

Headington Committee for Development Action (HCDA)

Minutes for meeting on 27th June 2007, 19h00, Oxford Brookes, Gipsy Lane

Present

Heather Armitage
James Bloice-Smith
Gail Bones
Angela Cristofoli
Marion Fiddes
Mary Hope
Janet Isaac
Stephanie Jenkins
Tony Joyce
Marie Vickers
Charles Young
Stella Welford

Apologies from

Jill Cummings
Sue Holden
David Rundle

In Attendance: PC John Shaw

James welcomed County Councillor Gail Bones to her first meeting.

PC John Shaw, the Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) for Marston, gave a presentation at the start of the meeting about the arrangements for policing in the Headington and Marston areas, and gave apologies from PC Chris Miles, the NSO for Headington, who had also hoped to be present. NSO's are a new approach to local policing and their current need is to collect intelligence. John said the police were concerned that complaints about people driving the wrong way along Stile Road had been reported to the local press rather than to the police. With that intelligence, however, that they had been successful in targeting 42 people during a six hour period when they conducted a special operation on Stile Road. The crime statistics indicate that we live in a very safe area. During the period 6th May to 12th June seven incidents had been reported in Marston, Headington, Barton and Risinghurst. There is now a pub watch scheme and seven people have been barred for anti social behaviour and the last pubs in the area have now joined the scheme. The police are actively working on anti social behaviour problems. There are now community support officers (PCSOs) on the street with two more starting in Headington in January, and Marston in November. Thames Valley are recruiting 500 PCSOs. To contact our NSO's use the non-emergency phone number for the police, 08458 505 505, and ask for Chris Miles (No. 2950), or John Shaw (No. 5901) or, For Barton, PC Rob Fisher (No. 1664). They work shifts of seven days with four days off. There is an office at Brookes at the entrance to Headington Hill Hall. Headington Quarry is covered from Barton, and Divinity Road is in the east area. Where a crime is being committed use 999, e.g. youths gathering and posing a threat, or writing graffiti, or where any anti social behaviour is taking place. In reply to a question from Stella about problems experienced with the Black Boy pub, John said they are working closely with the new landlord and will visit and support them. PCSOs have the power to deal with traffic, stop and search, and checks on vehicles but have no powers of arrest. Angela asked about schools. There are five officers specifically for schools and they try to start at a low level with parents. Need to send details of the next meeting as they will come to area committee meetings. John Shaw then left the meeting and James thanked him for his presentation and answers to questions.

- 1. Minutes of last meeting held on 30.05.07**
Minutes approved and signed by James.
- 2. 20 is Plenty/Streets for People** - This item was taken first as Tony would have to leave the meeting early. He reported that arrangements are proceeding. Highfield will be closed, and All Saints Road had an event the previous Saturday and will also close on 22nd September, and are building up to restricting traffic through the area. Central Headington and Quarry will also take part. James questioned the aims of Streets for People. All buses are offering free travel for families with three children. It was suggested there should be a celebration of the fifth anniversary of the painting in the subway with a party. Mary suggested asking local cafes to contribute. Tony, Janet and Mary will arrange, but this will be after the date when the Oxfordshire County Council will have made their decision. Tony then left the meeting.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - OX3 Guide** - The sub-committee will meet and report to the next meeting.
 - London Road Study** - A public consultation will take place on Friday 6th July at Oxford Brookes and on Saturday 7th July at St. Andrews's School.
 - Headington Shops and the HBA** - James referred to Jill's presentation at the last meeting and the concern expressed about the state of the local shops and the failing HBA. He suggested going round the shops to talk to them about their need for a forum, and to facilitate a coming together. Mary agreed to talk to the shops and suggested asking residents' groups what shops they want. Stephanie pointed out the request to swap the category of use between two unequal shops and suggested writing to local councilors and the planning department about the imbalance. In an effort to get more customers to the area Heather suggested asking for the first hour's parking in the Somerfield car park be free, but Angela said the charge for the first hour is only 50p and the new charges have only just been agreed. She suggested consideration be given to short term parking on the street bays. Angela said planning policy is to start looking at shopping in districts, and said she will investigate what the next stage is. There is a need to draw up a list of questions when talking about planning in order to come back to the next meeting. Heather asked to see the report on the Brookes study of some years ago.
 - Community led planning** - James, Heather and Mary will fix a date to meet.

4. **Farmers' Markets**

Charles will report at the next meeting and come with a budget and timetable for the first market hopefully to be held in September.

5. **Headington Festival**

Mary proposed a formal vote of thanks to Caroline Duffy who did an outstanding job with the organization of the festival. New regulations have been put in place which must be adhered to in future. Stall holders were slow in agreeing to come and we must be more proactive in getting them to come in the future, and use the website more. More helpers are needed and it would help if PCSOs could be present when the stall holders are clearing up at the end. There are three fire extinguishers available to borrow: around 3,500 people attended.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Charles has drafted the annual statement for last year which needs the Chairman's report. He said he had still not received quite a lot of the money due from the festival including £2,500 from the Council. The budget for the farmers' market will involve expenditure of £1,000 to £1,500 and some money will be needed for publicity. Mary said she would like to rely more on sponsorship for the festival and Angela said it was unlikely we would get the full amount next year which could be reduced to £2,000. Brad Andrews wants to continue to be involved with the festival.

8. **AOB**
 - Play Park** - Marie said she was very concerned about the potential closure of the play park and there is an event on 8th July organized by the Friends of the Play Park which is independent of the Friends of Quarry. There is a draft recommendation for it to be closed for development. It had been created by local effort from a builder's yard in 1973 with money raised by residents for the slide.
 - Church service in Bury Knowle Park** - James said this service will be held on 21st July with a picnic afterwards with cream teas. He said the charge for the use of the park will be £400 for the day. Angela will talk to the Events team about this charge.
 - HCDA Secretary** - James told the meeting that Stella had said she felt unable to continue as Secretary and a replacement is needed. James thanked Stella for her good work, which was supported enthusiastically by the meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25th July 2007 at 7.00, Oxford Brookes, Gipsy Lane