



**Love's Farm Community Association Meeting**  
**Love's Farm House**  
**21 November 2018**

## Minutes

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome and apologies – Marcus Pickering, chair of the community association</b>          Apologies: were received from Jenny Lincoln, Ben Pitt, Julie Wisson, Clare Reece, Caroline Gregson, Di Briggs.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Community Plan 2018/19</b>          Updates to the community plan were considered to ensure the community is focused on the actions and issues it wants to take forward over the coming year.</p> <p>Over 100 responses to the community survey were received which was considered a good response rate The survey was launched at the AGM and shared on Facebook and in the newsletter. It was noted that in the future door knocking may yield a higher response rate. Other options to improve response included engagement with BPHA and more support from Street Reps.</p> <p>The group discussed the priorities for the coming year and the opportunity to reflect on the draft plan once developed at a future meeting. It was agreed that building engagement in our community should be a priority and the LFCA should consider what could be improved.</p> <p><b>Action: survey results to be shared on website and draft plan to be considered at February meeting.</b></p>	

### Building great relationships in our community.

<b>3</b>	<p><b>Committee Governance &amp; AGM</b></p> <p>i) Notes of last meeting were received and an update on actions not covered elsewhere on the agenda: Cllr David Wells advised that Streetlighting was being progressed – having chased HDC they are going to do a survey of the footpath between Fox Brook and Hull Way. There was still confusion across the estate about which lights were owned by which people. It was noted the county council were responsible for adopted roads lighting, and management companies for other areas or developers. Residents reported that street lights are still not working outside the school – there are approximately 4 lights not working, furthermore Hogsden Leys/Bargroves lights have been out since April 17 and residents have been unable to sort out the lighting. It was hoped now Hogsden Leys had been adopted this would be rectified.          Marchs Pickering advised that all the adopted roads will have LED lights replaced over the coming months.  <b>Action: website 'report a street light out' form to be promoted again possibly in the newsletter.</b></p> <p>ii) Nominations for website content editor, and Street Rep co-ordinator and vice chair following Emma Stevens stepping down from these roles was considered.          Marcus Pickering and the committee thanked Emma Stevens for her role as vice chair and street rep co-ordinator. Caroline Henderson agreed to become the street rep co-ordinator.          It was noted the website will be updated over Christmas to be more accessible on mobile devices.          The ask was for content reviewer and someone to work to update content on a regular basis.          Suggestion to request support and involvement.  <b>Action: Marcus and Caroline to meet to discuss role of street reps</b>  <b>Action: All to consider possible candidates for involvement in the committee</b>  <b>Action: newsletter call for involvement in updating website.</b></p> <p>iii) Updates were from Town, District and County Councillors in attendance</p> <p><u>Town Council:</u>          Cllr Stephen Furguson advised that following the SNTC ops meeting a discussion had taken place about the introduction of more parking restrictions in the town but lack of enforcement.</p> <p><u>District Council:</u>          Cllr David Wells advised he had asked HD Council to address the fencing damage and this was being pursued.</p> <p>Cllr Nik Johnson advised following parking review he had representation from the Love's Farm Parking group and had met with members of the group. He hoped he had been able to listen and</p>	
----------	---	--

inform the group. As district councillor Nik attended St Neots Eaton Socon remembrance service. Nik and Marcus discussed policing issues following the community engagement event with police.

Discussions with developers at HDC nothing for Love's Farm. Cambridge Road crossing – he said there was still concern about pedestrian crossings and the site chosen may not be enough. Nik highlighted his drive for 'Womble' solution – he as launched a petition for an over or underground solution on Cambridge Road. Possibility for Urban and Civic Board and for the HDC to lobby Nuffield Trust Around Public Health healthy communities. Nic also said he was keen to ensure there were medical centres for the new community – he hoped the council were looking at creative solutions with NHS England commissioners at Midlands and East.

David Wells advised he thought that the plans were with the HDC planning committee for the school. Suggested linking the petition with the Cambridge County Council website. Also need to link with CCC as part of Highways. Newsletter and communication channels be used to communicate.

**Action: petition and support from U&C for options – consider linking with school planning application. Nik to email Emma with details to promote via Love's Farm communication channels.**

#### **4 Policing and crime update**

Marcus Pickering updated on actions undertaken following the community meeting with Police Sargent Adam Bagulay on 19 September. This included work to develop a Neighbourhood watch scheme across Love's Farm.

Marcus said he met with the Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite. He advised the commissioner's role is political and reported that the commissioner felt some of the police views at the community meeting were from the resource perspective in response to overall resource and restructuring and that resource was being redistributed across the county on county wide priorities for example roads police, drugs, police helicopter and other resources.

The commissioner advised that crime levels are very low in Love's Farm compared to the rest of St Neots and the rest of Cambridgeshire. He said there was possibly an issue of under reporting of crime as the statistics did not currently support the feeling of the community. It was felt however there maybe an increase in anti-social behaviour across St Neots which was reflected in Love's Farm. He added there was a perception the area was a crime hot spot when this was not the case. Marcus reiterated we live in a safe neighbourhood – and the commissioners view was the crime experienced by residents was not serious. Residents should however report crime and suspicious activity and encourage other residents to do so.

**Action: Sargent Bugulay to be invited to future meetings.**

Marcus advised that parking was also discussed with the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was reported that Huntingdon District Council were exploring the possibility of decriminalising parking offences which would mean the Council and subcontractors could take control of enforcements.

**Action: Stephen Furguson to get in touch with Barry Chapman and David Wells to check status of parking enforcements.**

It was noted that our community PCSO was very engaged and would address parking issues where there were concerns.

It was confirmed that our policing team would share crime stats with the residents association going forward. The community policing team in consultation with HDC would also look at antisocial behaviour issues and opportunities for co-operation with agencies and BPHA to support engagement too.

Daniel Grant gave an update to say crime is lower overall this month and advised a 'Police Now Police Officer' was supporting Daniel in local patrols.

**Action: Marcus to send a note to thank PCSO Dan Grant for his support and increased presence.**

Marcus Pickering advised a Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been set up in the north of the estate. Three people have come forward to support development of the scheme across the rest of the estate. This included a lawyer, police officer and community resident lead. It was noted Sian Hiatt had agreed to take forward and co-ordinate an initial meeting with Caroline Gregson who established the first scheme to look at how to roll out Field Gate Close scheme to Love's Farm more generally. Caroline Henderson said she was keen to lead work on Radland Close to get scheme set up. There was a suggestion of 3 neighbourhood watch areas across Love's Farm, north, central and south. It was noted police had provided stickers which were held at Love's Farm House for residents and business owners.

Financial support for street signs was highlighted. Marcus Pickering advised that the community can access a grant from BPHA 'Cash for Communities' to support Neighbourhood watch schemes – this was £250 for items such as street signs. Marcus had passed on information to Sian Hiatt about grant.

**Action: Update to the community on actions being undertaken to keep community engaged.**

**4 Working Groups action to note (no discussion/comments by exception)**

- i) Events – Emma Lovelock requested if money could be spent on Christmas chocolate bingo on 8 December which was agreed. Carol singing will take place on Thursday 20 November at 6.30pm to be led by Helene Tame. Christmas quiz on 30 November.
- ii) Street reps – covered under item 3ii

**Developing and managing shared resources and spaces**

**6 Working Group action to note (no discussion/comments by exception):**

- i) SMART – Helene Tame said next SMART was Saturday 1 December and then 12 January
- ii) Love's Farm Blooms – Phyllis Hooper provided an update on recent activities. It was noted work continued to develop plans to enhance neglected areas of the estate including Yard Gate. Phyllis was working with Huntingdon District Council, who were supportive of the Love's Farm Blooms work, to map land holding responsibility. An update was received on the community Christmas tree. It was agreed that a long lasting, slow maturing tree would be chosen and the preferred specimen was a Blue Spruce. HDC had proposed 4 locations for the tree which were shared with members. It was felt these were not appropriate as restricted playing spaces, were not near street lighting sources should cabling be a future option to light the tree and did not provide visibility which the community proposed location of the tree on the village green did. It was suggested that the Love's Farm Bloom purchase a Christmas tree for the north of the estate as was residents wishes for this year and that it be sited temporarily until agreement with HDC was made on a permanent location.
- iii) Finance – Cameron Paul thanked David Wells for his support in handover of finances. It was noted £2k had been received from Gallagher and a further £1000 secured from BPHA to support printing of the community newsletter. **Action: Cam Paul to sort out cheque signatures.**

**7 Community action area updates to note (no discussion/comments by exception):**

**i) Northern access update**

The association considered next steps following Cambridgeshire County Council's decision on 9 November in a closed meeting of the Delegated Decisions – Openness Regulations committee (a delegated group of 2 council members of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee) to implement the permanent closure of the Love's Farm Northern Access (Hogsden Leys) through a prohibition of driving order. There was a great deal of frustration from the residents in attendance that the decision had been imposed without discussion or fair consultation and that residents views, especially on emergency access and safety had not been heard.

Marcus Pickering provided a summary of the timeline – it was noted that just over a year ago Cambridge County Council lunched consultation which resulted in concrete blocks being put in place to stop any traffic movement across the northern access. LFCA had worked to get the block removed based on a requirement for emergency access through the gates. A gate was then installed to allow emergency vehicle access through a number lock. Since then Marcus had been promised by the chairman of Highways Committee, Cllr Shutter, to discuss the access. It was recorded in emails that Cllr Shutter had tasked officers to undertake a feasibility study regarding access, the impact and safety of residents and also given a promise to meet following study and costings.

The LFCA were advised via emails to residents who had responded to the consultation that Cambridgeshire County Council had met on 9 November and agreed to make the closure permanent. We were told the chairman of highways had said nothing else could be done and that was the end of the matter. It was noted that there was no engagement, meetings or discussion with the LFCA or individual members despite repeated requests and promises.

Cllr David Wells, in the absence of Cllr Julie Wisson advised that Cllr Wisson had met with Matthew Shutter as a delegated meeting of officers of the Highways committee and that meeting was supposed to be followed up with the LFCA. Marcus said this had not happened and there had been no response to the emails that LFCA and members have sent to Julie since the announcement of the decisions to permanently close the access. It was noted Julie was unwell and unable to attend the meeting.

Cllr David Wells advised Cllr Wisson attended the meeting and was told what Highways officers were going to do – the decision was imposed in Cllr Wisson's view. It was noted that Cllr Wisson did not support the decision and believed that because she was local member that the Council cannot use a delegated authority to do make a decision in this way. Her view was the decision needs to go to the full Highways and Community Infrastructure committee which would be a public meeting for decision.

Cllr David Wells advised that Cllr Iain Gardiner agreed that in his view a full committee would need to make the decision. It was noted the Council had sent out messages to those who submitted consultation responses to advise of the decision. Cllr David Wells advised that the lack of engagement and way action has been undertaken was appalling and the LFCA was quite right to be very angry and to consider ways to take forward the decision.

Marcus advised that the LFCA would need to consider next steps in the context of other activities e.g. the parking consolation.

It was suggested a group be set up to look at issue and to have dedicated resource to take next steps forward. Cllr Neil Hook, SNTC, has been approached for support.

It was felt that key to the argument for opening up the northern access was the issue of emergency access and resident's safety. It was noted that the fire department only supported the closure if there were clear roads with no restrictions for access to the north of the estate. Given the delay to the parking controls this was not the case.

**Action: to be discussed at January meeting when Cllr Julie Wisson is in attendance.**

**ii) Parking Scheme for Love's Farm**

It was noted that Cambridgeshire County Council launched the parking consultation to residents which closes on 30 November [consultation ref PR0427]

Marcus Pickering advised that parking proposal was going through formal consultation. Some residents advised that in their view not all residents have received letters about the consultation. It was noted that the letters were addressed to 'resident of' and did not have council marking so may have been discarded.

Action: David Wells to get in touch with Karen Lamb to discuss consultation methodology.

It was noted that there isn't a solution that is right for everyone on the estate and compromise was needed. There has been representation from Hogsden Leys both for and against and not a unified view on where restrictions should be. It was agreed the need was for a scheme that meets the needs of as many people as possible, within constraints of budget and resident's views. It's not an option for nothing to be done – this was very much the community view.

Cllr David Wells advised that the formal committee will meet in January for decision. There is a risk of the proposal not going through is there is a lot of objections by email or objections on the day of the committee meeting.

The option of resident permits was raised – it was noted this was not council policy where parking spaces are given to a property.

Cllr David Wells update on further work to improve the safety of traffic. Work was being done to look at the chicanes – he said he had submitted a bid to ask CCC to look at chicanes and where access and visibility is poor dangerous. Highways were supportive and said the chicane on Dramsell Rise should be removed completely. Other proposals included moving Hogsden Leys and Great High Ground. Others are considered unsafe and will be reviewed. Cllr Wells said the scheme needs to be funded and prioritised – Gallagher's hopefully will help fund this.

**Action: Cllr David Wells to update on parking issues at January meeting.**

**iii) Wintringham and Love's Farm East developments Cambridge Road safe crossing points**

Note development of Wintringham site has commenced. No further update on safe access across Cambridge Road had been received. Wintringham School yet to move in to temporary class rooms on Round House School site.

**Action: Rebecca to attend Feb meeting and proposal for public engagement event.**

**8 Farm House update**

No new news from the Farmhouse trustees

**9 Community Garden project**

A new scheme to develop a community garden was proposed by Jessica Sanchez. It was agreed this should be explored to see how a community garden project could be developed to provide edible crops for the community. The example of the Cambridge Nightingale Park project was highlighted which engages the community to work to gather funds to support the scheme. The funding was for raised beds, water butts and tools. It was felt the community survey feedback seems to suggest that it might be supported. Stephen Ferguson suggested most the green spaces are owned by HDC – adoption and maintenance by residents

would be supported. Phyllis Hooper advised that Love's Farm Blooms was supportive of the scheme. Also suggested that LFCA could support from community grants.

**Action: proposal for options for combining Love's Farm Blooms with community garden to be consider with Stephen Ferguson**

**Action: Nightingale scheme to come and present to future LFCA.**

There were not further items of AOB.

## Actions from previous meetings and updates

	Action	Update	LFCA lead
1.	David Wells to ask HDC to consider Fox Brook Bridge lighting via Chris Stopford.	Cllr Wells to report back	David Wells
2.	Marcus to update on policing and crime at next meeting including taking forward actions around expanding the neighbourhood watch scheme. Sargent Bagulay to be invited to future meetings	Agenda for November. Q&A on the website. Group set up to work on neighbourhood watch	Marcus Pickering
3.	CCC to be invited to present parking consultation results to LFCA and community meeting (date tbc)	Consultation out – closes 30 November. CCC have not taken up offer to engage	David Wells
4.	Ben to share community survey to ask for views from residents about how we can all work together to improve things – launched at AGM	To be discussed at November meeting	Ben Pitt
5.	<p>a) Julie Wisson to share scope of northern access feasibility study and confirm next steps following consultation on northern access closing on 26/1.</p> <p>b) Residents to be encouraged to complain to East of England Ambulance service if they have concerns about traffic blocking the roads on the estate or the northern access gate not being used to access them in an emergency. Examples of impact of northern access being closed to be shared with Cllr Julie Wisson, Cllr Mathew Shuter, Head of Highways and Infrastructure Committee and Graham Hughes, Chair of Economy and Growth Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council.</p> <p>c) Committee officers and residents to be invited to attend the Highways and Infrastructure meeting</p> <p>d) Petition for the feasibility study to be undertaken by CCC to explore reasons for/against not just costs for Northern Access</p> <p>e) Marcus Pickering to request meeting with Cllr Matthew Shuter to discuss Northern Access, to take him up on his offer to discuss with residents and visit the site.</p>	<p><u>Agenda:</u> Update at September meeting on a) and d)</p> <p>Email circulated via street reps. New examples requested to go direct to Cllr Wisson</p> <p>Ongoing – John Gerrard presented to Town Council</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u> Update needed on attending next meeting</p> <p>Await further contact with MS</p> <p>Marcus to get in touch with MS again</p>	<p>Julie Wisson</p> <p>Eleanor Gray/Emma Steven's</p> <p>Julie Wisson</p> <p>Marcus Pickering</p> <p>Marcus Pickering</p>
6.	Share list with Gallagher lights not sure about. Form on website to identify location of lights Marcus to get in touch with Breheny (contractors) re lack of visibility at junction of Stone Hill and Pirate Ship.	<p>On going – noted HDC rolling plan to replace</p> <p>Included in Street reps update</p>	<p>Emma Stevens/Ellie Gray</p> <p>Marcus Pickering</p>
7.	Marcus and Cameron to follow up with BPHA, Gallagher's and U&C re funding contribution to LFCA.	On going	Marcus/Cameron
8.	Ben Pitt to update on Cambridge Road crossing development Stephen Ferguson to discuss with Town Council options for bus bay on Cambridge Road. Barry Chapman to update LFCA following conversations with Graham Bull District Council Leader on 23 July to discuss Cambridge Road and Ben Pitt to share info with Barry Chapman on meeting with HDC and CCC Highways	<u>Update at January meeting</u>	Ben Pitt
9.	<p>Love's Farm Blooms</p> <p>a) David Wells to provide update on Blooms finance</p> <p>b) Community Christmas tree funding to be investigated</p>	<p>Future agenda item</p> <p>Future agenda item</p>	<p>David Wells</p> <p>Phyllis Hooper</p>
10.	Love's Farm community association becoming a Parish Council to be discussed at a future meeting based on information Julie Wisson provides	Future agenda item	Julie Wisson/ Helene Tame
11.	Views on LFCA support of Round House School fireworks – future agenda item.	Future agenda item.	Marcus Pickering
12.	Views on website development to be sought including editor for content	Request at November meeting	Marcus Pickering