

BruNK Minutes
November 21st 2005

Present: Roger, Wendy, John, Dundy, Stephen, Julie, Leonie, Sue, Michael, Mary.

Apologies: Charlotte

Minutes from the last meeting approved.

Salmon Lane: The committee warmly welcomed Donald Fung, a resident of Maids Causeway, Denise Brown an ASBO Investigator and Steve Winter a City Centre Police Officer to discuss drug related activity on Salmon Lane.

The main points of information:

Rough sleeping in the Grafton Centre West car park makes Salmon Lane a vulnerable location and apparently CCTV is difficult because of lighting although Jenny Bailey has suggested this.

A Police Officer, Chris Dicks, goes there daily to move the homeless on and this has had an impact on drug use as the number of needles collected for disposal has dropped.

One question asked was whether the council has strategies in place to get people off the streets. Denise and Steve informed us that one such strategy is to target individuals with bad drug habits and encourage these people to get off drugs, offering support and resources to detox. This is reported as having been relatively successful. Drug squads will target the dealers.

There is a byelaw in process, which will prevent rough sleeping in car parks.

In the last two years Steve winter has had only three calls from Salmon Lane residents and these have not been drug related. It was agreed that drug activity needed to be monitored. Communication with Steve Winter on a regular basis would be helpful so that he can accumulate a record of activity. It was stressed that residents needed to be proactive in order to raise the profile on the area.

It was noted that the management of the Willow Walk Hostel has improved.

There was a suggestion that the steps down to the car park on Salmon Lane could be gated.

In conclusion it was agreed that Denise Brown would release PC Dick's mobile number and talk to Jenny Bailey. Donald Fung will circulate a telephone number and email address to report incidents.

The committee thanked Denise, Steve and Donald for giving their time to attend this meeting and agreed that their input had been both clarifying and informative.

Vic Ave Coach Layover:

The decision has been deferred whilst the council look to Parkside as an option. There is another meeting on Monday Jan 16th

Roger, Wendy, Charlotte and Dundy attended the meeting and reported a small victory: there was opposition from residents, National Express, Transport 2000 and Jesus College. National Express will consider going to court if moved from Drummer Street to Victoria Avenue but will consider Parkside. Parkside School are opposing this.

It was generally considered as a result of a conversation Roger had with Brian Stinton and Charlotte's assessment of the situation that they could still push for Vic Ave. Even if Parkside does go ahead the use of the existing bus layover in Victoria Avenue will be doubled.

Wendy will find out whether we need to raise another petition and write a letter on behalf of BruNK to re-assert our objections to Victoria Avenue.

Committee to put Monday 16th Jan in their diaries.

With regards to Core Scheme 5 Wendy and Roger will attend meetings held on Tuesday 22nd November and Thursday 24th to discuss this.

Leonie to ask for statistics on pollution levels.

MCS Updates:

Floodlights: The legal section has been contacted to investigate the issue of the restaurant floodlighting.

Concrete Drive: Legal advice is being sought.

FT ST George parking: again legal advice is being sought.

Trees: The planting of trees at the end of the access road has been approved and will go ahead this month or next.

Fort St George; Dundy is challenging the presence of the umbrellas and has contacted the listed buildings department and the planners.

West Area Central Meetings:

All sorts of issues are raised at these meetings. Roger raised those related to cycling in the city centre and on Midsummer Common.

The next meeting is on Thursday January 13th at 7.30p.m.

Meeting of Residents' Associations:

Roger attended this meeting. There are between 60 and 70 associations in the Cambridge area. The main issue discussed was the overall planning procedures of the City Council about which serious concern was voiced.

Stephen informed us that in cases of dispute a local government ombudsman will mediate and he or she is entirely independent.

It was noted that there is a new head of Planning – Stephen Law.

John emphasised the importance of residents associations getting together.

Jesus Green:

Wendy and Roger attended this meeting. The usual issues were discussed – cycling, lighting, drug use, play areas. The common theme was the lack of consultation.

Zebra Christmas Gathering:

The current landlady Teresa is relinquishing her licence in February. The licence will go to Teresa the younger and Sooty.

There is already great concern amongst local residents about developments at the pub. These include limo parking and "Scooters Couriers" vehicles outside the pub. There have been independent complaints made to the brewery drawing attention to the two businesses operating in addition to pub. There is also concern about the extension of the licensing laws and the 3 nights a week music licence given the current lack of sensitivity to the local community.

Julie expressed her grave concerns about activities connected with the pub and is going to write to the brewery.

Sue suggested that, given these concerns we should consider cancelling our arrangements for our Christmas gathering. John proposed and Sue seconded that we should pull out of the deal. It was unanimously agreed.

Sue to investigate transferring to the Burleigh Arms.

Dundy reminded us that it is traditional at Christmas for us to collect money for Centre 33.

It was agreed we would have two hats and collect money for Centre 33 and for the BruNK.

ECOPS:

This is an email scheme linked to neighbourhood policing and Roger will sign up as chair of the Residents Association.

Website:

It was agreed that it is looking great.

AOB:

Leonie raised a question about parking permits – should they be regulated to one per household?

Roger will write to Graham Lowe about resident's parking issues.

Plans for the AGM will be made at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: January 23rd 2006 @ Dundy's.

Mary Chadwick
3.12.05