



Craven Vale Community Association

Minutes of Open Meeting

October 14th 2015, 7.00 pm at The Vale Community Centre, 17a Hadlow Close

Present Committee; Grant Scott (Chairman); Alan Cooke (Secretary); Betty Field; Ian Simpson; Clive Taplin; Nick Wood; Geoff Wilcock. Residents: Gen Applebee; Patricia Bartley; Rosemary Dugay; Eve Knebloch; Reza; Ruth Sennett; Anthony Smith. Others: Amy Allison (Trust for Developing Communities); Garry Collins (BHCC – Local Action Team); Karen George (MIND); Rebecca Mann (BHCC, Resident Involvement Officer)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Bill Duff and Councillors Barford and Mitchell.

2. Minutes of the May 13th Open Meeting

The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record. Copies of Minutes are available on the website and on the noticeboard at the top of Hadlow Road.

3. Matters arising

(a) *Bus consultation*: this did not take place.

(b) *Grass banks*: no resolution yet; grass cutting is still poor. (See Item 12.)

(c) *Car parking consultation*: in the survey a majority of respondents in each road were in favour of controlled parking. The Council will be holding a full consultation on the proposals in late 2015 / early 2016, where they will look at the case for controlled parking in each road.

4. Correspondence

The Chair has received a questionnaire from the Local Action Team staff as part of its review of LATs in Brighton and Hove. CVCA acts as the LAT for Craven Vale and Bakers Bottom, which includes liaison with the police.

The Resource Centre are holding their Annual General Meeting on 21 Oct.

5. Finance

The Vale Community Centre bank account has a balance of £3,106.

The Community Association account has a balance of £704, of which £594 is earmarked for the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund projects.

6. MIND Wellbeing Project (Karen George)

This is an advice and information project for people aged 16 years and over. It is run by the local MIND branch, supported by two part-time workers. It is not part of the NHS and all contacts are confidential. No referrals are needed. Details are available online at www.mindcharity.co.uk/wellbeing

Events run by the Wellbeing project in other parts of the city have included:

- free sessions for community groups on wellbeing issues;
- “Food and Mood” workshops on diet and mental health;
- “Active for Life” relaxation sessions;
- “Increasing Confidence” sessions.

The Project would like to run similar courses and events in our area.

The local MIND branch also provides an Advocacy Service for people who need assistance accessing mental health services or resolving issues, as well as a Participation Group for people involved with mental health services.

The meeting suggested the project might consider a Wellbeing for Women event. Karen will explore this, and pointed out the Women’s Centre already runs courses in mindfulness, etc.

Action: Karen to email CVCA her contact details for circulation to residents.

7. Local Action Team (Garry Collins)

The intention is that LATs should “own and manage” local issues in a more proactive way, e.g. setting up local speed watches and other projects to provide information on neighbourhood problems for “intelligence-led” policing. LATs can also widen their scope to cover other community issues. Funding may be available, and Garry can help with bids.

This links with a vision of residents as “active citizens” willing to provide the police with information on crime and anti-social behaviour, make witness statements, etc. Garry explained that it is okay to photograph anyone, including children, engaging in anti-social behaviour in public spaces.

In future neighbourhoods will not have their own local PCSO. Instead, they will work across wider areas, being deployed to local areas as required. It is important to report all incidents, as the level of reports will help determine the areas where PCSOs focus their attention. Residents noted that PCSOs had not been seen in the area since July.

8. Estate Development Budget

This is a budget of around £4,000 to be spent on estate improvements. CVCA will need to draw up its final proposal at next month’s committee meeting. Suggestions included:

- (a) A paved footpath from Hadlow Close to the junction of Craven Road and Queensway, similar to Jubilee Walk, to replace the current muddy track.
- (b) A project to design mosaics around entrance doors to blocks and/or inside stairwells. Mosaics could include signage and block numbers, and creative lighting inside the blocks.
- (c) A proper footpath and steps to 3-27 Queensway, where the grass slope is slippery when wet.
- (d) A larger notice board on Craven Road near the bike rack. This could be a “Quick Bid” to a budget for small projects costing less than £750.
- (e) Additional tree planting, e.g. quinces or mulberry trees.
- (f) Bird nesting boxes and feeders on ends of blocks and trees.

- (g) Replacing wooden panels in the wire sheds with metal panels to prevent break-ins.
- (h) An improved bus shelter at the bottom of Queensway. Because this is not on the estate itself, it is not covered by this budget. **Action: CVCA** to write to Brighton Buses & AdShell asking them to consider a new shelter.

Items not covered by the EDB include grass verges on Queensway and street lighting. CVCA is chasing up these problems with the Highways department but there is still no progress to report. Highways cannot plant the Queensway verges or use bollards there as they are needed for cars in extreme situations. **Action: CVCA** to take the problem with Queensway verges to the Area Panel.

We are hoping for feasibility studies on two previous EDB proposals for conversion of the disused bin store in Southover Close and an adventure playground in Parham Close.

9. Healthy Neighbourhood Fund

Anticipated NHF funding for our area this year is around £2,500 to fund projects to improve health and well-being in Craven Vale and Bakers Bottom.

Suggestions for extra tree planting and for bird feeders and nest boxes could possibly be made to this fund. Another suggestion was a bid to make use of the disused window boxes in the blocks.

10. Updates on projects and activities

The Friends of Craven Wood spent a day clearing brambles last Saturday. In addition pupils from Brighton College spent a "Make A Difference Day" clearing litter in the woods, transplanting trees and planting wild flowers.

11. Any other matters (Community Association)

(a) The blind bend in the road at the top of Queensway now has bollards but people are still parking dangerously. A request for a warning sign was turned down last year as there have not been enough reported accidents to justify it. Alternative suggestions from the meeting included:

- Double yellow lines.
- Halt / Give Way road markings
- Mirror on curve
- Notes left on windscreens of badly-parked cars.

Actions: CVCA to raise another request for a road sign; **Residents** to request double yellow lines in the parking consultation.

(b) The roads in Bakers Bottom need resurfacing but it seems money is only available for patch repairs.

(c) Fly-tipping remains a problem around the bin areas. Council staff remove reported rubbish quickly but have not been able to identify offenders. There was a suggestion that some letting agents' contractors may be adding to the problem. Councillor Mitchell is investigating the situation. **Action: CVCA** to let her know that the problem continues.

12. Any other matters (Tenants Association)

Members reported that:

(a) Rubbish has been left again in the stairwell of Nick's block. **Action: Rebecca** will investigate.

- (b) A resident reported a neighbour throwing rubbish from their window but nothing seems to have happened. **Action: the resident** should contact Carla Baden, the new Neighbourhood Officer, for an update.
- (c) Parking spaces have been blocked off with traffic cones at 1-31 Craven Road. **Action: Rebecca** to investigate.
- (d) Previous tenants have left needles in a window box of the stairwell in a block. **Action: residents** should phone Customer Services on (01273) 293030 and ask for Estate Services to get needles removed.
- (e) Quality and frequency of grass cutting and overgrown areas is poor. Rebecca said there should not be any drop in standards on estates. **Action: CVCA** to contact Rob Walker in Grounds Maintenance to request an estate inspection, and also raise the issue at Area Panel.
- (f) External lights. **Action: residents** should phone Repairs Service on (01273) 294409 to report or chase up faulty lights.
- (g) Broken bin-store doors. **Action: residents** should phone Customer Services on (01273) 293030 to report or chase up broken bin-store doors.
- (h) Gutters need to be cleaned. Councillor Mitchell raised this issue four months ago but nothing has happened. **Action: CVCA** to chase up Repairs staff.
- (i) High visibility paint of steps has not been completed in Tilgate Close. This work is being carried out by the Community Payback scheme, not the Council. **Action: CVCA** to contact Steve at Community Payback.
- (j) Key fobs used by the community association for delivering newsletters are not working. **Action: CVCA** to take them to the Housing Centre in Moulsecoomb for re-programming.
- (k) Trade buttons are not working properly on some doors. **Action: residents** should contact Customer Services on (01273) 293030

13. Any other matters (Local Action Group)

There are no new issues. Thefts from sheds and damage to vehicles (keying cars, broken mirrors) have been reported, but within the city Craven Vale and Bakers Bottom is classified as a relatively low risk area.

The meeting closed at 9:30

The next Committee Meeting is on Wednesday November 11th at 7pm

The next Open Meeting will be on Wednesday December 9th at 7pm

Also – put Thursday December 10th in your diaries if you wish to come and make a Christmas wreath between 6 and 8 pm; and Saturday December 12th between noon and 4pm for our Christmas Fair – all events take place at the Vale Community Centre, Hadlow Close.