**Minutes of the Pipers Area Resident’s Association Committee Meeting 14.1.13**

**At Susanne Webb’s house- 49, Sandown Avenue, Lakeside**

1. **Apologies:** Daphne Hardwick, Bea Menier, PC Tim North, Cllr Watts, Duncan Cunningham.

**Present:** Susanne Webb, Carole Bent, Kareen Boyd, Colin Doubleday, Claire Bouverie-Brine, Cllr Bluh, Cllr Mattock, Martha Parry (Civic Voice), Linda Kasmaty

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting** were approved by Kareen Boyd and seconded by Susanne Webb.
2. **Matters Arising:**

Committee Changes

Pete Cousins has informed us that he wishes to step down from the committee due to pressure of work. The committee extended thanks to Pete for his input over several years.

Road Planning in Marlborough Lane

Matt Penman of SBC Highways department had pre-circulated plans for parking restrictions in about 2/3rds of Marlborough Lane. It was proposed to complete the resurfacing of some of Marlborough Lane over half term, the 11th-15th of February. After that, SBC were keen for comment on the white and yellow lines to be added to the roads.

The meeting expressed concern about the junction of Evelyn Street and Marlborough Lane, Cllr Mattock suggested that double yellow lines should be extended round the bend to make the turning into and out of Marlborough Lane less dangerous. The wider conversation hence noted that traffic in the whole area was connected and so it was not suitable to address each section in isolation.

It was suggested that a holistic look at the road systems and parking should be conducted; Cllr Mattock agreed to take this back to SBC Traffic Dept. Therefore no response will be made to Matt Penman on the Road Planning Proposal.

It was proposed to include the 5 Croft Area streets be included in the area of traffic review, but also the meeting noted that parking in St. Margaret’s Road, Winifred Street and Evelyn Street is very difficult, because there are insufficient parking spaces; therefore it was suggested parking on the wide area of Lakeside adjacent to Marlborough Road should be included in the discussion as potential to alleviate parking congestion. It was understood that any solution may be interim as the amount of traffic will increase each year as the number of students increase, however this initial plan should hopefully be completed by the end of the summer school holiday.

The breakdown truck which had parked on Marlborough Lane opposite the unadopted section, for 6 weeks has now moved. Concern was expressed about vehicles of that size parking in that position.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh to find out size/weight restriction on vehicles parking in residential areas.

The sport’s centre signs at the entrance to the unadopted section of Marlborough Lane have now been removed, but the lump of concrete as not been taken. New signs for the school and sport’s centre will be erected soon.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock will discuss the appearance and siting of the signs before they are put in place.

Hesketh Crescent – the detailed road plan dated October 2011 shows a substation and what appears to be a road from Hesketh Crescent beside the Children’s Centre to the Sport’s Centre, the only access to the school is intended to be from the teacher’s car park.

Cllr Bluh suggested that the date should read October 2012 – he will check and confirm.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh to find out if there is an intention to open the path to traffic and to confirm the exact nature of the intended use of this improved roadway.

1. **Police Update.**

PC North was unable to attend but sent this report:

“The Current Crime concerns from reports since 1st December 2012, I’ve included the Wood Street area figures as I know that you also cover that area, although I don’t anymore;

Burglaries have been concentrated more in the Okus area with 2 in Roman Crescent (linked to the jewellery series) and 4 in the Angel Ridge development targeting mountain bikes.

There have been 13 arrests/detentions for possession of drugs, 1 on Pipers Way, 1 at Coate Water and 11 in the Night Time Economy area. All offenders were cautioned or are charged to appear in Court.

Violent Crime 19 reports for the Bath Road, Devizes Rd, Newport St, High St, Wood St and Victoria Rd. None were serious injury, 3 were domestic related, 7 were in the street and 9 were in bars. Arrests/detentions have been made for all but 3 of these offences.

7 reports of Criminal Damage were made, 3 on Christmas morning around Wood Street/Victoria Rd when a male was arrested in connection with all 3.

There have also been 8 reports of thefts from those using the Night Time Economy venues. Mobile phones, Purses and handbags being taken when left unattended.

Colin SMITH’s ASBO continues as before”

PC North will be at the Locality Meeting on 31st January at the Art Centre.

1. **Martha Parry talking about Civic Voice**

Martha Parry has been a member of Civic Voice, formerly the Civic Trust for 10 years, its function is to involve people in the shaping of where they live and exists in towns and cities across the country. Martha is acting Chair of Civic Voice, they would like someone representing each area of the town on their committee at their monthly meetings to help develop their strategy and ensure they represent views of the different areas of Swindon.

Civic Voice will be or has been involved in the following:

* Commenting on the Local Plan
* Commenting on Key Planning applications- Coate Water, Mechanic’s Institute and the Corn Exchange.
* Blue plaques, protecting heritage, parks etc- making Swindon a better place in which to live.
* Circulation of traffic in the town centre, they have positive suggestions.
* Wet ground all recent new development has been on wet ground.
* Building an interactive website to share information and views.

There is an opportunity for links across different organisations through Swindon Heritage Forum, members from English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, National Trust, Arts Centre, Civic Voice and Mechanics Institute attend. It is chaired by Cllr Bluh and has been praised by Richard Bellamy (HLF).

**Action:**  The Committee agreed to put forward a representative from PARA who would attend a monthly Civic Voice meeting. This is likely to be a rolling brief as no volunteer stood forward at the meeting.

**9. Grants for Community Groups**

This item will be on the agenda for the Locality meeting on the 31st of January at the Arts Centre.

A grant request had been submitted for £500 to support the newsletter as regular communication to residents on a range of issues and activities. Cllr Watts had supported this application.

Note - Cllr Bluh was apologetic to inform that whatever grants are allocated, they may not be automatically paid due to the need for significant cuts at council level. Payment of any funds if awarded would not be possible until after the SBC budget is finalised – March 2013.

**Action:** Linda Kasmaty will put the agenda for the Locality meeting onto the PARA website.

[www.pipersarea.co.uk](http://www.pipersarea.co.uk)

**AOB**

**Open Spaces**

Cllr Heenan suggested in a recent article in the Evening Advertiser, that if residents were concerned about the Open Spaces in their area, they should register them.

The question was asked, how do we know what needs protecting? Until a planning application is submitted, we do not know an area is under threat of planning, and how do we go about registering a concern?

We need to check the Local Plan to see which open spaces are earmarked for future development, it is difficult to protect green spaces when economic growth is being attempted via construction.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh to find out what Cllr Heenan intended residents to do to register the green spaces.

**Completion of School**

The high white fences have been taken down and the building has been finished, but the landscaping has not been done. A noise attenuating fence and shrubbery is needed around the substation.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh to find out when fencing and shrubbery will be completed and whose responsibility it is.

**Spring Clean**

Jackie Moyles, Cllr Watts, Kareen Boyd and Carole Bent met with the Old Town Business group to discuss this. The clean up may happen on the 19th/20th of April, later we will move on to signage and identifying street clutter to be reduced. Plants would form an important part of enhancing the appearance of Old Town with planters, relieving the monotony of pavements and roads.

**Action:** Linda Kasmaty to ask Martin Hambidge of Streetsmart about potential availability of used planters held in stock in council yards which could be used.

Additional Note Post Meeting

Residents have highlighted continued irregular or missed collections for recycling in the Croft Area streets. Cllrs have been chasing a response and Cllr Watts passed this message from the Recycling Manager:

"I apologise for the delay in collections in the Croft area.

I have spoken to the crews and have been altering the way routes are collected so the same areas won’t get left which happens when we have issues.

I hope in the future this will be helpful to all residents."

The meeting ended at 9pm

**Date of next meeting**: 11th February 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

**Venue:** 52, St. Margaret’s Road