

Emsworth Community Board

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 10 January 2008
at 7.30pm at Emsworth Community Association Centre

Present:

Community Board Members

Rosemary Osborne	Vice Chairman/Neighbourhood Watch
Cllr Virginia Wilson-Smith	Nominated Councillor
Tim Brooks	Emsworth Business Association
Donald Wells	Resident
Ken Gilchrist	ERA
Frances Jannaway	Brook Meadow Conservation Grp/EDS Tree Warden
Helen Barnard	Emsworth Community Association
Martin Bonner	Resident
Maurice Clarke	Neighbourhood Watch
Richard Galloway	Resident
Mike Iddon	Creek End Residents Association

Others:

Helen Wood	Community Boards' Support Officer
PS Ian Grey	Police
PCSO Sean Lehan	PCSO
Tony Lee	HBC

27 members of the public

Action

1. Welcome and Apologies

Rosemary Osborne (Acting Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a brief update on Steve Pearce who hoped to attend the February meeting of the Community Board.

Apologies had been received from: Steve Pearce, Brian Edwards-Picknett, Jayne Emery and Malcolm Emery

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting/Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

There were no matters arising.

3. Police Report/Environmental Ranger

Police Sgt Ian Grey and PCSO Sean Lehan provided an update on community safety matters.

Sgt Grey informed those present that he would be moving to Bedhampton and would be replaced by Sgt Amanda Crouch.

Criminal data for December had been considered. There had been 8 assaults (including 3 in one incident, and some domestic assaults). There had also been 10 cases of criminal damage and one case of vehicle damage. The number of burglaries was down compared to last year. There

were issues with drug abuse (cocaine abuse was a national issue). Efforts were being made to minimise abuse especially within pubs. Licensees were being more vigilant but the problem was moving to the public toilets. Earlier closing of toilets was being considered.

There was a short discussion regarding public order incidents, the use of CCTV and issues surrounding the manning of CCTV cameras. Members of the community were encouraged to report incidents as more specific action could be taken if a pattern of incidents could be seen.

It was confirmed that additional officers were on duty on Friday and Saturday evenings and more officers would be on foot in future.

Thanks were passed to Ian Grey and Sean Lehan for attending the meeting.

Environmental Ranger Nick Horten had forwarded his apologies. An update would be forwarded to Community Board members with the minutes.

HW

Post Meeting Note: Nick Horten reported that there were a small number of abandoned vehicles and reported fly tips during December.

Removal of graffiti in the Washington Road underpass would be completed as soon as the relevant chemicals became available.

4. South Street Opportunity

Tony Lee, Business Development Manager, provided information on an outline proposal to show the feasibility of a potential project for South Street. He also hoped to ascertain whether there was support in principle for the project, prior to progressing to the design consultation process and normal planning development stages. A plan of the area was on view.

The current situation of the Emsworth Centre was explained. This was owned by Havant Borough Council but under lease to HCCS which was due for renewal. The Centre was not used to full capacity, was not 'fit for purpose' for current needs and did not have good access for the disabled.

It was felt there was significant potential to redevelop/refurbish/improve the Centre which could accommodate:

- ❖ Activities currently undertaken with groups currently serviced and
- ❖ Interpretation materials – visitors information point
- ❖ Extension of Emsworth museum
- ❖ Interpretation Centre for Emsworth Heritage and Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- ❖ Increased availability to local people for local activities.

Emsworth Town Partnership could act as the management body with volunteer staffing 7 days per week thus extending the opening hours to seven days with additional potential for utilisation in the evenings. It was the clear expectation of the Emsworth Town Partnership that the Emsworth Centre could provide a vibrant community interpretation, meeting and activity space for the future for south Emsworth.

Good parking facilities were required and rationalising the design of the car

park was a possibility, as was the re-positioning of the public toilets which could provide additional retail potential.

Havant Borough Council could offer land in the South Street environs as a more comprehensive re-development of South Street and Nile Street which could re-establish the former more dense streetscape. This could be a mix of Retail and Residential which would thus provide the capital required to enable the Community facility redevelopment. Other match funding could also be levered-in.

The presentation had previously been made to Emsworth Town Partnership which was enthusiastic about the proposals. The Management Team at Havant Borough Council was also enthusiastic but an indication of support in principle to the proposals was required from the local community prior to going to the Executive.

There was a short discussion regarding the redesign of South Street Car Park to minimise possible loss of car parking spaces, the need for serious consideration to be given to noise levels from increased use of the Centre and the need to consider the fact that this was a conservation area.

There was unanimous indication of support by those present in favour of the proposals made, with no clear or formal indication of objections.

Thanks were passed to Tony Lee for attending the meeting.

5. Updates from Sub-Group

Environmental Group

Maurice Clarke provided an update.

Hollybank Park

- ❖ The barrier at the car park had been upgraded and a new bottle bank would be installed.
- ❖ The amount of glass on the ground would be monitored following the installation of the new bottle bank
- ❖ Work on damaged benches had been completed satisfactorily
- ❖ A new litter bin had been provided and all bins (except the new one) had posters confirming that they could also be used for dog waste

Washington Road Underpass

- ❖ There was new graffiti on the walls of the underpass and extensive damage to tiles
- ❖ The sweeping of the path was satisfactory
- ❖ There was still damage to the fences, allowing access to the A27 and the danger caused by access to a fast flowing stream caused concern
- ❖ Litter remained on the private land

Skateboard Park This had been visited and was clean and clear of litter. Graffiti was not obscene.

Brook Meadow Underpass – there was no additional graffiti

Mill Pond Promenade

- ❖ Several amounts of dog mess were found when the site was visited
- ❖ Litter bins were in good order
- ❖ Walkways were swept regularly

North Street Railway Bridge This area was satisfactory and would continue to be monitored.

Planning

Interbridges East and West had not been resolved. Objections had been made. Resolution was pending

A27 Service Station - Objections had been made. Resolution was pending

Oak Tree Drive – Plans had been revised with fewer apartments and were closer to Havant Borough Council guidelines than previously. This was being considered by the Planning Group. Density was seen as remaining an issue as was sustainability and the style of buildings fitting in with the existing street scene.

Frances Jannaway confirmed that she had attended a meeting at Chichester regarding the Heritage site where it had been confirmed that two oak trees would be felled.

Communication with HCC re Street Trees To be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

**SP/
RO**

6. Victoria Cottage Hospital Update

Richard Galloway reported on a meeting he had attended regarding the future of the hospital and the building of the hospital at Oak Park (ultimate approval still to be given by Department of Health, probably by March 2009. There would be 21 months construction and the earliest the hospital could be opened would be December 2010). The meeting had also been attended by John Gummerson, Director of LIFT who confirmed that the PCT had to adhere to a policy statement called the Estate Code when considering the disposal of redundant premises.

The future use of the hospital site would be agreed within the next 12 months. Part of the hospital site (approx. one third) belonged to the Friends of Emsworth Hospital (Peter Tier, representing the Friends was present at the meeting). The remaining two thirds were owned by the PCT.

It was confirmed that property such as the Hospital could be disposed of without testing the market if there were good grounds for doing so e.g. a good business case from Emsworth Surgery justifying use of the premises.

Dr Woodruff had also attended the meeting and had confirmed that the surgery was interested in the hospital premises and were working on a business plan. It was important that support was forthcoming from the local community but there needed to be a focal point at which that support could be indicated. It was suggested that a list could be compiled providing the 'pros and cons' of the Doctors moving to the site.

It was believed that the two most important outcomes were:

- ❖ The production of a Business Plan by the Doctors as soon as possible
- ❖ Support from the local community and organisations.

Concern was expressed over the loss of hospital beds which would affect local people struggling with respite care.

7. Memorial Garden Update

It was reported that work would commence on 21 January 2008 to provide new paths, prepare the ground etc. Gardening would then commence. Very generous donations had been received and money was being raised for the name plaques. Harold Groom handed over a cheque for an additional £85 from the sale of his autobiography.

Post Meeting Note : David Gillett had organised a grant of £1,990 to the Friends, from HCC, which would pay for explanatory strips to be put on the four Waymarkers and a bronze 'desk top' commemoration plaque regarding the unveiling and dedication of the sculpture.

8. Public Forum

A resident raised an issue with flooding in the subway under the A259. Brian Edwards-Picknett had been monitoring flooding at this location and it was confirmed that the flooding had been caused by a mechanical failure to the pump and the receipt of a part was pending.

Concern was raised over the amount of litter behind the bus stop on the A259. It was confirmed that this would be added to the list of problem areas to be pursued.

9. Any Other Business (for Community Board Members)

Donald Wells raised concern over the lack of footpath markers showing destination and distances. He also confirmed that he had met the owner of land on the Hampshire Border Path who had agreed to replace the stile and kissing gate with two, five feet wide, self closing gates which would improve the area dramatically.

The footpath at Fishermans Walk was neglected. Chichester Conservancy did not wish to reinstate the path across the mud flats. This was a major footpath which could be lost.

Beacon Close, used by the Walking to Health Group, needed to be claimed.

It was agreed that this matter would be raised at a future meeting.

The AGM would be held in April at which point a percentage of members would have to stand down. Anyone interested in joining the Community Board should contact Rosemary Osborne or Steve Pearce.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14 February 2008 at 7.30 p.m. at Emsworth Community Association Centre.

NB – the incorrect date was provided at the meeting.