



Craven Vale Community Association

Minutes of Open Meeting

May 13th 2015, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present: Committee: Grant Scott (Chairman), Alan Cooke (Secretary), Betty Field, Clive Taplin, Geoff Wilcock, Nick Wood; Residents: Jenny de Silva, R. Durgay, Rosemary Johnson, Ewe Knebloch, Jennifer Taylor; Others: Cllr Gill Mitchell, Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities), PCSO Carol Manton, PCSO Laura Hall, Daniel Bianco (BHCC Transport Planning Dept), Magda Pasiut (Healthwatch)

1. **Apologies:** Bill Duff, Cllr Warren Morgan, Keely McDonald (Resident Involvement Officer), Ruth Hilton
2. **Minutes of meeting March 11th 2015.** These were agreed unanimously.
3. **Matters Arising.**
 - a) *Bus Consultation.* Alan has yet to receive a response from the bus company about its reported plan to hold a consultation on the number 2 and 22 routes. The Association would do its best to advertise this to the Craven Vale area when it is announced.
 - b) *Grassed banks.* Grant has re-located a dozen saplings from the bank close to 133-167 Craven Road to Craven Wood to enable the grass-cutting team to mow that area. The lower half has now been trimmed, but the upper half remains uncut due to Health and Safety concerns over the steepness of the bank. It is possible that this upper bank will now be treated as a Nature Improvement Area, in consultation with the City Ranger Paul Gorringer. Ms Durgay asked if this would also cover the steep area below the bins at the top of Craven Road, where a large number of saplings had also been planted.
4. **Correspondence.**
 - a) *Housing Panel Meeting May 14th.* Alan would be attending this meeting and would report back on any matters relevant to Craven Vale.
 - b) *City Assembly, May 16th.* All residents were invited to attend this all-day event in Moulsecomb.
5. **Finance.** The finances remain healthy.
6. **Healthwatch.** Magda Pasiut spoke about the Brighton and Hove branch of Healthwatch, one of some 150 branches set up in 2013. It is independent, and represents the general public in all matters to do with the NHS. It is able to enter and inspect a wide range of NHS and care premises, observe, report and recommend. It is now a CIC (Community Interest Company).

Magda spoke about the complex and wide-ranging variety of NHS bodies, including the Clinical Commissioning Groups, and the Health and Well-being Boards, and encouraged those present to sign up for the regular monthly Healthwatch newsletter.

There was significant discussion about the lack of GPs accessible to the Craven Vale area, the overall lack of practising GPs in the City, and their apparent desire to refer large numbers of their patients to the Hospital A&E department. Although the Government was anxious to extend GP opening hours, especially at the week-ends, it was not apparent where the extra manpower was going to come from.

Residents were encouraged to contact Healthwatch if they came up against problems with NHS, such as the 101 telephone line. Cllr Mitchell explained that she had long campaigned for a polyclinic to be established on the General Hospital site but that this was unlikely to happen.

7. **Possible Car Parking Consultation in Craven Vale.** The previous Open Meeting in March had overwhelmingly asked the Committee to consider asking the Council to conduct a further Car Parking Consultation in Craven Vale. The Committee Meeting in April agreed that it would recommend carrying out a simple survey of all 334 residences to see if there was overall support for such a Consultation, enclosing a s.a.e. to encourage a good response.

A draft questionnaire was discussed and was agreed almost unchanged. If the response was high, the results would be forwarded to the Council by Cllr Gill Mitchell in time for a meeting of the relevant Council committee on July 7th. Although the last proposal in 2014 was rejected by Craven Vale residents, with only 31% voting in favour of a parking scheme, there was a poor turnout, with less than 20% of residents responding.

8. **Estate Development Budget.** The East Brighton Housing Panel agreed four of the six bids put forward by the Association. One, for re-painting Housing Department parking areas in Hadlow and Parham Closes, was withdrawn by the Association once it learnt that Housing was planning this work itself. The final bid for a green roof on the Vale Community Centre was rejected because the roof was considered insufficiently strong. The remainder would be undertaken in the current financial year.

A replacement notice board had now been placed at the top of Hadlow Close, and Community Payback were expected to commence step re-painting the coming weekend.

10. **Updates**

- a) *The Vale Community Centre.* New chairs and an extra light were expected.
- b) *The Friends of Craven Wood.* Grant reported that some fruit trees had been the victims of arson, but they would be replaced in the coming winter.

7. **Any Other Business**

- a) *Personalised Travel Planning.* Daniel Bianco explained that there would be door-step surveys in the coming weeks inviting residents to talk about their travel habits.
- b) *Blocked Gutters.* Jenny Taylor asked for the Council to clear some of the gutters on the Estate, from several of which grass could be seen growing.
- c) *Pathway Behind Bute Street.* Jenny de Silva asked if the path linking the top ends of Bute and Rochester Streets with Craven Wood could be blocked off because of the continuing problem of irresponsible dog-owners encouraging their dogs to mess all along the path, to the annoyance of residents close by. It was suggested that the original gate leading to what were once allotments be re-instated. Daniel Bianco offered to follow this up. It was also agreed that the Public Footpath behind Rochester Street could not be closed while anybody still used the path, despite the severe fly-tipping along its length.

d) *Fly-tipping*. Nick Aldwinckle would be asked to arrange for sofas etc in the middle of Craven Path to be removed. Residents were advised that anyone could contact Nick's team on 01273 294 675 to arrange such removals.

e) *Replacement Windows*. Nick Wood asked whether there was any chance of replacement windows for the Estate, although Rosemary, for the leaseholders, said that many would not be able to afford them. Gill agreed to find out whether there were any plans for replacement windows in the Housing budget.

8. **Dates of Next Meetings**

a) Committee Meeting, 7 pm June 10th

b) **Annual General Meeting, 6:30 for 7 pm May 13th**

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.