

AMPTHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

Minutes: ACSG meeting held at Waitrose Meeting Room 13 May 2014

Present: John Plummer, June Hutley, Tim Norman, Helen Armitage, Peter Downing.

Apologies: Ruth Redman, John Redman, Lloyd Hynes, Philip Whiteley, Dave Rollings.

Minutes of 1st April 2014 were approved.

Matters Arising.

Street Watch update. Nothing further to report in Ampthill. More volunteers still required. John has been invited by the Chief Constable to attend the Bedfordshire Police Hate Crime Strategy Launch Event on May 20th. He has also meetings with Northants and Met Police later this month. There will be a Speed Watch promotion across Bedfordshire 19 – 23 May, and week commencing 14th June is National Neighbourhood Watch week. ‘Cover It Live’ on June 18th, 7-8pm, is a forum for questions and answers. More details will be published nearer the time. John hopes in the future to receive crime statistics for those areas where Street Watch operates. *Ongoing*

Houghton Close. New car park in constant use. *Closed*

Willow Way signage. John contacted Cllr Mike Blair. There has been further work by Peter and Lloyd since then. Peter has drawn freehand a map showing all the house numbers and will meet Lloyd to discuss the best placement for the signs. *Ongoing*

Church Street. Lloyd has e-mailed Nick Chapman at Amey requesting an update. Nick is on leave until 15 May. Lloyd will follow up and report back. *Action LH*

Constitution. Helen has e-mailed Chief Inspector Tania Coulson to request an occasional Police presence at ACSG meetings. This she will try and do bearing in mind the Police have to cover 99 Parish and Town Councils and presence could not be guaranteed. *Closed*

Recruitment. Helen was in touch with Mark Smith after the last meeting, and he assured her the ‘advertisement’ is on the Ampthill website. *Closed*

ACSG Logo. Lloyd has e-mailed Andy Jones, Head of Production Design at Redborne School and is awaiting a reply. Students are on study leave to prepare for their exams, and nothing can be done before June 9th. Lloyd will contact him again when he gets back from holiday on May 22nd. *Action LH*

Website. The website has not been updated recently. John R volunteered at the last meeting to take over from Chris Yates. John will ask JR whether or not he has been in touch with Chris. *Action JP*

Ringmaster. Watch this space. *Ongoing*

Agenda Items

Planning and Highways Committee Meeting 16th April 2014. The minutes are already on the Town Council’s website. Partial gates are going up at the entrance to Alameda Road paid for by the residents. There will be road access for children from Sweet Briar. No parents’ vehicles will be allowed into Alameda Middle School, only buses and staff cars.

Waitrose are contributing £10,000 to the Bedford Street parking scheme, and £40,000 is coming from the Russell House development. Mike Blair outlined his parking plan, which wants to discourage cars from coming into the centre of town. The strategy will be on the website. Russell Drive ownership is still unclear and Donna is going to do a land registry search.

AOB. Lloyd had sent an email that there is still a substantial dog mess problem on the fields between Willow Way and Maulden. He requested that the Chair should make contact with CBC to arrange a meeting to discuss the problem. John observed that as part of the land is private, he's not convinced that there's anything CBC can do to enforce it. It was suggested that Lloyd should contact Summerfield first and discuss publicising via local newspapers and Around the Pump suggesting that unless dog owners were more respectful, the unofficial 'right of way' across the private land would be withdrawn. *Action LH*

June has e-mailed Donna at the Town Council that the fence round the Children's Play Area in Ampthill Park is damaged.

Helen said there had been hostile reaction to the news that Ampthill Police Station is to close, and will relocate to The Hawthorns in Flitwick. Some staff were upset that they were only told an hour before the news became public. The decision was not taken by the Chief Constable, but by PCC Olly Martins, who isn't only in charge of the Police budget, but also Estates. Other stations including Biggleswade, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard are also to be relocated. Some functions will be moving to Dunstable, which is currently underutilised. Greyfriars in Bedford is to close and temporary custody cells are going to be added to Kempston HQ.

Time and Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24th June 2014, Waitrose Meeting Room at 7pm.