**Minutes of the Pipers Area Residents Association Committee Meeting held 8.4.13 at 7.30pm**

**Venue: Croft Sports Centre**

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Bluh, Colin Doubleday, Daphne Hardwick

**Present:** Bea Menier, Cllr Watts, Cllr Mattock, PC Tim North, Claire Bouverie-Brine, Duncan Cunningham, Carole Bent, Kareen Boyd, Susanne Webb, Judith Randell-Sly, Linda Kasmaty

Duncan Cunningham chaired the meeting, and began by welcoming Judith Randell**-**Sly to the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**: were approved by Kareen Boyd and seconded by Duncan Cunnungham
2. **Matters arising**:

**Croft School**

Cllr Mattock suggested that since Bernie Brannon has an overview of all the strands of the actions regarding Croft School, he can co-ordinate the responses to actions. It was proposed we use these minutes as actions.

It was noted that Claire Cornelius, Highways, and Nick Capstick, WHF, seem to disagree on various points.

It was suggested that there is no evidence that highways were involved in the choice of the site for a new school on the Croft. It appears that Hesketh Crescent has been deemed the ‘best option’ for buses to the school, an unworkable solution for residents and needs amendment.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock to set up a meeting with members of the PARA committee and Claire Cornelius to talk about the traffic situation, this would be more profitable than sending emails.

**Seating at Planning Meetings**

Cllrs Bluh and Pajak have agreed that members of the Planning Committee could be trialled facing the public in order to engage more positively in the spirit of the Big Conversation and Stronger Together ethos of the Council; members of the committee therefore asked if the Chair of Planning could reconsider his refusal to trial this.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock to ask the Chair of Planning to reconsider whether the Members of the Planning Committee could face the public during planning meetings.

**Local Plan Feedback:**

The public feedback date to the Local Plan was noted as the 28th of March at the last meeting, this was incorrect.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock to find out about the date and report back.

**The Signage for Croft**

The design of the proposed sign to be erected at the entrance to the unadopted section of Marlborough Lane will be ready for approval by residents of the lane on the 19th of April, and then be ready for putting up within 4 weeks.

1. **Police Update**

The man who was attacked in Wood Street is still in a critical condition, someone has been arrested and charged with the offence of GBH with intent; it was not the punch, but the way he fell which is thought to have caused his injuries.

The recent spate of 12 burglaries appears to have been perpetrated by a group of 6 young men between the ages of 16-18 who smash double glazed windows at the back of houses and with the intention of stealing gold jewellery to sell by posting it off to companies who buy it.

The 18 year old who broke into house sin Greywethers Avenue and Marlborough Road has been sentenced to 4 months in jail.

The garages behind Pizza Express have been broken into on the 4th and 21st of March, but nothing was taken.

Someone was seen walking through Lawn Woods with a baseball bat, and another person has their mobile phone stolen at 3.30am when walking through the woods. It is best to stick to the main areas when walking home late at night.

There have been thefts from unattended coats and bags in McKenzies, and an incident where someone laid a map out on a table and asked directions and stole someone’s belongings while they explained the route.

Someone attempted to tamper with the Barclays ATM to put a scanner on it.

Over the Easter weekend there was egg throwing in Sunderland Road.

One person is on bail for the tyre slashing offences.

Concern was raised from the committee about Wood Street’s night time economy, are they too many licenced premises in a small area? PC Tim North said there were more police being deployed there than used to be the case, and as to the opening hours, they are driven by demand of those going out to the pubs.

1. **Newsletter Status**

It is being printed, and should be ready for distribution this week. After a discussion on the newsletter process, in summary we agreed that ;

* The Format is working and has an identity
* Contributors will provide their input to Linda on topics we have or will be working on as well as upcoming events such as the Clean up and the AGM
* Linda will co-ordinate and send to Daphne
* Daphne will be the editor
* Linda and Daphne will proof read
* Daphne will organise the printing
* Members will distribute.

*(We want the newsletter to be fresh and topical and if we are all involved in everything then our news will be old news)*. This is the most effective method to produce a 4xyear newsletter and makes the best use of all of our time and experience.

1. **Old Town Clean Up + on 28th April 2-4pm**

This has been well received by the Old Town Group and the Old Town Business Group. Many of the OTBG have donated money, and together with donations from residents, we have £640 towards the OTC+.

Carole has designed a poster and Origin printers kindly printed 50 copies free of charge.

Peter Biggs of Wanborough Herb Nurseries met with Carole, Kareen and Linda on the 6th of April to give advice about planting the ivy covered bed outside Tony Knowles’ shop, and also reviewed the whole of Newport Street with us.

Mark Walker, Localities lead for Eastcott ward along with Cllr Watts met with SCS who agreed to clear out the ‘Knowles Bed’ and donate topsoil for it. The original quote from SCS for clearing the bed had been £2400.

Kareen and Linda agreed to follow up the request made to the Steam Railway pub that they join in with the OTCU+.

Carole has agreed to ‘meet and greet’ volunteers outside Tony Knowles’ shop on the 28th of April.

SBC owns land in front of hoardings, although the hoardings themselves may be owned by an advertising company who it was thought would be pleased the area was being cared for.

The land outside the Co-op including the ivy covered bench is also probably owned by SBC, this will be investigated.

Siting planters by the bench was discussed.

Those present were encouraged to meet outside Tony Knowles’ shop at 1pm on Tuesday 9th of April for a photograph to publicise the event in the Swindon Advertiser.

**Work teams were agreed:**

Hoardings bed-Kareen ,Co-op flower bed- Susanne ,Behind the bus stop- Dave Bent

Tony’s flower bed- Linda , Co-op bench-Daphne , Graffitti- Litter picking- Removal of circus flyers-

We agreed that we need to hold another meeting before the OTCU+, and we need to do something on Wood Street because of the support we have had from traders there.

Cllr Mattock will attend the OTCU+.

Brian Gibbs from the Salvation Army will be there.

The poster will be put onto the website and Facebook.

Would Forward Swindon donate money? They have a £300000 budget.

Initially it had been thought we could sell raffle tickets at the OTCU+ to draw at the AGM, but we can’t do this, so fund raising via raffle ticket selling will have to be restricted to the AGM.

Cllr Mattock will investigate insurance requirements for the event, a risk assessment form will need to be completed as well.

1. **Leisure and Culture Consultation**

Cllr Mattock suggested we send an email to Garry Perkins from PARA stating we want to be involved in the consultation.

1. **CIL**

The consultation on CIL has been delayed, there is a final draft now with greater clarity about what developers have to pay.

1. **Shadowing**

Gavin Jones will decide how this will work.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Current account: £1108.01

Deposit account: £600.84

**AOB**

There will be a Waitrose supermarket at the Wichelstowe district centre, it will be open by September 2014.

Mill Lane will not be opened up as the next phase of the Wichelstowe development happens, but will be closed at some point to prevent rat running between Wroughton and Old Town.

Caroline Jane has liaised with a member of the PARA committee about having a mediated meeting about the Croft School process; Caroline has conducted 10 interviews and put together a report, but the meeting has not taken place. Cllr Mattock said that Gavin Jones and Regenerate have discussed conduction 1000 interviews as part of a deeper listening project on the Croft School, avoiding talking to local residents, but including those out of the area. This is disappointing because it is not what was asked for. Gavin Jones has been informed about this and will speak to Ward Councillors about it.

Caroline Jane wants the committee to trust the process she is engaged in.

We decided to leave the subject of a mediated meeting until the next PARA meeting, and email Cllr Bluh, Gavin Jones and MP Robert Buckland in the meantime about it.

Cllr Mattock asked on behalf of the Localities Group where we would like work done in our area.

Other areas get input into Localities Meetings agendas, we would like to do so as well. Brian Ford is the Chair and our new Localities lead person is Kathryn Langdown, email: klangdown@swindon.gov.uk

Mark is the locality lead in Eastcott and Town Centre.

Cllr Mattock asked if we would link into the Old Town Festival next year and we agreed that would be a good idea.

The next South Locality meeting will be on the 25th of April at 7pm in the Civic Offices, meeting room 6.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

**Date of next meeting**: 13th May at 7.30pm at Croft Sports Centre

**ADDENDUM** : as several activities required immediate action prior to the publication of the minutes and before the next meeting the following has been in progress since 9/4/2013. This update is at 18/4/2013:

**Meeting to be arranged with Officers to review current outstanding questions re the Croft School and Mitigations, this to incorporate questions to the White Horse Federation**.

* As Nadine has already arranged a meeting with N Capstick for 22/4/2013 with Carole and Colin, it may be a good use of everyone's time to target this date to cover the above. I can attend on this date.
* **Action : Nadine/Brian to co-ordinate and confirm to all asap.**
* *On schedule*

**Old Town Cleanup+ on 28/4/2013**

* We are all keen for the Clean up to progress without any hitches and given that Brian has raised the question of public liability (based on his prior experience with the Old Town Festival) can I ask that Brian ,as Ward Cllr, looks after this?
* **Action : Brian to confirm what, if anything, is required and to ensure that this is in place by 22/4/2013**
* *Agreed and all is set for 28/4*
* Brian/Nadine and Rod have confirmed that they will be attending the cleanup. There could be up to 10 teams for different tasks on the day. Nadine is happy to head up one of the work teams, Brian's preference is to be a team member.
* **Action : Nadine to provide area maps for the teams by 22/4/2013**
* **Action: Rod to confirm whether he wishes to head up one of the teams by 12/4/2013 .**
* *Done, work teams will be published to PaRa and Ward Councillors 22/4*
* Note: The OTCU+ planning meeting identified the need for an alternative arrangement of teams to that noted above.

**PaRa AGM 11/5/2013 10-12 Croft Centre( then refreshments)**

* We would like to invite our Ward Councillors to have an open 15 min slot ( 10.45-11am) for residents' questions. Nadine has already stated that she is unavailable that day.
* **Action: Brian and Rod to confirm that they are happy to do this by 17/4/2013 (to allow time to print and distribute the AGM leaflets).**
* *Rod has confirmed that he is unlikely to be able to attend.*
* *Brian, can you confirm asap to allow finalisation of the AGM agenda?*