

Westcroft Resident's Association (WRA)

Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 21st February 2007

Location: Westcroft Meeting Place

Meeting Chair: Henrick Lindberg - Vice President

Present: As per the attendance list (accessible via the Chairman or Vice Chair)

Meeting commencement:	19:30
Welcome:	
The Vice Chairman opened the meeting, providing a run through of the agenda.	
Apologies for absence were given and a welcome to those in attendance, particularly, Rob Dabner, Community Support Officer from Thames Valley Police, Rosemary Drewett and Martin Snell, Borough Councillors'.	
Minutes of last meeting:	
The minutes of the last meeting were approved by all present as an accurate record.	
Matters arising of minutes of last meeting:	
<i>Newsletter</i> - All agreed that this was one of the most effective ways of marketing the WRA to the Westcroft community. Creation of this on a monthly basis is not an issue, but assistance is needed with inspiration for content and distribution.	
<i>Website</i> - It was agreed that to aid in communication and marketing of the Association that an easy to navigate and maintainable website is needed. It was suggested that this could be something which one of the younger residents could assist with. Once set up, the address should be used on all publications.	
Anyone who can assist with this is asked to contact the Chairman - Russellc@teamtalk.co.uk.	
<i>Sub-committees</i> - It was felt that the progression of the sub-committee's on the whole, was too slow. The sub-committee heads were urged to provide target dates around each subject being covered.	
<i>Frequency of WRA Meetings</i> - It was suggested that the key Association members and Sub-committee heads meet monthly and the general meeting is held quarterly. This would allow more focus on actions rather than discussions.	
Financial Report:	
<i>Bank Account</i> - The forms required to open the bank account have now been completed and the account should be open in the next two weeks.	
<i>Donations</i> - There have been no further donations since the last meeting and the balance remains at £200.	
A letter has been sent to all local businesses to see if there would be interested in donating to or sponsoring the WRA. So far Clearlight Opticians and Going Places have responded. The latter have provided free scratch cards for attendees of this evenings meeting!	
<i>Subscriptions</i> - The setting up of subscriptions need to be discussed to understand the cost, the rights of the subscriber and the usage of the funds.	

Thames Valley Police:

Rob Dabner - Community Support Officer

Apologies were provided for non attendance of Inspector Jarrett.

Westcroft Police Support - It was explained that Westcroft shares its Police support with other local communities such as Tattenhoe and is run from the offices in Wolverton. This is made up of a Police Sergeant, two Constables and three Community Support Officers so resources are pretty stretched.

In October/November 2007, a Neighbourhood Police Meeting will be held in Westcroft to discuss local issues.

Non-Emergency Contact Number - Thames Valley Police - 0845 8 505 505

It was recommended that this number is used to report all non-emergency cases such as vandalism and potential anti-social behaviour, as these cases are logged via the Police Enquiry Centre (PEQ) and they will contact the nearest Police Officer/Community Support Officer.

The purpose of the Community Support Officer is to work the street with minimal admin to allow them to be the eyes, ears and hands of the Police in the local community.

It was advised that Westcroft has a low crime rate for burglary and car crime but we do have Anti-social behaviour mainly with youths around the Morrison's Supermarket.

It was reminded that volunteers are still required to run the Westcroft Community Police Shop.

Local Issues:

- **Travellers** in the car park on the H7 near Morrison's entrance. It was advised that the Travellers are parked on private land, Parklands Trust, and for this reason, neither the Police nor Council could move them on. The Police will however deal with any issues such as anti-social behaviour if reported.
- **Youths** causing vandalism and littering in public areas was discussed. Mainly around the main parkland on Cranborne Avenue, where newly planted trees have been damaged and broken bottles, used fireworks and general litter are often found in the mornings. Residents were advised to use the non-emergency number if youths are seen gathering in these areas, even if all seems calm. This will allow the on-duty Officer to keep an eye on things.

Residents were advised that Police have zero tolerance for underage drinking and anti-social behaviour and have launched **Operation Re-bound**. This scheme involves issuing Youth's with a Yellow Card; these cards are given on the spot and are also posted to their home address. If issued two Yellow Cards, an ASBO will be enforced. It was made clear that in this area, ASBO's are not seen as a badge of honour.

It was also explained that the Police do not always get the support of the parents taking responsibility for their children and due to this; the Police are working with Social Services in order to report irresponsible parents.

- **Parking** generally around the residential area of Westcroft but especially on the roundabout between Hidcote Drive and Levenshall Road and inconsiderate parking on Levenshall Road generally. We were advised that the Police were actively warning 'offenders' with a polite note on their cars first, then imposing a fine if ignored.

- Rob Dabner agreed to look into performing a trial run for an Emergency Response vehicle such as a fire engine to travel through Westcroft to allow residents to see/understand first hand the importance of keeping their cars sensibly parked at all times. It was also agreed that the findings of this run would be reported in the next newsletter to aid increasing resident's awareness.

What Residents Can Do To Help:

- Report all crime, present and post using 999 or the non-emergency number above as necessary.
- Set up a **Key Group** - A discussion group that represents local residents and feeds key issues into the **Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)**. The latter is made up of local officials, councillors and Youth Workers etc. who progress and action issues raised through the Key.
- Set up a **Neighbourhood Watch** this is proven to be the one of most effective protection for any neighbourhood. It was suggested that we invite Helen Sharratt to present at one of the next group meetings.

Sub Committee Updates:

Howard Leonard - Completion of works (roads/house snagging etc)

Update provided in Howard's absence:

Public Areas - While no further information has been given to Howard and Mark from residents, they are actively compiling a report of problem areas and plotting these on to a map of Westcroft. This will be ready to present by the next meeting.

Snagging Lists - Residents were encouraged to contact Howard if they are having problems getting their snagging issues completed so as he could collate each builder's list together to make more of an impact.

Mandy Cranston - Youth Issues

Update provided in Mandy's absence:

Mandy has been in contact with the local Youth Workers but due to illness has not been, and will not be able to proceed on this for at least one month.

Ruth Tudhope – Social

Due to lack of marketing and funding, we will keep things small and simple to start with. It is felt that this area is one which will grow by word of mouth with the success of smaller events throughout the WRA.

Ongoing discussions are taking place with the Manager of the Nut and Squirrel to allow residents children to attend with responsible adults.

The first event is planned for Easter time and will be a quiz which will include all age ranges.

AOB:

- **Phyllis Starky** - It was suggested that we invite Dr Phyllis Starky, MP for Milton Keynes South West to one of the meetings to understand her role in the community.
- **West Flank Association** - Will be hosting an event on 17th March
- **Road Widths** - Ongoing from the discussion of the need to park on the road, it was discussed whether the roads had actually been built narrower than specified in the original plans. It was suggested that we contact the local Highways Engineer for advice on this matter.
- **Dog Bins** - It was requested that we look into the installation and maintenance of Dog Bins around weir, half way down Exbury Lane. Martin Snell, Borough Councillor advised that he would look into the availability of funding for this.

Time/Date of next meeting:

19:30 - Wednesday, 21st March 2007

Meeting close:

21:30