

# BEECHES COMMUNITY GROUP

## Notes of Meeting held on 8 May 2014

### **Present:**

Stuart Tarr (Chairman), Anne Rawlins (Treasurer), Mike Jupp (Social Secretary), Keith Handley (Neighbourhood Watch/Community SW), Cllr Nigel Robbins (GCC and CTC), Patrick Coleman (Town Councillor Beeches Ward), Christian Chambers (Project Manager Britannia Construction), Philip McCabe (Development Director Britannia Construction), James Trotter (Bromford Housing), Bob Young (John Thompson & Partners), Charles Campion (John Thompson & Partners), Martin Conyers (Estate Manager Cirencester Town Council)

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Stuart Tarr welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported the following apologies: PCSO Renee Broad (crime and statistics report submitted), Liz Frost (Sovereign Housing) report submitted, Paul Maidens (Vice Chair BCG and Chair Corinium Via Residents Association) and Caroline Braidwood

### **2. To Approve the Minutes from Meeting held on 13 March 2014**

Proposed by Nigel Robbins and seconded by Anne Rawlins: approved and signed by the Chairman, after noting that item 2 of those minutes had approved, rather than unanimously approved (see also item 8 of the minutes), the notes of the 16<sup>th</sup> January meeting.

### **3. Matters Arising from Minutes that are not included on the Agenda**

None, everything from previous meeting on this agenda

### **4. Chairman's Report**

A minute's silence was held in memory of Janet Broomfield after Stuart had spoken of all the work she had done previously for the group. Stuart Tarr, Malcolm Lewis (previous BCG Chairman) and Caroline Braidwood attended Janet's Funeral on Wednesday 30 April 2014, on behalf of The Beeches Community Group. A donation has been made to Wiltshire Air Ambulance in her memory.

Caroline Braidwood is keeping the website updated with WW1 events.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Bank balance £221.88

Cheque made out for £20 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance in memory of Janet Broomfield

### **6. Police, Town, District and County Councillor's Reports**

**Police Report** Crime figures reported – copies of figures available if required

**Town Councillor's Report** Patrick Coleman reported on the renewal of the CCTV system in the town with a like for like system. They had visited Calne, Wiltshire to look at their system as they have a volunteer group that looks after the

monitoring. There maybe a role for volunteers in Cirencester. A Town Council meeting is coming up soon. Hare Festival has had greater interest than anyone could have hoped for, turning into a huge success.

**County Councillor's Report** Nigel Robbins reported that he will have 40K to spend over 2yrs from the Active Together Fund towards encouraging people to take exercise. From his meetings gaps for funding had been identified and he was open to suggestions from these, whilst bearing in mind that there would be no money to sustain payments. Nigel thinking about better cycle and pedestrian routes, these would be used indefinitely and not just for the two years of the funding. Nigel to put Martin Conyers on the Sustainable Transport List.

## 7. Greening Cirencester – Kingshill lighting and public open space greening issues and Tree Wardens' presentation

**Kingshill Lighting and public open space greening issues** The wind powered lighting to be changed to mains, at present every other light wind powered. There will be a switch in the new Community hall so that when in use all lights will be on not just alternate lights.

Martin Conyers from Cirencester Town Council who is responsible for parks and estates gave an overview of his work including working with volunteers, students and an apprenticeship scheme. Getting more people involved will hopefully reduce anti social behaviour within the town. Students from Cirencester College have been helping with work near the amphitheatre. In Querns Wood a network of paths have been put in, new information boards, involved children with sculptures. Hoping to repeat a similar scheme at City Bank. Has been informed that girls from Kingshill school feel unsafe in the area so working with Friends of City Bank.

He is working with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on the Churn Walkway. If anyone has any other suggestion please put them to Stuart Tarr. Stuart suggested that Mike Jupp might have some ideas as knows the area so well. CDC is to unlock some funds for development work and there may be some money from the Hare Festival. There is a Programme of Works that we could feed into.

No sight of the 3 **dog bins** promised for North Home Road and Corinium Via. Martin will be taking over this work and said he would look into the matter. "Any bin will do' stickers would be available.

Working with CDC there is to be a Dog fouling Awareness Campaign between 9-14 June, involving giving out dog bags, cards, stickers, posters and the use of social media – Facebook and Tweeting. There is a workshop at Bingham Library at 6pm on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Would like £50 from every community group to finance this initiative. In our case this £50 would come from the £500 that we have access to from CDC. The £50 donation was proposed by Keith Handley and seconded by Mike Jupp: approved.

**Tree Warden's presentation** postponed to a later meeting

## 8. Reports:

**Community Speed Watch & Neighbourhood Watch – Keith Handley**

Neighbourhood Watch static. Have lost David Grange to another area in the town. Looking to only send out alerts by email in the future. A resident from Buncombe Drive had asked to be involved although they haven't heard anymore from them since.

Community Speed Watch being resurrected. If anyone is interested Jamie Walton, Cirencester Town Council, will submit their names to the police. Keith has visited the Chesterton/Watermoor groups and they Chesterton are having a training day in May. Only small groups can be trained at a time. Nigel Robbins to find out about the training schemes.

### **Litter Picking**

No report

### **Bromford Living**

Update on St Mary's Road and Queen Anne's Road poor lighting and pavements is that due to the weather over the winter there were other damaged paths that were taking priority at present.

### **Housing Associations**

**Cottsway** – no apology and no report

**Sovereign** – Report received that many of the previous issues had improved and Paul Maidens as Chair of Corinium Via Residents Association has been asked to meet with one of Sovereign's tenants in connection with the parking of his commercial van.

### **Corinium Via Residents' Association**

There will be an Open Gardens event on the development on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July which Mrs Pamela Tarr is helping to organise. The event is to showcase small courtyard gardens.

### **Kingshill School Community Facility**

Ownership of Community facility discussed. The school will take out the insurance and maintenance of the building. Facility will be for the wider community for meetings, fitness groups, Brownies, Guides etc. the use of which will be charged for. BCG will invite the Chairman of the School Governors to attend one of our meetings later in the year when we have a clearer timetable for the opening of the Community facility (expected Easter 2015).

### **Kingshill Meadow/North Home Road Bus Service**

Bus service due to start in May delayed to July but unclear if this will happen then due to legal reasons. The promised temporary service for residents of Mulberry Court hasn't happened either although Jane Winstanley of the Cotswold Volunteers Dial-a-Bus has said they could provide a service but this needs to be funded by Gloucestershire County council. Mike Jupp asked Councillor Robbins if he had followed up the safety audit; he hadn't as yet. Mike Jupp updated meeting that he was to call a meeting with North Home Road residents regarding the safety audit which he had obtained; he also thought that some people on new Kingshill South development didn't want a bus service either. He is awaiting Berkeley Homes drawing up deeds over his car parking layby. He did not think that the bus service would be likely in July or indeed for several months due to various issues (a deed granting rights of way, construction of a layby, planning

consent, the outcome of the safety audit and residents' reaction to it). In the meantime, a temporary service was required until these issues could be satisfactorily resolved. Cllr Robbins said he would look into these issues further.

## **9. Social Events**

None for group planned.

Friends of Watermoor School had asked to use the candyfloss machine and Mike Jupp had asked for a contribution, as this was the original intention. The machine is to be returned to the Golden Farm Pub and a donation made to the BCG; Mike will chase this up.

## **10. Any Other Business**

The CCDT (Cirencester Community Development Trust) town team meeting is to try to create a more inclusive group by including more local groups at their meetings. (next meeting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May).

When Stuart Tarr attended a Watermoor Group meeting he raised the idea of a possible merger with the Beeches Community Group if we cannot get a committee together in the autumn as numbers attending our meetings have fallen to a small handful.

## **11. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 7pm Ingleside House**

**The meeting closed at 9.10pm**

### **Burford Road/London Road Junction Work**

We had a presentation by Christian Chambers and Phil McCabe about the planned 30 week roadworks that have been financed by Robert Hitchens Ltd and Redrow (Centuria/Corinium Via development) and a small history of the background of Britannia Construction who are based in Cheltenham. There will be planned lane closures but at no time will the road be fully closed. There will be a diversion for traffic leaving Cirencester via the Burford Road but incoming traffic along this road will not be affected by the diversion. Residents' will have access at all times. Information is on the Beeches Group website and the Corinium Via Residents Association Facebook page. An information point will be set up at the BP petrol station on the Burford Road and others sites will hopefully be arranged. They can be contacted via Twitter @burfordjctrdwk

The issue of the bad condition of the London Road between where these works will finish and the new Corinium Via estate roundabout was raised. Amey now does roadwork maintenance for GCC Highways they may do this work. Phil McCabe to investigate the possibility of Britannia fixing this section as they are on site and have all the necessary equipment and staff in place; he will follow this up with Richard Gray, GCC Highways Manager for South Cotswolds.

Britannia was also asked why, at the junction from London Road on to the Burford Road, the traffic was being reduced to one lane whilst at present traffic formed two lanes; there was concern that this would cause hold-ups. They said they would get information on this and send information to Stuart Tarr.

Stuart Tarr concluded Britannia's presentation by thanking them for giving the presentation and answering questions.

### **Land at Chesterton**

Charles Campion and Bob Young from John Thompson & Partners gave a run through of the community planning weekend to be held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at The Ashcroft Centre, Cirencester, with a Report Back Presentation on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at the same venue. John Thompson & Partners have been appointed by Bathurst Development Ltd as master planners, to work with the local community to develop a concept for the new neighbourhood, 120 hectares having been identified by Cotswold District Council as suitable for up to 2500 new homes, businesses and community buildings. This development could also unlock potential for the Royal Agricultural University to develop some land on the opposite side of the road. The whole project will be ongoing for some 20years.

Stuart Tarr concluded by thanking JPP for coming and giving us an overview of the process and answering questions.

End