



Love's Farm Community Association Meeting

Tesco Extra

Wednesday 13 May 2015

19:15pm

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Present: Marcus Pickering, Emma Lovelock, David Wells, Ian Gardener, Barry Chapman, Simon Barlow, Julie Wisson, Helene Tame, Rosie Ferguson, Ben Pitt

Apologies: Kim Burrows, Daniel Grant, David Lancet, Carlyne Parillon, Priscilla Gompelman, Donna Dickinson, Rebecca Mitton, Caroline Gregson, Lisa Denman, Keela Shackell-Smith, Sally Tilley, Amelia Davies, Phyllis Hooper

2 Matters arising from the last Committee meeting

Website forums are back up, 100 people signed up. All pretty quiet so far, which is good for Marcus's sanity.

3 Street Reps

Good response to the map going out in the Newsletter Street Reps special. We recruited 3 or 4 more. We now have about 2/3rds of streets covered, with an even better percentage for houses as the big streets are generally covered. Still need to work on some streets but thanks to Helene we're making inroads. The target remains 100% coverage, even if we never reach it.

MP commented: as things start to happen, events etc, it might spark a bit more interest.

EL: There are 6 or 7 Facebook pages for specific streets. Clark Drive is the best established and busiest, but not actually a Street Rep there. Lucy is doing the job already. Bargroves Avenue already has a lot going on, as does Field Gate Close.

There was a discussion about how we can recruit people who are already active involved to become Street Reps in order to share ideas and resources.

BP could we do more to promote the social side of street reps?

MP LFCA can help with problems. It helps LFCA to understand what the issues are.

SB would like to know what other Street Reps are doing, but few were present to discuss it.

MP is still committed to setting up a forum for Street Reps. Facebook would be ideal but not everyone on Facebook.

Neighbourhood Watch – **MP** asked Daniel for advice about a coordinated approach but not forthcoming as yet. Rebecca Mitton has offered to get Neighbourhood Watch up and running. Anyone can set up their own scheme and register a street but having a central contact for Love's Farm would help to share information.

EL: Neighbourhood Watch signage is £75 each.

JW supports the plan to tie Street Reps and Neighbourhood Watch together.

BC commented that we've done a fantastic job and it's a fine example of what a community should aim for.

4. Tesco/MUGA

The aim is to deal with anti-social behaviour, litter, vandalism. **MP** has emailed representatives from HDC, Police, BPHA, Tesco, Leonardos Pizzeria, Henlow Fish n Chip, Youth Service Providers and others who support our youth club, Round House School, Love's Farm Community Chaplain and LFCA to try to set up a meeting.

MP: there's a small minority ruining it for others

BC: the community centre will hopefully reduce the vandalism

BP: What's the aim of the meeting?

MP: Looking for a strategy to deal with the issues there. But as much a brainstorm as anything. Some practical things: litter, bins, lighting, restoring some of the equipment. Pastoral things: engaging with young people. Engaging with agencies to draw on their expertise, finding out what they can do to help.

DW: If we can focus it and not let people leave the room until we know who will pick the litter up.

MP: Find out who's there first, then come up with a strategy

MP: Litter mostly coming from Tesco. There is a bin, sometimes full, sometimes not. It's clear that some groups just drop litter where they stand/sit.

BC: McDonalds do litter picks. Could give residents a week off.

EL: revisit the youth committee idea

BP: yes, looking at that through Love's Farm House.

BC: Not much rubbish at the skate park – an example of young people taking care of their environment.

MP: We need engagement with regular groups that go there. With last year's litter picks we tried to give young people a sense that if it's clean, they might have more of an incentive to keep it clean. It didn't really work though.

HT: HDC do a litter pick on Monday and Thursday. You can see when they've been. HT wonders whether when Love's Farm House is in place with a Youth Advisory Group, there'd be a much greater chance of success. It's not a consistent problem. Sometimes fine, sometimes a tsunami.

BP: Let's not obsess over the litter. Create a positive narrative at the meeting, and again when engaging with young people.

MP: litter is a symptom of the problem, not the problem. Vandalism of shelter was the main trigger for wanting to do something.

EL: Another problem is older children intimidating the younger ones.

MP: It'd be lovely if we felt that we could put the shelter back and it'd be cared for.

DW: That could be a specific objective to work towards, to restore the panels.

5 Election results

David Wells is re-elected councillor for Love's Farm East on St Neots Town Council

Ian Gardener is re-elected councillor for Priory Park on Huntingdonshire District Council

IG spoke to the returning officer about the queuing problem at Love's Farm polling station, with some people queuing for 40 minutes. HDC is aware and **IG** has been assured that it won't happen again.

Next election is 2017 for Cambridgeshire County Council

2018 for Priory Park ward on HDC (Barry Chapman's seat)

2019 for St Neots Town Council

Boundary reviews for CCC and SNTC are in progress. Draft proposals were published on 12 May, with a consultation period from until 6 July. On 29 September the final recommendations are made to the Commission.

MP: We expected to become part of St Neots but that's not the result. Love's Farm remains grouped with Gransden and Waresley-cum-Tetworth.

BC: Gransden don't like it, being a rural constituency.

MP: only other alternative is to put Little Paxton with Brampton and Buckden, put LF with Priory Park. But Little Paxton has a river in the way.

BC: Won't be another electoral review for quite some time. Forecasting is based on 5 years.

JW: The recommendations are not what CCC proposed. Now proposing 8 less across the county. 61 rather than 69. The Boundary Commission don't take a lot of notice of objections.

MP: line down the middle of district division goes against guidelines.

BC: District boundaries will be reviewed in 2018.

DW: Hasn't been done since 2001.

RF: How does it impact LF?

MP: We have more in common with Priory Park than the villages. Concern that maybe the issues that are important to us go down the agenda for the councillors. But because of our size, it's more likely to be the other way around. Love's Farm dominates the agenda at the expense of the villages.

JW: Comes into force 2017. Got until July 6 to make comments. Implemented in time for the next CCC election.

IG: SNTC recommendation is to have 4 councillors for Love's Farm.

MP: The draft recommendations work out broadly in favour of Love's Farm so not planning to make any response.

6 Updates from working groups:

PARKING

DW: Had another meeting, refined a draft questionnaire, responses by end of June. 5-6 weeks to collect responses. Output from that to feed into grant application. Lots of questions relating to Stone Hill, as it's adopted so more scope to do something via the Local Highways Initiative. Unadopted very difficult but we can lean on Gallaghers.

JW: When you get nearer to grant application, ask to put it on LFCA agenda. You'll need to submit as a community group, you need 20 signatures for the grant. You also need 10% funding up to total £10,000 (ie £1,000 funding). Everything over £10,000 must be paid in full by LFCA or its supporters. First you find out if you've won grant. Then comes a liaison with County Council Highways. They will put forward a proposal that they think will solve the problem. LFCA could approach SNTC for 10%.

BC: Problem comes from fact that it should come from the Market Town Transport Strategy but it hasn't been updated for 20 years. A commitment has been made to update it next year. Funding could then be allocated via Market Town Transport Strategy – a county council initiative.

Local Highways Improvement Fund bid – organisations can only apply once, but this year there are three in St Neots as they came through from SNTC, Priory Park residents association (backed by SNTC), Crosshall School.

JW: Deadline for submission for funding around September? Forms available around July.

BC: You can make a bid at any time.

JW: Send the forms as soon as received. Need to get the OK from Derek Crosby (Traffic Management Officer). If it doesn't get his approval then it won't happen, as the police must see it as enforceable.

IG: LFCA should speak to Derek Crosby to explain what we want.

DW: LFCA has spoken with Kevin Thorne.

DW to contact Gallaghers. **ACTION**

DOGS

MP: Had the first dog walk on Sunday. Good success. 20 people, 10 dogs. Marcus brought his soft toy dog. Didn't get down to spraying but promising beginnings.

Everyone agrees that abandoned poo bags are disgusting.

SMART

Nothing to report. Next one is 30th May.

YOUTH

Received cheque from BPHA to fund the existing youth club to March 2016.

Kirsty will let **DW** know when it's banked.

DW: Still have some money from last year

MP: An offer from Police Crime Commission (PCC) for youth work, £2000 for training programme for volunteers. We suggested to use the money to set up a Youth Advisory Group (YAG) but this was rejected. BPHA has stepped in to fund the YAG.

MP: could use volunteer training programme to find volunteers to support paid staff.

HT: We shouldn't be finance led, should be vision led.

BP: Could use the PCC funding for first aid and safeguarding training for LFH trustees. **ACTION**

EVENTS

No quiz in May as SNFC is booked, back in June.

EL: Put out a feeler about a Massive Yard Sale, 24 people said yes. Set up a Facebook event: 80 people signed up. Date set for 12 July. Open up for registrations beginning of June. Register on website to say you're taking part. LFCA to compile a map. Worked well last time. Bigger estate should be even better. Black Cat doing a shout out.

Scarecrow festival in August, finishing at Big Lunch on 6 Sept. We need more straw this year.

Farm House: looking at a soft launch festival after opening, possibly October.

FINANCE

Plenty of money in the bank.

Applications for funding (for LFCA to fund small projects) are now available. **BP/MP** to publicise it on the website. **ACTION**

Caroline Henderson is working on an application for a running club and has the form.

FARM HOUSE

BP: We've discovered in passing that the kitchen ventilation is not for "commercial use"

EL: Cafe Nero is fine with small ventilation, but Environmental Health Officer would pick this up immediately if ventilation was inadequate.

BC: Eaton Centre has a simple system.

IG: As "café" is in the lease, it sounds like it's not fit for purpose.

JW and **IG** offered to look into this as **BP** has limited time over the next two weeks. **JW** will talk to Lee Davis (site manager), Chris Allen (HDC). **IG** to talk to Jason Ablewhite.

9. Any Other Business

Sally is due to have a baby at the end of May and has decided to step down as vice chair.

We need to appoint another vice chair. Has to be at a general meeting – next committee meeting (July 15) will be that meeting. **MP** is writing an article for the website. **ACTION**

MP Great role with no formal responsibilities so people can make of it what they want to. However we may be unlikely to get offers unless we approach someone. Admin support would be appreciated, but whatever someone has a passion to do.

Grass cutting. **BC**, **IG** and **MP** received an email complaint from a resident. No grass cutting until daffodils die down, but complainant says should still be done around the sides.

There are only 3 cuts a year by CCC along adopted roads. LFCA argued about this quite a bit last year but told no more money, county-wide policy. **MP** was told that there are some areas in St Neots where HDC has supplemented it. **BC** and **IG** said that seemed unlikely.

JW: SNTC council would and should pay to have it cut.

BC: problem with SNTC doing that is that they've got acres to deal with.

MP: But somehow other areas are getting it.

DW: Nowhere else in St Neots has grass as high as on Stone Hill.

BP: To ask Kevin Matthews about SNTC's current grass-cutting operations in St Neots. **ACTION**

MP: Someone checked last year and found that Priory Hill is in line with HDC areas: 6-7 times a year.

EL: Received complaints about locations for drains and traffic calming along Hogsden Leys, saying it's a hazard. However, residents have missed the boat about complaining. They've got a group together.

MP: Only avenue is whether the markings don't match the plans.

DW: Christmas tree or decorations on Love's Farm.

IG: This was raised at last Operations Committee that Ian was on. Christmas trees on the three village greens. Agreed a Christmas tree would go on Love's Farm. Should be incorporated in the SNTC Christmas regime. It's in the budget, hopefully the new council will honour the pledge. Elsewhere, power for tree lights comes from lampposts. Could be located in Love's Farm House.

The meeting ended at 9:15pm