

CASTLEFIELDS AND DITHERINGTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
Martin Wilson Primary School
8th September 2010

Chair

Cllr Alan Mosley

Present

Des King – Resident
Mr Hughes – Resident
Claude Hart– Resident
Mrs Chandler – Resident
Mrs Gwilliams – Resident
Margaret Lyons – Resident
Julie Thomas – Resident
Sgt Julie Shepherd – West Mercia Police
Ms Jones – Resident
Richard & Diana Bonella– Resident
David Knott– Resident
Anne Mortimar – Resident
Martin Smith – Resident
Miriam Walton – Resident
Martin Welch – Resident
David Purslow – Head of Martin Wilson
Tim Sneddon – Shropshire Council
Steve Cunningham - Shropshire Council

Apologies

Pete Franklin – West Mercia Police
Richard Potter – Severnside
Alan Goater – Resident

Alan Mosley (AM) welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the meeting is a opportunity for residents and officers from Shropshire Council, West Mercia Police, Severnside etc. to discuss and take action on local issues.

AM discussed action point from the minutes of the previous meeting and highlighted what action had taken place.

AM reported that the current crime stats for Castlefields & Ditherington demonstrated a reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) of 16.2% and that the number of crimes in the area have reduced by 42.4%. However, the level of ASB is above average in the ward so work still has to be done.

Sargent Julie Shepherd (JS) reported that although the area has lost one Community Support Officer (CSO) **a new CSO will start in the area soon and is currently undergoing training.**

Tim Sneddon (TS) reported that highways work is due to start in the area adjacent to the bus stop near the entrance to the Doctors Surgery. A resident asked if the pavement could be extended near the bus stop, into the landscaping as the area becomes congested. **TS said that he would look into this.**

The issue of cycling on pavements was raised. JS said that it is difficult to catch people on the bikes as they have to be there when the offence takes place. A resident reported that it has been an issue on Darville recently. **JS agreed to pass this information on to the local policing team.**

Parking on Spring Garden/Sutton Road junction was reported as an issue as it results in restricted sight lines when leaving Sultan Road. **JS said that she would inform the local policing team of the problem.**

TS introduced himself and explained that as the Environment Services Manger he has responsibility for street cleansing, (some areas of) highways, parking enforcement and environmental enforcement (litter, dog fouling).

TS explained that the sweeping schedules have changed and were every 2 weeks (not every 8 weeks as previous) over the summer. The team had missed couple of scheduled sweeps but are now back on track. TS emphasised that he would be keen for 'Street Champions' in areas all over Shrewsbury. Street Champions would have an ongoing role in reporting litter hotspots and making contact with local staff for remedial action. **TS encouraged residents that are interested to please put their names forward.**

TS report that his department are using traffic management orders to move parked cars off areas for street cleansing. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) can be issued if cars are parked in areas designated for cleaning. **Signs will be erected to inform visitors and residents that cleaning will be taking place and Cllr Mosley will also be informed well in advance.**

Residents complained about cigarette stubs that found on the pavement outside the post office. **TS explained that they are aware of the issues and have issued 3 FPN to date.**

TS said that he would investigate the cleansing of the ally way between New Park Close and Sultan Road.

Residents reported that the **pigeons under the Railway Bridge** are a problem since the pigeon netting was now useless. TS explained that the bridge is the responsibility of network rail, and after several complaints from his department they have still not done anything.

Resident Claude Hart thanked the council for the good work which had been undertaken regarding street cleaning in the area.

Police

JS reported that ASB in Far Gardens Place has been a concern in recent weeks. However the perpetrators have now been identified and will be visited jointly by the Police and Severnside to stop the problem reoccurring.

JS said that current PACT (Police And Community Together) priority was drug use and residents should report this. The number is 0300 333 3000.

JS also informed residents that a street briefing was due to take place at Castlewalk on 14 September at 5pm. Councillors from both Underdale and Monkmoor would be in attendance along with Cllr Mosley, all residents are welcome.

Residents reported problems with drug use around the phone box on Water Street. AM asked if it could be barred from taking incoming calls. **JS said that she would investigate the possibility.**

A resident also reported boy racers driving around Whitehouse Gardens which has become an issue and causing some community tension. **JS agreed to speak to resident privately for more details.**

Flax Mill

AM invited residents to join the 'Friends of the Flax Mill' group and shared a site plan of the current proposal for Flax Mill site.

A resident raised concerns over the level of traffic that would be travelling along Ditherington Road when the housing development is complete and Flaxmill is open to the public. **AM informed residents that a traffic survey are currently being undertaken and indications are that the overall impact would be marginal.**

AM reported that the **Midland Red Club**, which is currently on the footprint of the Flax Mill site, is still under discussion with Shropshire Council.

The 6 Bells Pub

AM informed residents that a planning application to demolish the 6 Bells has been submitted, which would replace the pub with a mini supermarket and take away. Some residents have already expressed concerns over the scheme. **AM has requested that the application goes to the planning committee for a decision.**

POST OFFICE

AM explained that he had requested that a PO Ltd representative attend this meeting but they had been unable to.

Post Office Ltd previously said they would like to keep a post office in Castlefields, and discussions did take place about having a service in the shop, which has since closed.

PO Ltd said that they are not minded to have an Outreach Post Office (similar to a rural area) in Castlefields but it is a possibility. Residents discussed this issue and concluded that they were not happy with the responses provided by PO Ltd so far. Residents raised the issue of the reopening of the Ditherington PO which had been closed by PO Ltd.

AM suggested that they request public meetings with the PO and local MP demand that a PO senior exec attends. Residents were in agreement.

DITHERINGTON CCTV

Some Ditherington residents were invited to the CCTV centre to view the images provide by the new camera on **Ditherington Rd**. The camera has been slightly moved to see onto the estate more effectively and has been reported as a success already.

COMMUNITY FUN DAY

A community fun day will take place at Ditherington Community Centre on September 18th from 1pm – 5pm. There will be lots of exciting activities and performances for all ages and everyone is invited to attend.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Storage in the community centre will be improved and further activities for adults, children and families are being planned to run from the community centre. To book the hall contact 240755

DITHERINGTON SHOPPING CENTRE

AM informed residents that the row of shops on **Dithernngton Rd** could receive 'Growth Point' funding to improve the shopping area and parking. Growth Point funding is a specially allocated pot of funding dedicated to making improvements to the town.

NORTHERN CORRIDOR

Growth Point and Sustrans are making improvements to roads and cycle paths in and around the **Heathgates round-a-bout** to make the area safer for crossing with improved landscaping.

CASTLEFIELDS ACTION TEAM (CAT) AND CAR PARK

CAT are drawing up proposals to present to Severnside for significant improvements to the **precinct car park**. Further consultation will take place with community on the plans in coming months.

HYDRO ELECTRICITY AT THE WEIR

AM reported on the proposal of generating hydro electricity from the weir and expressed that he would keep resident informed of further developments. A meeting will be taking place with Cllr Mosley, Cllr Kenny and council officers in the near future to discuss in more detail.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The gate at the back of the Martin Wilson School - waiting for substation to be built before access from the new housing development to the school can be undertaken.

Problem with buses going into the depot and backing up on Sutton Road. The bus depot will be gone in 2 years due to the Flax Mill development. Arriva claim they are doing all they can to stop this problem from happening.

Castlefields Women's Institute is starting up.