**Minutes of the Pipers Area Residents Association Meeting held 14.10.13**

**Venue:** Croft Sports Centre

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Bluh, Daphne Hardwick, Bea Menier, Colin Doubleday, Kareen Boyd

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

1. **Minutes of the last meeting** Carole proposed and Nadine seconded that we accept the minutes of the last meeting.
2. **Matters arising/actions** from the last meeting:
3. Cllr Mattock had agreed to look into signage to stop long term parking of commercial vehicles in the parking bays on Marlborough Lane.

Meanwhile, Cllr Watts had emailed a photograph of signage of another area in Swindon, which demonstrated that parking restrictions can be dependent on weight of the vehicle, and or a time restriction on the length of time the vehicle may be parked. This seems like a possible solution, but since Carole and Kareen are meeting Clare Cornelius on the 8th of November, it was agreed the details of the required signage should be left until the traffic consultation which will be after the 8th of November. Information about the proposals will appear on the council website.

1. The budget remaining for traffic mitigation in the Croft School area will be made clear during the consultation.
2. Council officers have been to inspect the flatbed truck in the Marlborough Lane layby and have decided that it has not been abandoned because there are tools in the vehicle and it is taxed.

**Action:** PC North to find out if the vehicle is insured.

1. Concerning leases for Croft Sports Centre and the Children’s Centre, Cllr Mattock suggested we decide what we want to secure. The main concern seemed to be to ensure the playing fields remain as such and available to the general public. Keith Williams has a cross party group looking at conditions to be applied to those who express interest in taking on the running of these places, from November 2013.

**Action:** PaRa committee members compile a list of suggestions of what should be in the lease at a separate meeting to be held before the next PaRa meeting.

1. In answer to the question, where will the children attending the present Children’s Centre go, Cllr Mattock said many of them would be seen at home, and other uses for the Children’s Centre will be found; it was not anticipated that these would lead to a need for more parking spaces.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock will invite Sue Wald to the next PaRa meeting to explain this in more detail.

1. The Marlborough Park traffic lights are operating properly now.

There was a question about which population figures Gwillam Lloyd had used when deciding the route the relief road through Wichelstowe should take. It has been calculated that there is only a minute difference, even in rush hour, in the journey using the present longer route.

1. **Police Update**

There have been 2 cycle thefts from a cycle store in Marlborough Park to which everyone has a key. On the 27.9.13, tyres were damaged on a vehicle. There was a case of ASB on Croft Road. On the Okus estate possessions were taken out of a car. On 10.10.13, a window was broken at Commonweal School. There was a case of cannabis possession in Field Rise. Shoplifting- 6 cases in the Co-op, 5 caught. Boots had one case, when they shouted at the thief, he returned the item and waited while the police were called.

There have been 3 thefts from night time premises- a mobile phone and 2 leather jackets, and a violent offense in Baker Street on the 28.9.13.

A Thai national was arrested for perverting the course of justice from a residence in Dewell Mews operating as a brothel which had been under police surveillance for some time, and associated with other operations in North Yorks, Glasgow, Richmond and Knightsbridge. This is linked to trafficking of people and is big business.

A question was asked about the people living in the pink tent in the field behind Fitzroy Road; they deny they are living there, and have not been caught there.

The PCC Initiative fund may be a source of income.

**Action:** PC North will send Susanne information about the PCCs Initiative fund and the 6 criteria to be fulfilled.

1. **Councillor’s Update**

**Cllr Watts** said there was a 140 place shortfall in secondary school places revealed by a consultation; it is possible to go onto the council website and take part in a survey/consultation.

**Action:** Cllr Watts will send us a link.

Helen Miah and Ian Bickerton have addressed issues around museum storage and made a lot of progress. There are currently 4 sites being considered under an options appraisal for the new museum and art gallery, those owned by the borough are Aspen House and the Wyvern Theatre car park. A decision is to be made about the best site by the end of the year.

It was pointed out that it is very important that options for the current home of the collections, Apsley House, are carefully considered when the new museum and art gallery is operational.

Plans for a sixth form at Commonweal School have already been submitted. Following a consultation, some highways matters were raised. Once the Council have received the amended drawings/documents, there will be a revised 14 day neighbour consultation.

The Old Town Festival dates are: 27th & 28th June is on the Lawn and 5th July the venue is The Bowl, Town Gardens.

The shrubbery leading from the Town Gardens to the back of Goddard Avenue has been cut back.

There is to be improved signage for parking, and late night parking leading up to Christmas.

The town centre market vendors might be able to be encouraged to join the Old Town market which needs more stalls.

The Locality meeting at Croft was held on the 16.10.13.

**Cllr Mattock** said that the Corn Exchange planning design brief approval will go before the November meeting, and that all feedback had been positive apart from some highway issues relating to the High Street, it was also pointed out by a member of the committee that Old Mill Lane could not be the only access to the complex because it is not wide enough for 2 cars to pass.

At the Tismead Crescent junction with Croft Road, the mini roundabout will be flattened to allow for easier turning.

The Mela did not raise parking issues this year and went off smoothly. Cllr Mattock is in charge of the parking next year.

The Bell will apparently go with existing planning permission.

The former Mission is not opening as a night club.

The Chinese takeaway will retain the lovely stone wall exposed during their ‘clean up’.

Connie is rebranding her Chinese restaurant and has increased her hygiene rating to 4.

1. **The autumn planting event and the way forward**

This event was well attended and successful , the plant sale will be continued at these events; Tracy Scott was very helpful.

Watering the newly planted beds has been a chore in this dry year.

We will set a date for the 2014 spring planting when we have thought about how Easter impacts on the event.

1. **Quiz and Sale of Tickets**

It was suggested we email friends inviting them to take part in the quiz, Susanne achieved a sale of 24 tickets this way.

Kareen will invite members of a sub- committee to organise the quiz admin. And meet with them in the week beginning 21.10.13.

Whether a poster is needed to encourage more entrants to the quiz will be decided on the 30.10.13.

**Action:** All to email friends inviting them to take part in the quiz.

1. **Signal Way Pavement Update**

It has not been improved.

Action: Cllr Mattock with ask Cllr Bluh to look into this.

1. **Children’s Centres Update**

Done

1. **Croft /Lease Update**

Kareen is meeting Bernie Brannon on the 16.10.13 to discuss this.

It was noted that the Croft School Travel plan states that 58.6% of children come to school by car, whereas the council’s anticipated figure was 33%.

1. **The Rose Garden’s working party.**

Several committee members said they would like to have joined in with this work, but the notice was insufficient, so no one was able to go and help on Wednesday.

**AOB**

PaRa will be meeting in the back bar of the Wheatsheaf pub in Newport Street after January 2014.

The subject of a large planter in St. Margaret’s Road, and other key positions was mentioned.

The flower bed opposite Long’s Bar needs a total make over, we could discuss this with The Back Garden Group who are the Resident’s Association for the Eastcott Ward.

Date of the next meeting: Monday 11th November at 7.30pm, Croft Sports Centre