**Minutes of the Pipers Area Residents Association Committee Meeting held 11.3.13 7.30pm**

**Venue: Croft Sports Centre**

1. **Apologies:** Bea Menier, Daphne Hardwick, Carole Bent, Cllr Mattock, Susanne Webb

**Present:** Cllr Bluh, Cllr Watts, Kareen Boyd, PC Tim North, Claire Bouverie-Brine, Colin Doubleday, Duncan Cunningham, Linda Kasmaty

1. **Minutes of the Last meeting**: were approved by Linda Kasmaty and seconded by Kareen Boyd
2. **Matters arising and questions from the February 2013  meeting.** 
   1. When will the noise attenuation fencing around the playground, which was shown on the planning application S/SP/11/0884 and is  a condition of the grant of approval  for the amenity of local residents, be installed?  Ward Councillors are asked to ensure that this planning condition is fulfilled.
   2. Please confirm the general plan for the completion of shrubbery to disguise the Electricity Substation and the backside of the school for the amenity of local residents.
   3. When will the fencing gap on Hesketh Crescent into the Croft ( near the bike shed) be completed?
   4. Confirmed to Cllr Mattock that we wish the 2 way traffic in Marlborough Lane to be properly delineated with white lines (already forwarded to Cllrs Bluh and Watts)
   5. Confirmation of dates for repainting of white lines under Evelyn street bridge
   6. Date for consultation for remaining road markings, parking and the remainder of Marlborough Lane to Evelyn St.
   7. The Croft School travel plan, a condition of the grant of approval for S/SP/11/0884, has still not been published. It was due in November 2012. Ward Councillors are asked to ensure that this planning condition is fulfilled.

**Parking Consultation**

We were informed by Cllr Bluh that a date will be set soon for this.

**Weight Restrictions**

Cllr Bluh has investigated this and gave PARA committee a document outlining the situation; basically there is no vehicle weight restriction for parking in residential areas, although there is a restriction of 2.5tons above which Parking Permits are not issued. There are weight restrictions in certain areas, but there are no restrictions unless requested as in for example Paddington Drive.

**Seating at Planning Meetings**

The Chair of planning has rejected the idea that members of the Planning Committee could face the public in the council chamber.

Committee Room 6 may be used for smaller meetings and the seating may be considered then.

1. **Police Update**

The main issue of the last month has been the criminal damage to a reported 99 vehicles. The tyre slashing started in Dixon St, and went onto Stafford St., Union St., Prospect place, Godwin Court, Berenger Close, Queintin Road and finally to the Marriott Hotel car park. Following a CCTV image in the Swindon Advertiser, someone has been questioned, and released on bail. Police are appealing for further information; the offences took place between 3-4am when there were few, or no people about to witness the offences so police are relying on CCTV images to try and identify the perpetrator..

A car was vandalised in Marlborough Lane, there are dents in the tailgate above the number plate.

There have been fewer burglaries, although a house in Sandringham Road was burgled over the weekend.

Good progress has been made finding the gold thieves.

A man recently exposed himself to a woman in the Croft play area and unusually left his DNA which did not match any on the police data base.

1. **Steve Rosier’s Update on the Corn Exchange**

Good progress has been made on the plans for redeveloping the Corn Exchange, The South West design team have been generally supportive. At the moment he is testing viability of the scheme, and should know by the 22nd of March if the scheme can go to Planning on the 9th of April or the 9th of May.

What is being considered at the moment is the core site which is the Locarno ballroom, town hall and butter market. Oxford Heritage team have assessed the whole commercial area and identified unsuitable buildings, one of the main ones being the Co-op, public realm improvements will need to be made in the wider area to make the whole area ‘flow’ together. It will be used as restaurants, a hotel, spa and gym Uses of the central podium which may have a glass roof and be 7/8 degrees warmer than outside, could include markets and a music venue. Top operators have expressed an interest in running restaurants there.

The height will be no higher than the current HSBC building, although there will be a new tower the same height as the present clock tower.

There will be trees along the frontage with a wider pavement than at present.

It was mentioned that a building at the end of the present car park could house the Art Gallery collection.

It is difficult to give a time scale, but if outline planning permission is granted, then a detailed planning application would be submitted. This would take until September 2014 before building work could begin.

1. **White Lines**

Already mentioned in matters arising

1. **Shadowing**

This was deferred until next meeting.

1. **Old Town Spring Clean**

This will take place on the 28th of April between 2-4pm, meeting outside Tony Knowle’s interior design shop. Implements for litter clearing and green bags etc will be issued to Linda on the 22nd of April and stored in her garage.

Cllr Watts and Carole Bent have been to the Old Town Business Group meeting, and reported they are supportive of the idea. The next meeting is on the 25th of March; Rose Earle has agreed to contribute towards the planting of the bed near her shop.

Kareen reported that she and Linda have approached the Co-op and the Steam Railway pub about the clean-up, they were interested and having been given a hand out, agreed to contact Kareen with how they could help. Kareen will produce a week by week schedule leading up to the clean-up, we will include an article in the newsletter on the clean-up.

Kareen reported that Suzanne Cole, the Highways worker has been very supportive and helpful in identifying signs which need tidying. The Arts Centre has been repainted after it was mentioned that it looked in need of some attention to the outside, and now looks much better.

1. **Gate from Croft onto Hesketh Crescent**

Already dealt with.

1. **Responses to the Local Plan**

There were 700 responses to the Local Plan from the public, we will receive answers to points raised by 28.3.13.

**AOB**

Is there work scheduled in April for the Evelyn St bridge? Can this be confirmed by Ward Councillors?

* White Horse Federation and Mr Capstick's comments to the Adver re resident’s fears over access to the Croft School have not arisen. To my knowledge he has not spoken to residents about this.  In fact:
  + Deliveries are using Hesketh Crescent as the school shows this as the address and vehicles have to turn in this narrow street
  + Residents drives are being blocked and residents are being insulted when they challenge drivers
  + A single decker bus has already come to Hesketh ( raised to Cllrs at February meeting )
  + The staff car park entrance is being used as a turning point. As this is close to the bend of Hesketh it is quite blind .
  + Mr Capstick may wish to re-iterate the address of the School and the appropriate public and commercial access to all who use them.
  + Mr Capstick is talking about less than 10% of the pupils which SBC have predicted will come to the area. WHF/Croft has yet to provide a travel plan ( see outstanding items from February 2013.
* School lighting towards Hesketh Crescent.
  + Residents are distressed by lighting along the building at night. This was not mentioned in either the design or the planning application.  As concerns were raised when the Muga Pitches were built about floodlights on Hesketh, it is inconsistent to now have lighting. We request that these lights are operated on a time switch and are not operational out of school hours.

Cllr Watts has given apologies in advance for not being able to attend the PARA AGM on the 11th of May.

The meeting ended at 9pm

Date of next meeting: April 8th at 7.30pm at Croft Sports Centre