

Emsworth Community Board

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 8 May 2008
at 7.30pm at Emsworth Community Association Centre

Present:

Community Board Members

Steve Pearce	Chairman/Resident
Cllr Virginia Wilson-Smith	Nominated Councillor
Tim Brooks	Emsworth Business Association
Donald Wells	Resident
Rosemary Osborne	Resident
Brian Edwards-Picknett	Resident
Richard Galloway	Resident
Jackie Muller	Resident
Hilary Millen	Resident
Richard Taylor	Resident
Peter Tier	Friends of Emsworth Hospital
Jean Tier	Emsworth Community Association

Others:

Helen Wood	Community Boards' Support Officer
Jackie Batchelor	Head of Development and Technical Services
Cllr Brendan Gibb-Gray	
PCSO Diane Robbins	
PCSO Steve Ward	
Nick Horten (HBC)	
7 members of the public	

Action

1. Welcome and Apologies

Steve Pearce welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Lisa Jones.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting/Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed subject to the following amendment:

Item 4 Prior to sixth paragraph the following should be inserted:

'Comments and questions were then invited from Board members and members of the public for a period of about 20 minutes. The majority of comments from the public expressed objection to the proposal for housing development on the Hampshire Farm site.'

All agreed to the amendment.

3. Police Report/Environmental Ranger

Police PCSO Steve Ward provided information on crime figures, comparing April 2007 to April 2008. The number of assaults was down by 15%, burglary by 66% and theft by 56% but figures for criminal damage and vehicle theft had increased.

During the summer months garden thefts and distraction burglaries were a national problem.

It was confirmed that police and PCSOs were more 'visible' using bicycles or patrolling on foot. The team in Emsworth consisted of Sgt Grey, PC Lisa Jones and PCSO Diane Robbins.

It was reported that trees had been cut down in Hollybank Recreation Ground. No further information was known.

Thanks were passed to Steve Ward and Diane Robbins for attending the meeting.

Environmental Ranger Nick Horten provided an update on environmental matters. He confirmed that the underpass had been cleared.

It was reported that Travellers were likely to be in the area looking for work such as tree felling, tarmacking etc. and requested that anyone observing 'suspicious' vehicles and caravans likely to make unauthorised access should contact the Civic Offices. Advice would be provided in 'Serving You' and PCSOs had run a campaign providing advice to members of the public.

Thanks were passed to Nick Horten for attending the meeting.

4. Election of Chairman

Proposed: Brian Edwards-Picknett Seconded: Donald Wells
Agreed unanimously.

5. Election of Vice Chairman and Marketing Officer

Vice Chairman – Rosemary Osborne

Proposed: Peter Tier Seconded: Hilary Millen
Agreed unanimously

Marketing Officer - Brian Edwards-Picknett

Proposed: Steve Pearce Seconded: Virginia Wilson-Smith
Agreed unanimously

It was confirmed that two vacancies remained on the Community Board and that attempts should be made to find a youth representative. Helen Wood to check with Youth Council.

HW

6. Development Consultation Forums

Jackie Batchelor, Head of Development and Technical Services at Havant Borough Council was welcomed to the meeting and provided a presentation on Development Consultation Forums (DCF).

It was confirmed that there were currently no developments in Emsworth which would be subject to a Forum but that some developments pre-dated the Forums.

Jackie Batchelor confirmed that since the pilot developers had been persuaded to provide more information up front with information (which included a brief summary of the proposals) being circulated (including to the appropriate Community Board) at least 3 weeks prior to the Forum. It was confirmed that although sites such as the Interbridges site would be identified as needing a DCF these could not be enforced.

DCFs were based on that used at Waverley which had been recommended as 'good practice'. This system had been adapted for Havant and was continually improving.

Following the presentation discussion included:

- ❖ Pre application discussions and the need to balance work undertaken by the local authority and the architects
- ❖ Opportunity for Community Boards to express local views at DCFs
- ❖ Councillors could hear proposals and local views at DCFs
- ❖ Invitation of appropriate Stakeholders such as Community Boards, Residents Associations, Bosmere 100, Friends of the Earth, Portsmouth Water Company, Environmental Agency, Highway Authority, Housing Team etc
- ❖ Comments made at previous public presentations not being considered therefore the effectiveness was questioned
- ❖ Comments being taken into account by Appeals Inspector
- ❖ The recording of views at public meetings

With reference to the Local Development Framework Jackie Batchelor confirmed that the Team had been overwhelmed with submissions. There had been 1100 representations regarding the Core Strategy and Allocation but it was recognised that some of these could be duplicated. It would take approximately a further three weeks to log all submissions on to the system. These would then be acknowledged and sorted in relation to Core Strategy and Allocation (the majority were related to Allocations). It was anticipated that the report regarding the Core Strategy would go to the Executive in the Autumn.

It was confirmed that there would be a DCF regarding Havant College on 14 May at 6 pm in the Council Chamber. The following DCF would relate to the Oak Park Community Hospital.

Thanks were passed to Jackie Batchelor.

7. Updates from ECB Sub-Groups

Environmental

Rosemary Osborne provided an update on environmental issues:

- ❖ The Mill Pond had improved with litter and dog mess being cleaned on a regular basis

- ❖ Mesh had been fitted to North Street Road Bridge to prevent pigeons using ledge and creating mess
- ❖ The area behind the bus stop, opposite the Co-op was being cleaned regularly
- ❖ There was still graffiti at the underpass at the bottom of Seagull Lane but this was not of an obscene nature
- ❖ Hollybank Park remained a 'hot spot'. A meeting had been held with HBC. The small glass bins had been replaced with one large bin. However, glass over the car park remained an issue. HBC was seeking prices to scrape off the car park to resolve the issue.
- ❖ Litter was being cleared from Washington Road underpass on a regular basis. However rubbish on the private areas were of concern. HBC had agreed to contact land owners but no progress appeared to have been made. Graffiti had been cleared on at least two occasions but continued to reappear
- ❖ The broken fence continued to allow access to the A27 and a further part of the fence had been broken above the stream on the opposite side. It was confirmed that the fence had been repaired but had again been broken. Brendan Gibb-Gray confirmed that work was being undertaken with HBC and Lisa Jones to resolve the problems.

Any additional issues should be reported to the Environmental Group.

Planning

Tim Brooks provided the following information:

- ❖ 58 Horndean Road had been granted in April
- ❖ Interbridges East had been granted in April but with a number of conditions
- ❖ 64 Havant Road had been withdrawn

Communication and Publicity

Brian Edwards-Picknett reported the following:

- ❖ the major focus of work would be on the web site
- ❖ three dates had been booked at International House to present the Community Board to the public. This would include the Street Audit at the first meeting. Volunteers were requested to assist with tea/coffee making, talking to the public etc.

8. Memorial Garden Update

Virginia Wilson-Smith reported that the recent event had been very successful despite the weather and had raised over £700 (after expenses). Planting had commenced in the Gardens. There was a major issue with flooding and drainage. HBC was currently considering work on the culvert.

9. Public Forum

Cllr Brendan Gibb-Gray reported that the public toilets had been left open as the locking device had not been working. This had been repaired and the toilets would again be locked at night.

Residents reported that there was difficulty in hearing Community Board members at times and that a hearing loop should be available. Members were asked to ensure that they spoke more clearly and loudly.

Concern over the Interbridges site was raised. It was believed that if circumstances had changed a reassessment could be made. It was suggested that a traffic survey could be of value as additional houses would inevitably mean additional traffic. Richard Galloway confirmed that a great deal of time had been spent considering the Interbridges site and it was felt that there had been no communication with Emsworth residents which had caused frustration. It was suggested that the Community Board should write to Jackie Batchelor requesting that public consultation take place. Tim Brooks confirmed that the Planning Application had been withdrawn. It was agreed that a letter should be written to HBC.

SP

10. Any Other Business (for Community Board Members)

Jean Tier, Secretary of the Community Association confirmed that additional volunteers were required to assist with the running of the Centre which provided 1000 activities weekly. Anyone able to help should contact Jean Tier.

Concern was raised over self adhesive notices being placed on a car windscreen and window which prevented the vehicle being driven. This was particularly sensitive as a female, who could potentially be vulnerable, was involved. The vehicle was advertised as being for sale. It was felt that this was an over reaction by new Community Enforcement Officers. A short discussion followed regarding the fact that it was illegal to sell vehicles on the public highway. Following the incident, policy had been changed and where possible, enquiries regarding the owner would be made, the size of the signs would be reduced and vehicles would not be rendered immobile by sticking notices on the windscreen. A letter of apology had also been sent.

11. Date of Next Meeting (AGM)

Thursday 12 June at 7.30 p.m. (7.00 pm for Community Board members) at Emsworth Community Association Centre.