

AMPTHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

Minutes: ACSG meeting held at Waitrose Meeting Room 1 April 2014

Present: John Plummer, Tim Norman, Helen Armitage, Lloyd Hynes, Peter Downing, Ruth Redman, John Redman.

Apologies: June Hutley, Philip Whiteley, Dave Rollings.

Congratulations were recorded to John Plummer for his High Sheriff of Bedfordshire Citizenship Award, which members felt was richly deserved.

Minutes of 18th February 2014 were approved.

Matters Arising.

Street Watch update. Nothing new to report for Ampthill. John chaired the six monthly Coordinators' meeting on 17th March. Much of the time was spent on briefs and updates, and local schemes comparing experiences over the past 6 months. The Metropolitan Police and Suffolk Constabulary have asked John for advice, and he has had a meeting with Hertfordshire Police. Hot topic is the Gypsy and Traveller Community's caravans in Harlington and the amount of rubbish generated. John has been in close touch with the Harlington Street Watch Coordinator and the Police. John is a member of the Let's Talk Flitwick Working Group.

Ongoing

Stakeholders meeting.

Closed

Houghton Close. New car park in use for at least 17 cars.

Ongoing

Swaffield Close.

Closed

Willow Way. No further news on signage. John to contact Cllr Mike Blair.

Action JP

(Post meeting note: Mike Blair e-mailed JP who has forwarded it to ACSG members)

Tavistock Avenue. The pedestrian crossing in Flitwick Road and double yellow lines in the entrance to Tavistock Avenue are now in place.

Closed

The Limes. Youngsters were recently spotted on the building site, with a ladder. Police were called and attended but the youths escaped via Russell House. John Redman secured the ladder. Acentic have now got retrospective permission for their signage.

Closed

Church Street. Lloyd has received an acknowledgement from CBC that it is an issue, and have passed it to the appropriate officer.

Ongoing

Constitution. Would like to invite police presence at meetings, maybe every quarter. Helen to discuss with Tania Coulson on Thursday.

Action HA

Recruitment. Lloyd was in touch with Mark Smith and has sent him the draft but heard nothing back. Helen will follow up.

Action HA

ACSG Logo. Lloyd wrote to Redborne School and has a reply from the Head of Art saying she had passed it on to the Design Department. Nothing heard yet. Helen had drawn a rough outline of her suggestion and Ruth offered to do some artwork on the computer.

Action LH & RR

(Post meeting: Lloyd has heard from the Design Department. They would be happy to task their students after their exams, hopefully to complete by July).

Agenda Items

Planning and Highways Committee Meetings 19th February and 19th March 2014. As June was unable to attend today's meeting, she sent detailed notes of the committee meetings, which are noted. Thanks were expressed to June for all her hard work, especially on the Station Road Questionnaire. Due to an oversight, the ACSG statement was not included in the March edition of Around the Pump, but will be in the next one in May. Meanwhile it will be placed on the Town Council's website.

Lloyd suggested there was a discrepancy between the Town Council's statements re the license for 2b Woburn Street between the February and March meetings.

(Post meeting note: Councillors at both meetings recommended refusal "as the proposed site for a licensed operation cannot perform in such a tight and compact site which will have ongoing problems with deliveries". In addition at the February meeting under Licensing, Councillors recommended refusal on the grounds of noise nuisance in a densely populated area of the town").

Dunstable Street: John Redman spoke at February's meeting under public participation about the danger of injury to pedestrians but felt ACSG's concerns were dismissed. Lloyd suggested putting a formal proposal from ACSG to the Town Council to implement a priority traffic system in Dunstable Street. Helen suggested we could raise this at the Town Meeting on 14th. There was some debate whether we should write the official letter, or bring the subject up at the meeting first. Members will consult councillors as they don't wish to be 'ambushing' the Town Council. Lloyd also suggested decommissioning the two parking bays outside 103 and 105. Tim suggested we should ask the Town Council to take professional guidance from the CBC traffic engineer Gary Baldwin. Helen will draft a letter. **Action HA and all members**
(Post meeting note. HA has received an initial response from a Councillor who is not in favour of a priority system. This may suggest a lack of support for the idea).

Website. Chris Yates is reducing his work in the voluntary sector which includes ceasing his role as webmaster. John Redman volunteered to take over and will contact CY. **Action JR**

Ringmaster. Police are keen to improve communications and recommend wider take-up of Ringmaster. **Ongoing**

AOB. Peter mentioned the number of recent thefts of parts from Vauxhall and BMW cars. Tim was concerned about a cold calling initiative by Alameda Restaurant – door-knocking to drum up business instead of leafleting.
Helen drew attention to the Town Meeting on 14th and said she would be prepared to attend on ACSG's behalf.

Time and Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13th May 2014, Waitrose Meeting Room at 7pm.