

Abbey Neighbourhood Board

Minutes of meeting held on 12 December 2007 at the Firs Estate School.

Present:

Councillor Asaf Afzal (Chair) – Derby City Council
Martin Cooper – SOVA
Malcolm Ford – Stockbrook Cluster
Karl Frost – Cast Trust – Minute taker
Jaz Greer – Cast Trust
Matt Jones – Stockbrook Cluster
Patrick Lee – CSP, Neighbourhood Manager
Councillor Bryan Lowe – Derby City Council
Patricia O'Shea – Resident
Malcolm Price – NEAT Team
Shaun Skelton – Police
Clive Topley – SOVA

Apologies:

Catherine Girvan – Resident
Verica Kecovich – CSP, Community Development Officer
Lindsey Maidstone – CSP, Community Safety Officer
Nick O'Key – Fire & Rescue Service
Terri Plunkett – Stockbrook Crime Prevention Group
Pam Stretton – Derby Homes

1/08	Welcome and introductions	Action
2/08	<p>NEAT Team – Presentation by Malcolm Price</p> <p>Malcolm gave an update on the work of the NEAT Team on the 5 priorities in the Abbey ward over the past 18 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Malcolm advised there has been a significant increase in the number of needles found in the area over this period, and will be looking into if there are any hotspots within the area. Shaun advised there was no increase in drug use to his knowledge. Patrick queried if there was an increase in unused syringes being found, as there is a citywide trend of users taking more than they need from the needle exchange and discarding unneeded ones. Malcolm will look into this- Litter issues within the area have maintained stable since the project began- Instances of both offensive and non-offensive graffiti have lessened slightly, and Malcolm attributed this to quick erasure of vandalism and good prosecution rates.- There has been a significant increase in flytipping, much of which is attributed to excessive household waste and lack of understanding of the new refuse collection system. After discussion with the public health service Malcolm ascertained that bag waste collection is common in some East European countries and this perception will	

	<p>need to be addressed. As well as targeting these representative groups, letting agencies and landlords will also be approached with details of waste management in the city. Malcolm may undertake a door knocking exercise to ascertain the reasons for this form of fly tipping. It was also suggested that figures may be linked to the change in collection procedures and the start and end of the academic year due to the student housing in the area.</p>	
3/08	<p>SOVA – Briefing by Clive Topley</p> <p>Clive gave a brief presentation on SOVA (Supporting Others through Voluntary Action), a voluntary group who work primarily with young offenders. SOVA's key work includes attending Police stations if young people are taken in, a mentoring scheme to get young people on track, and training in areas such as drug and alcohol misuse, health and safety, victim awareness etc. Clive asked the group if it would be possible to hold a breakout group at the next Residents Action group to promote the group and recruit volunteers; which was agreed by all present.</p> <p><i>ACTION: Patrick to circulate list of SOVA courses with the minutes</i></p>	
4/08	<p>Neighbourhood Team Update</p> <p>Patrick advised that at present there is some uncertainty around funding for the Neighbourhood Team for 2008, but it is hoped this will be resolved shortly.</p> <p>It was noted that Verica should be returning to work in the week commencing 17 December, and Lindsey is due to give birth in the same week. Patrick thanked all board members who had provided support to the team whilst they had been short staffed.</p>	
5/08	<p>Minutes of last Meeting</p> <p>Early copies of the previous minutes state the meeting was held on 12 September rather than 14 November. This was amended on later versions.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
6/08	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour leaflet</p> <p>Patrick presented a copy of the newly printed antisocial behaviour leaflet to all present and explained that a copy of the leaflet, explaining what antisocial behaviour is and ways to tackle it, would be delivered across the ward shortly. The leaflet will go out with a copy of the dates of 2008's RAG meetings.</p> <p>Participatory Budget</p>	

	<p>The Neighbourhood Team has been asked to look at open space in the area by the Council, who have funding available and would like input on the way of spending this. If the Council are happy with the boards suggestions this will be put forward for discussion at the next cabinet meeting on 24 January 2008, and if approved will be added to the capital programme.</p> <p>Jaz updated the meeting on developments in the Rowdich area. Over the past year there have been several planning applications to erect 1600-2000 apartments on Parcel Terrace. Rowdich Park is underused as it is hidden behind housing, and this has resulted in low level crime, e.g. arson/drug use occurring especially attracting issues with young people and street drinkers.</p> <p>There is currently money available for the Rowdich in the Participatory Budget, and Jaz has been working with a Regeneration Agency who are currently working with a number of council departments and other agencies to look at potential developments in the area, including the possibility of writing an inclusive master plan for the area. The plan would include what is currently in the area, any issues; the potential for the area and how further funding can be obtained. Although the money available is for capital projects, Patrick informed the group that DCC Parks and Finance would be happy for this to fund a feasibility study, which would eventually lead to capital spending.</p> <p>Jaz suggested that we use some of the Rowdich monies from the Participatory Budget to invest in developing this Master Plan being led by this Regeneration Agency and that we adopt this an initiative for the Neighbourhood Board for 2008. Everyone agreed and were happy with this proposal and Patrick will develop this further with Jaz and Cllr Afzal. Patrick advised that any money not spent before the end of the financial year can be rolled forward</p>	
7/08	<p>Dog fouling bins</p> <p>Patrick will be meeting with Environmental Action Team on 17 December to get a commitment to installing bins and enforcement in the area around those not using them.</p>	
8/08	<p>Future board dates</p> <p>It was agreed previously that the board meetings would run bi-monthly in alternate months to the RAG meeting, but queried if some meetings should be moved to the evening to better accommodate members. The board generally agreed that as a majority of those attending are professional reps and would find it easier to attend during the day, and there are no problems with current residents attending at these times it should remain as is for now.</p> <p>Patrick reminded the group, that especially as meeting are now bi-monthly; he can always be contacted outside of the meeting with any pressing issues.</p>	

	<p>It was also discussed that if in any situation a quick decision was needed, there would need to be a mechanism in place to get a response from members. It was felt that the most appropriate way would be for Patrick to draw up a briefing paper that would be circulated to reps and enable them to make a decision without meeting. It was also felt that the formation of an executive group could be looked at. The Board agreed that the Chair could make executive decisions on behalf of the Board so long as these were fed back at the next Board meeting.</p>	
9/08	<p>Extending board membership</p> <p>Asaf advised that the Stockbrook Crime Prevention Group had ceased to exist and as such Terri may no longer be attending meetings. It was felt that should Terri still be interested she could continue to attend as a resident. Asaf will contact Terri to ask if she is willing to remain on the board.</p> <p>Action: Asaf to contact Terri and invite her to remain on the board</p> <p>If Terri decides to step down from the board it was felt that an appeal should be made at the next RAG meeting for any interested residents to put themselves forward.</p>	
10/08	<p>Highways priorities</p> <p>Patrick has been asked by the Highways department to gather local input into the priorities in the Abbey Area, and highlight the 3 most pressing issues for action in 2008-9. A document containing highlighted issues by local residents and agencies working in the area was circulated for consultation at the Residents Action Group, but few comments were made and it has been brought to the meeting for input from this group, although Highways will still consider all options.</p> <p>The options highlighted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traffic calming on St Albans Road - Junction improvement at the corner of St Albans Road and Manor Road - Parking on pavements and paving replacements on Woods Lane - Resident only parking on Ward Street, Peet Street and Sudbury Street - Parking on pavements on Uttoxeter Road and Albany Road - Safer walking to Becket School - Reducing accidents around Porter Road area - Burton Road/Whittaker Road (Internal suggestion by Highways Department) <p>Discussion followed on the potential priorities and it was felt there may be some impact on the issue of traffic calming on St Albans Road if traffic lights were erected at the junction to Manor Road. It was suggested an exercise on traffic flow on St Albans Road be undertaken prior to any works, which could then be compared to subsequent</p>	

	<p>results. Shaun advised that the Littleover Board were also concerned with Manor Road and it was advised we confer with them.</p> <p>It was agreed that Patrick would put forward the junction improvement at the corner of St Albans Road and Manor Road, parking on pavements and paving replacements on Woods Lane (particularly with regards to the area around Jackson's supermarket) and one way system for Sudbury Street.</p>	
11/08	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Youth Club</p> <p>Patrick informed the group there had been a recent issue with the youth club, and as a result the decision had been taken by all involved to close it until after Christmas. During this period some detached youth work will take place. The venue for the club will also be discussed prior to it reopening. He added that in general he was pleased with the progress being made with the young people with the help of the Police and groups like Enthusiasm.</p> <p>Influencing Derby City Council Delivery</p> <p>Patrick has received an e-mail from the Partnership asking for the board to highlight 5 areas of Derby City Council delivery that they would like to have an influence on.</p> <p>Patrick advised that Allestree and Darley, although different sorts of areas, had put forward the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth services - Homecare for the elderly - Enforcement on illegal parking - Sales of alcohol to young people - Waste management and dustbin issues <p>It was agreed that these were all pertinent in the Abbey area also, but street lighting and dog fouling would also need to be added as they were ascertained as the leading problems in the area through several surveys. Highways maintenance and capital spend and parks maintenance were also suggested as potential priorities.</p> <p>Patrick will respond with all these issues, but will highlight those prioritised by the neighbourhood surveys as the key issues</p> <p>Action: Patrick to respond to e-mail</p> <p>Youth Forum Feedback Event</p> <p>Jaz fed back to the group that the Youth Forum event on 30 November went well. He informed the group that as a result of the event a meeting would be set up with appropriate agencies in January to look at how the youth forum can become more involved in decision making processes in the area and be developed further with more multi-agency involvement. Jaz will feed back on the meeting at the next board meeting, and also discuss the possibility of a person from the youth</p>	

	forum attending future board meetings if there is any scope to do so.	
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