

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Forum held on
Thursday, 12th November 2014 at Fittleworth Village Hall

Present:

The Common Parish Council of Sutton & Barlavington

Peter Bentham (lay Representative)

Duncton Parish Council

Chris Davies (Parish Councillor)

Ebernoe Parish Council

Ann Tyrell

Fittleworth Parish Council

Chris Welfare (Chairman)

Lurgashall Parish Council

Ray Cooper (Chairman)

Northchapel Parish Council

Gayle Fordan and Lynda Bell

Petworth Town Council

Chris Kemp (Chairman) and Tony Sneller (Parish Councillor)

Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council

David Ribbens (Parish Councillor)

Tillington Parish Council

Andrew Johnstone (Chairman) and Jean Huggett (Parish Clerk)

Wisborough Green Parish Council

Keith Charman (Chairman)

Sussex Police

PCSO Paul Isaac 32167

PCSO Richard Boston 32191

PCSO Colin Booker

West Sussex County Council

Cllr Mrs Janet Duncton (Petworth Division)

Chichester District Council

Cllr Nick Thomas (Vice Chairman of the Council, NE Parishes Forum Representative)

Cllr Eileen Lintill (Petworth Ward)

Cllr John Elliott (Bury Ward) – arrived late

Piers Taylor, Community Safety, Communities Team

Amy Loaring, Partnerships Officer

1. Introduction by the Chairman

Mr Chris Welfare, Chairman of Fittleworth Parish Council opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2(a). Apologies for Absence

Ebernoe Parish Council – Mr RAF Ford, Vice Chairman
East Lavington Parish Council – Vivien Gosden, Vice Chair
Kirdford Parish Council – Cllr Susan Pinder And Irene Marshall (Parish Clerk)
Loxwood Parish Council –Roger Newman, Chairman
Sussex Police – Police sergeant Jon Chapman
Cllr Josef Ransley
Cllr Philippa Hardwick
John Ward – CDC
Shona Turner – CDC but she does send Chocolate mini rolls)

2(b) Minutes of previous meeting and matter arising

Item 3 bullet point 6 would be better reading:

- The Fundraising Hub run by VAAC have lost their chief fundraiser/manager and are considering how they can reconfigure the delivery of this project.

3. Feedback from Chichester in Partnership – Cllr Mrs Eileen Lintill

Cllr Mrs Eileen Lintill ran through the CIP update from (the 9th Sept)

SelseyWorks – 6 month evaluation - Sam reported that the evaluation clearly shows the need for this project. With 330 people now having used the facility. The hot desk space has been hard to sell. The shop has picked up and is fully booked until Christmas so gaining momentum. They are secure until March with another bid to DWP going in now to cover salary costs. She added they are still short in revenue costs as far as covering rates, heating etc, so is working on a 'Reaching Communities' bid through the Big Lottery fund. Big Challenge therefore is to get to the point where they are completely sustainable. Sam also outlined the following:

- Tuning In – is a new project run in conjunction with the Selsey Academy and the youth worker, aims to identify the children at risk of missing lessons and SelseyWorks will be used as a facility to cover those lessons where children have particular issues. Also will cover exclusion cases both for fixed periods and permanent exclusions.
- People on Job Seekers allowance is relatively low (85), but there are still 550 who are on the old incapacity benefit many of whom are being told they are fit to work when clearly they are not. This is very time consuming. They are also helping people with their appeals when benefits have been sanctioned; again this takes a lot of officer time.
- Community Nursery – going from strength to strength. Having taken on staff there are now. After First Steps closed, there were about 80 families who were affected. This is now run as a social enterprise but working in conjunction with SelseyWorks so we now have 160 families on the records and a waiting list of families too. This is completely sustainable.
- Working with the college, the community work experience project is where the unemployed people can gain experience in decoration and building work through working on community projects. While community projects can save money by paying a minimal fee for the service and cost of materials while at the same time

helping local people gain work experience. This project is co funded by the college and CDC. A lead officer at the college heads this up and enables people to get qualifications for further building site work.

Think Family Neighbourhoods update - Pam gave an overview of the programme stating that although it is running along the same principles as Selsey, each project is going to be bespoke for each neighbourhood and reflect the issues for each area. A lot of work has been carried out on the visual aspect of the neighbourhoods and are now beginning to drill down to look at what the root causes of the issues are. Chichester East is the main focus and is in 3 areas: Swanfield, Charles Avenue and Portfield with St James Square.

Choose work Updates- From the last meetings, it was agreed to continue this project and looking for funding. £30,000 is being funded by CDC over 3 years. DWP were also approached. Funding has been agreed for a year, but there will be a shortfall in budget (£46324 over the subsequent 2 years) unless there are any alternative sources of funding. As from January there will be a second Choose Work Coordinator and the project will be doing outreach work into the rural areas.

Proposal for a large Partnership event in January. Details to still be agreed on this.

Next Core Group meeting 9th December 2014 – Committee Rooms, CDC. For further information either contact Cllr Mrs Eileen Lintill or Amy Loaring aloaring@chichester.gov.uk or the Chichester in Partnership website www.chichesterinpartnership.org.uk

4. An Update from Sussex Police

Petworth Town and south: PCSO Paul Issac – 07775406783
paul.f.isaac@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Petworth Town and north: PCSO Richard Boston - 07917587022
Richard.Boston@sussex.pnn.police.uk

It has been a very quiet summer in the north of the district. However coming into the Autumn there has been a spike in Burglary OTD, especially in Lodsworth and Lurgashall. Mainly in garden machinery. Someone from London has been arrested , and they are now trying to link 75 cases to this individual. Would encourage people to do property marking, still able to come out, tell Craig Dunlop at Petworth or call 101.

There was an attempted break in at the Waterworks, 2 individuals have been arrested.

Local paper reported that ASB was on the rise in Petworth. Should be noted that neighbourhood disputes are now classed as ASB.

5. An update on Unauthorised Encampments – Piers Taylor, CDC

Piers began his presentation by giving an overview of unauthorised encampments, with some of the activity and also wanted to bring everyone up to date with the current situation.

2013 – There were 50 unauthorised encampments through the Chichester District, in areas such as open space, laybys, dead highways; using the A27 corridor, going east to west and west to east, Brighton to Portsmouth but not northwards.

2014 – only 19 encampments. On 4 encampments section 61 was used. Only 8

encampments were longer than 2 days.

From a suggestion made by PCSO Colin Booker, we built up a database of information on locations used, who the families were and how they operate, eg. were they untidy etc. In addition, Ester Quarm, Gipsy /Travellers Manager from WSCC, who liaises and co-ordinates with all interested parties, could provide a bigger picture of the whole situation.

Police will visit a site once a day and Piers will engage.

Piers and Colin gave a slide show of photos showing some of the areas where the travellers had been this year.

1. Northgate encampment – We have kept very positive relationships with this family and they kept the site clean and tidy. The good relationship means they are very straight about their intentions and so money does not need to be wasted on legal actions. They even paid for parking and the car park was still able to be used. We have improved relations with the organisations involved including the tennis club and the theatre.
2. Wittering Marine Drive – These travellers gained access by the gate being left open. All parishes are warned when they are spotted in the area. Will look at improving car park with a full height barrier. Main complaint from residents when travellers are there is the noise from the generators.
3. Chichester College – Have had 3 encampments all ejected the following day. Land around the college is completely open so in the new year will at how it can be secured with things like ditching, bunding and fencing.
4. Same group moved onto New Park recreation ground. They moved on quickly when some of their members were involved in shop lifting.
5. Bosham Carpark – site is difficult to secure. Toilets were initially opened to them but once vandalism took place these were closed off. The car park was hardly used by anyone else while they were there.
6. The old A27 was used but they were moved on easily. They ended up in Hamblin Hall, where they did cause problems for the owners of the property.
7. An incursion last August in Northchapel, the travellers were escorted by the Police to the A27 and pushed into Chichester, Northgate. They then went from Petworth to Northchapel. After some discussion with the Chair of the Parish Council, they were all allowed to stay although access to the toilets and water was declined and they agreed to keep the site tidy. The travellers were advised of their legal options and left 3 days later. When they left, the site was immaculate. However, on further inspection, they had stuffed rubbish bags behind the hedge!
8. There were also 10 French Romany caravans in the car park behind Waitrose. It was chaos, as not only was there lorries in the car park, a coach with passengers was marooned in there and also the Cathedral's Festival of Flowers was in full bloom. The Police were called, along with the Duty Inspector who has the Section 61 powers, however, they left the following morning.

Difference this year is Tangmere, the site has been secured and has deterred them. Westhampnett transit site will be interesting as it will create new powers for the police. Transit site will have 9 pitches but this covers the whole of West Sussex. They will be able to stay approximately 3 months on the site, they will have to pay to stay there and pay a bond.

6. All Parishes meeting – Discussion

Group discussed the SDNP local plan they have started to identify potential

development sites. Expected date of the plan is 2017

Sutton and Duncton and other parishes have discussed a cluster neighbourhood plan, but some areas have no inclination for this.

Group discussed the Community Right to Bid. Northchapel have successfully registered their shop and pub. Owners of the facilities were initially anxious about this but once it was explained to them, that if they chose to sell

7. Share Common Issues and Problems.

At the last meeting we discussed the frequency of the community forums and agreed to reduce it to two a year. Everyone is finding that this works well for them. Shona is now the administrator for the North West forum as well.

Parishes are all still worried about the cuts to the fire service in this part of the district. Janet Duncton informed them that the changes will be reviewed in a years' time to ensure that are appropriate and effective.

8. Future topics

Ask Cllr Ransley to talk about the Kirdford Neighbourhood plan
Update on Chichester in Partnership and it projects. Amy Loaring to present.

9. Any other Business

There was a discussion about the recent cuts to the Fire Service, some of the parishes were worried about the impact his will have. Cllr Janet Duncton confirmed that even though some service have been reduced the remaining equipment has been upgraded and that all the changes will be reviewed in a year's time.

Local Plan – CDC is in the middle of the inspection. This currently sets out building 410 houses a year but it is felt that this may not be enough. We are looking at Spring for a decision and we are lucky this time in that we can make alterations as we go.

Thank you to Fittleworth for the refreshments and chairing the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Date of Future Meeting – 2014

To look at Kirdford to host the meeting. Possible late June after the elections.