker's Bottom and Craven Vale. There has been none, and Cllr Mitchell offered to follow up.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

The next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

Wednesday **March 12th** (Committee Meeting)

Wednesday **April 9th** (Full Meeting)