



Minutes of Open Meeting

November 8th 2014, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee: Alan Cooke, Bill Duff, Betty Field, Grant Scott, Clive Taplin, Geoff Wilcock, Nick Wood; Residents: Jacquie Barker, Shirley Blount, Rosemary Johnson, Gary Poole; Others: Keely McDonald (Trainee Resident Involvement Officer), Cllr Gill Mitchell, PCSO Carol Manton

1. Apologies: Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities), Nick Aldwinckle (Neighbourhood Warden)
2. Minutes of Open Meeting of September 10th 2014: These were agreed.
3. Matters Arising:
 - a) *Car Parking Consultation.* The Council has now expanded the light-touch parking scheme U to include Hendon Street, Bute Street, Rochester Street and Livingstone Street, but not extended to any road in Craven Vale, although on-verge parking is now illegal on the east side of Queensway.
 - b) *Door entry times.* Keely reported back on the pilot schemes in Warwick Mount and Essex Place. Warwick Mount residents have opted for no trades button, and a key fob being given to the Royal Mail. Keely believed that the postmen had now been given a key fob for Craven Vale, but this was doubted. There was no overall agreement on the preferred way ahead by those flat-dwellers present at the meeting.
4. Correspondence: The meeting was reminded of the City Assembly meeting to be held in Hove on November 15th.
5. Finance: The financial situation remains healthy. Much of the grant from the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund had now been allocated, but further applications could still be made.
6. Estate Development Budget:

At a meeting on October 8th, the committee considered the various proposals put forward at the meeting on September 10th and added some extra ones. The following six proposals were put forward for ratification and prioritisation by the full meeting. Each proposal was voted on by each of the ten residents present, each awarding scores between zero (where the proposal was not supported) and five (the proposal was highly-rated). Four of the proposals received almost identical scores – either 42 or 43 – and it was agreed that they would be prioritised in order of predicted cost, the most expensive first. The other two proposals received scores of around 25 and have also been submitted to the Council.

In order of prioritisation, the six EDB proposals were as follows:

- a) Replacement of the unsightly concrete bollards in Hadlow Close with birds-mouth fencing similar to that elsewhere on the estate (score of 42/50)
- b) Application for some £1,500 to purchase materials for Community Payback, to conclude the painting of steps around the Estate (score of 43/50)
- c) Apply for a feasibility study to see what community uses could be made of the disused large bin-store behind Southwater Close. Ideas include an apple-store, a gardeners store and workshop, storage of bulk goods etc. (score 42/50)
- d) Replacement chairs and additional ceiling light for the Vale Community Centre (score 42/50)
- e) Marking up the car parking areas in Hadlow Close and Parham Close to encourage motorists to make best use of the restricted area (score 37/50)
- f) The construction of a living green roof on the roof of the Vale Community Centre (score 28/50)

An update of earlier EDB approvals was then given. From the 2013/2014 awards, final replacement of the hand-basin in the Little Vale office with a smaller hand-basin in the Little Vale toilet and the provision of an outside tap had been assessed, but the final installation was still awaited.

The status of the 2014/2015 agreed bids was as follows:

- a) Additional lighting in Southwater Close – assessed and some expectation of installation soon
- b) A grant of £500 to give to Community Payback to start step painting around the estate – not received
- c) A feasibility study of a play area by Parham Close – nothing heard at all
- d) A replacement carpet for the Vale Community Centre – measured up and ready for laying; we are hoping to re-decorate the Centre by Christmas, before laying the new carpet. Community Payback had offered to do the re-decoration, but no e-mails had been answered since mid-summer – CVCA will now pay for a local decorator to do the work.
- e) Re-decoration of the stairwell at 13-17 Hadlow Close. It is possible that this has been done – a check will be made.
- f) A bench at the top of Hadlow Close – no news.

In addition, we were still awaiting the installation of a replacement notice-board at the Centre, agreed as a quick bid in December 2013. Keely had been told that it had been installed earlier in the day, but it had not.

7. Updates:

Vale Community Centre - Since the last open meeting, a Wednesday morning café had been in operation, with thanks to Nick and Amy. A new cleaning contract has been awarded to the company now cleaning The Edge community centre.

Friends of Craven Wood – the session on Saturday December 6th in Craven Wood will go ahead as planned, but in the New Year a different day of the week will be needed as Paul Gorringer will not be able to make weekend meetings.

8. Any Other Business:

- a) Bill asked if there had been any response from the bus company about a request for a build-out for the ‘downhill’ stop at Freshfield Way. Cllr Mitchell offered to chase the company.

- b) A date for the Christmas Party had now been agreed – Saturday December 13th between 12 and 3pm. In addition a wreath-making session would be held on Thursday December 11th, and there was a possibility of a twelfth night celebration on Monday evening, January 5th.
- c) Nick said that the level of littering in Hadlow Close had once more increased, while Grant raised the problems of the damaged communal bins in Craven Road.
- d) Betty raised the very poor time-keeping of the Number 2 bus recently. Cllr Mitchell was due to meet Martin Harris in the next few days, and would hope to raise this issue with him.
- e) Keely was asked to pass on the problems with the sheds serving 1-12 Hadlow Close (broken windows, permanent lights on etc); and the path light in the same area not working.
- f) PCSO Carol Manton reported on the local area. Currently there were no new or major problems in the area. The number of PCSOs city-wide were being reduced, with each PCSO covering additional areas, and the result that there would be fewer visits to each area.
- g) Grant said that the BBC1 would be featuring the wild flower garden in its programme 'Gardens from Above' on November 14th at 3:45pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

The next meetings will be held at 7 pm on:

Wednesday **December 10th** (Committee Meeting)

Wednesday **January 14th** (Open Meeting for all residents)