**Minutes of the Pipers Area Residents Association Meeting held 8.7.13 at 7.30pm**

**Venue:** Croft Sports Centre

**Apologies:** Daphne Hardwick and Bea Menier

**Present:** Cllr Watts, Cllr Mattock, Cllr Bluh, PC Tim North, Claire Bouverie-Brine, Carole Bent, Kareen Boyd, Judith Randell-Sly, Colin Doubleday, Susanne Webb, Duncan Cunningham, Malathy Sitaram, Linda Kasmaty

**Guest/Observer:** Chris Hawkins Chair of Henrietta Court Residents Association

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Kareen proposed, Susanne Webb seconded

**Matters arising:** All will be dealt with later on as they arise in the agenda.

**Police Update**

Although it has been a good month, PC North outlined a few matters. In the immediate area, along Marlborough Lane, there was a report of 12 young people exhibiting anti-social behaviour at 3am, there has been a theft from a garden in Carlisle Avenue and the Marriott car park. In the pub and club area, there were 6 reports of anti-social behaviour, 5 of violence against a person. There have been 8 reported thefts from the Co-op, 3 people have been arrested and 2 cautioned as a result. There were 2 daytime burglaries in Lawn, 2 offenders have been arrested. Old Town Festival went well in terms of lack of crime.

The flat bed truck which had been parking in Hesketh Crescent has hopefully moved on.

Photographs of graffiti sent to all present enabled identification of the walls around the tennis courts behind Goddard Avenue as ‘Graffiti walls’. The walkway between Newport Street and Signal Way is receiving more graffiti.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh will organise someone to look into graffiti in areas mentioned.

The rest of us should report incidents of graffiti to Streetsmart.

**Museum and Art Gallery progress**

Robert Hiscox, a former sheriff of Wiltshire, has approached the council with a plan to build a new museum and art gallery in the town centre; funds of £10 million would be needed for the building which would apparently attract 150000 visitors to Swindon, it has therefore been kept on the council’s agenda.

Cllr Bluh gave the meeting an assurance that the art and museum collections would not be moved from their present location in Apsley House until the new premises have been built. He was unable to comment on the present ‘winter opening hours’ of 16 hours a week, or when they might be extended.

**Planting at Croft Sports Centre**

Jane Milner-Barry, a resident of St. Margaret’s Road asked about the planting around the Sports Centre which has not been tended since the football pitch was built.

**Action:** The manager of Croft has agreed to get the beds tidied up.

**Signs**

Cllr Mattock and Carole Bent discussed the sign to be installed at the top of Marlborough Lane and the one currently outside the school with ‘crescent’ mis-spelt, with Nick Newland. Nick Newland was not keen on the SBC tree logo in the background or being asked to remove the word ‘campus’, but of more concern is the wording of the sign because of the uncertainty about the future of the Children’s Centre. Abbeymeads is the most popular Children’s Centre, but the council have to save £48 million over the next 3 years, and so the likelihood is that centres will not be closed, but have their usage changed.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock will email the document on Children’s Centres to Linda who will send it out to those on the committee. It will also be circulated to Localities Leads who can raise it at Localities Meetings.

**Road Closure for Evelyn Street Bridge Works**

Letters were circulated to local residents in the 5 roads affected by this outlining the fact that the road under the bridge would be closed to all traffic, including pedestrian between 29.7.13 and 1.9.13 above and below the bridge.

Nicholas Dent who lives in the new house on Marlborough Lane nearest Evelyn Street is concerned that the junctions near his house are not working. The two way junction won’t work. A question was asked about preventing parking opposite the new house, but highways officers need to manage the situation.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock will investigate a solution to the potential problems caused by the road closure.

It was suggested it might be useful to erect signs to prevent commercial vehicles parking in the area. The councillors were asked if they had seen the contractor’s temporary works plan, they had not.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock to request a copy of the temporary works plan, and email Linda a copy.

**Requests for Localities Meeting**

Kareen mentioned she had not had a response from the localities officers about time allocated for each of our clean up events; these should be 10 man days for each event.

**Action:** Cllr Watts agreed to chase this up.

**Traffic signals on Pipers Way outside Marlborough Park**

These have a default setting of a red light for Pipers Way, surely it should be for Marlborough Park traffic?

**Action:** Cllr Bluh will investigate this.

There followed a discussion on slow to respond traffic light regulated pedestrian crossings.

**Updates on the Bell Development**

The proposed planning application we heard about at the last meeting was withdrawn and the builders/ developers have not discussed their plans with the council. Kareen wrote to Helen Cape on behalf of PaRa. Building work is continuing on the site, planning permission is in place to renovate the inside of the present building as long as building and planning regulations are not contravened.

**Hesketh Play Park**

Cllr Watts confirmed the play park will stay where it is according to Sally Bridges, the new landscape architect employed by the borough. It will be updated and ideas from users of the play park will be sought at September’s meeting which Sally will attend.

**Croft Saturday School**

This is run for 4-11 year old Muslim children who are generating a lot of noise because the school has been built too close to the houses, and the noise attenuation fences and landscaping have not been put in place.

Cllr Bluh confirmed that no planning approval was required for Saturday usage, or usage at other times outside school hours. The traffic assessment was only done at peak periods, when it was confirmed there would be no overlap between football and school traffic. The peak traffic is now Saturday morning, when there is an overlap of school and football traffic, so a request for reassessment of traffic volumes was made. Cllr Bluh confirmed access to the site was acceptable when compared to schools in Swindon.

Marlborough Lane has been closed when 100 cars have converged on the car park, how will the lane cope when the school is running at full capacity with potentially 420 cars entering and leaving the site?

**Action:** Councillors will ask Gwillam Lloyd and his team about how this will be dealt with.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh will find out when noise attenuation measures will be employed.

**Croft Area Traffic Consultation**

A date for this will be confirmed by the end of July.

Questions were asked about when staff will use the Croft School car park, and mention was made of parents dropping off children at the school parking in Hesketh Crescent and turning round in people’s driveways.

Delivery vans are also doing this.

**Local Plan 2026**

Has been submitted, the inspector will consider housing numbers which have been reduced to 30000 from 36000.

**Planning Application for demolition of 52A, Broome Manor Lane.**

**Action:** Cllr Mattock will investigate this and email us with the result of the planning application.

**AOB**

The Leisure services review is continuing.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock will find out how it is progressing.

The Corn Exchange plans are going before the planning committee on the 9th of July.

Cllr Foley is having a consultation about sites for secondary schools. Cllr Bluh assured the committee that there will not be a secondary school on the Croft playing fields

**Action:** Cllr Bluh will let us know when the date of the consultation is released.

We discussed whether to hold an August meeting, some of the committee will need to meet in August to write items to be included in the newsletter.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in August, please send articles for inclusion into the newsletter.

Carole noted that David and Tim, Linda’s husband will be taking part in Swindon Open Studios on the 7th and 8th of September. More details on: [www.swindonopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.swindonopenstudios.org.uk)

Brochures available from August 1st.

**Date of August meeting:** 12th August

**Date of September meeting:** 9th September