**Minutes of the Pipers Area Residents Association Committee Meeting held 10.6.13 at 7.30pm**

**Venue: Croft Sports Centre**

**Apologies:** Daphne Hardwick, Colin Doubleday, Judith Randell-Sly

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

**Guests:** Chris and John talking about their plans for the Bell

**Observer:** Margaret Cooney

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Claire Proposed, Carole seconded.

**Matters Arising:**

Regarding insurance for community activities, Cllr Bluh reported that the Chief Executive and the Locality lead are investigating the feasibility of having a blanket policy for all community events across the borough, he will report back when he has the information.

Regarding the increase in double yellow lines in Winifred Street, Cllr Watts is investigating, though the matter should go into the larger traffic consultation looking at the situation in the whole area holistically, soon to be conducted in the area. As to when the consultation on traffic in the area will occur, we are awaiting a response from Gavin Jones; there is an ongoing discussion with Suzanne Cole and some of the local residents. Concern was expressed about the use of the parking bays in Marlborough Lane, it was felt they should not be used for long term parking of commercial vehicles.

**Action:** Cllr Watts will get a date set for the traffic consultation.

Cllr Bluh explained the present situation regarding the Local Plan. Firstly he reminded us that the initial number of new homes to be built in Swindon by 2026 was 37000, this had been reduced downwards to 28000 by central government. Apparently under new regulations regarding the Local Plan, because ours was not adopted before the rules changed, we may have to adapt our plan to the higher figures, otherwise we could risk having our Local Plan rejected, the thinking is it is better to have a Local Plan accepted with higher figures than no Local Plan.

If there was a revision of the Local Plan, it would have to take place before the new year.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh will investigate and let us know what the council proposes to do.

**Police Update**

The Armed Forces Day on the 29th of June has been cancelled, but the one in the town centre will go ahead as planned.

The number of burglaries has been low, although there have been a few opportunistic early morning break ins into sheds and garages. Five out of six of the sheds broken into were left open, there is a balance to strike, probably better not to leave valuables in a shed, and lock bicycles up in the shed. An exhaust pipe was stolen in Liden, and metal has been stolen when left in an accessible place in the garden.

Crime generally low, although there continue to be road traffic offences at the Nationwide Park and Ride, with 28 prosecutions including one person who was caught three times and now has 9 points on his license. Halcro will be making suggestions to improve the situation so drivers are not tempted to break the law in the near future.

**Spring Clean Update**

The group who worked on this event met prior to the committee meeting and reported that watering has been an issue since the planting because of a lack of significant rainfall.

A watering rota has been established.

The Co-op have agreed to water their beds and would like to be involved next time we have an event.

The Steam Railway have painted part of their building, but failed to tidy up the bed outside the pub. Suji has also been painted. We are going to do more planting by the hoarding, and Decaux, who own the land, have painted the hoarding. Susanne’s husband has mowed the grass, but ideally Decaux will do so. Since the meeting they have said how pleased they are with the planting and agreed to mow every 4-6 weeks. We have identified various places which would benefit from tubs, and wonder if Arkells would provide or sponsor a tub opposite the newly renovated Plough pub.

Chris Hitchings of Forward Swindon has donated £50. Streetworks are the people to contact re fly posting on the car wash site.

When looking at how to improve particular buildings, it would be useful to know who the owners were.

**Action**: Cllr Bluh will find out how we find out who owns a particular building.

**Signage for Marlborough Lane**

Carole showed us the sign she had been working on; she had invited Nick Newland, who produced 2 other designs presented at the last meeting, to work with her, but he did not respond to her requests.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock will ask Nick Newland to ring Carole about lack of consultation on the sign.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock will find out about the sign on the school introducing people to Hesketh Crescent and mentioning ‘Campus’. He will also speak to the Headteacher and report back to Carole and Kareen about the wording of the sign.

During the consultation, residents said they did not want the Croft site to be called a campus.

**The Bell Development**

Chris and John outlined their plans for the Bell Hotel. They intend to change the hotel into managed service accommodation, adding more rooms so there are 38 units instead of the present 25. The accommodation would be for the staff at the performing arts academy in the old Renault building. Car parking places were discussed, and building retail units on part of the open space on the right hand side of the present building.

Before the meeting the two developers had heard via email that the council would probably reject the application because a pre application bid had not been made.

Questions were asked about the specifications such as materials used etc to provide a quality building to enhance Old Town.

The Bell sits in Eastcott Ward, but it was felt our Ward Councillors could give their feedback on the plans because it will serve our area.

**Graffiti at the Rear of Goddard Avenue**

The procedure for graffiti removal is that the owner of the premises approaches the council and requests it be removed and signs a disclaimer, and then it will go ahead.

**Action:** Linda will take photos of the graffiti and circulate them.

**AOB**

Croft Saturday school is happening each week, there is no planning permission for it, residents were reassured it would not happen. It is really noisy and difficult with the additional traffic it generates.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh will look at the planning application to ascertain whether there is planning permission for a Saturday school.

When there was a football tournament with 150 children involved, Marlborough Lane was shut at the top of the lane, how will it cope when 420 children use the lane each morning?

Who owns Marlborough lane?

We want to form cross links with Savernake Big Lunch.

What is happening at the Children’s Centre?

**Action:** Put the Children’s Centre and Leisure on the agenda for the next meeting.

OTBPA are hosting a music event in the street on the 7th of July, Wood Street will be closed from 12noon-4pm. Information to go on the website.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.

**Date of next meeting: 8th of July**