

West Cornforth Residents Association
Notes of General Meeting held 10th October 2005 7pm

Present : E. Chalk, J. Chalk, D Harrington, J. Harrington, T. Wells, J. Pennick, S. Pennick, M. Pennick, S Eltringham, I Eltringham, I Barton, R Barton, C Lindsay.

S. Dodsworth (SBC)
Ian Brown (SBC)
Sgt Kelvin Vincent (Police)

Apologies: N. Tate, S. Norman

Minutes discussed and agreed on from the previous meeting.

Matters arising

SBC Selective Licensing - Ian Brown of Neighbourhood Services, SBC attended meeting to discuss the proposed selective licensing of Private Landlords in Sedgefield Borough. He talked at length regarding this and explained that it isn't automatic that this will happen in West Cornforth. There is a lot of legislation yet to come into force but again the local authorities are not bound over to accept the "Discretionary Powers" that will give them some level of control over Private Landlords.

There are possibilities that if in place this legislation will enable SBC to prosecute Private Landlords, have housing benefits suspended and even take control over the property/ies if they do not adhere to their responsibilities.

What appears to be required is that the Council will focus on certain areas with low housing demand and/or areas suffering anti-social behaviour.

Mr Brown suggested we as a Residents Association write to him expressing our concerns etc and requesting that certain areas of the village be part of the defined area they will work with. They in turn will consult all people concerned including the Police before making any decisions. We thanked Mr Brown for his input and he offered his full assistance for the future.

Roads - The state of the roads to the front of Verdun Tce and the rear of Coronation Tce and Verdun Terrace was discussed again as DCC and SBC are still denying ownership and responsibility. Sgt Vincent suggested we write to DCC under the Freedom of Information Act and request all information pertaining to the roads etc. He also mentioned that he was looking into speed controls on Station Road.

SBC Visit - Arrangements were made for Cllr Alan Hodgson and other SBC representatives to meet up with some of the Resident's Association for a 'walkabout' of the areas of concern on 20th October at 2pm.

Sgt Vincent suggested a future visit from the Beat Officer and also Helen Stewart who is the new Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for the area. He also handed out leaflets with contact telephone numbers of the Police and also Neighbourhood Watch stickers.

Chilton CCTV Visit - The trip to the CCTV control room at Chilton depot was agreed to have been a worthwhile visit.

Streets Ahead - The Chair mentioned the article he was writing for 'Streets Ahead' magazine which is due out in December. He asked that if anyone had any articles to submit, they should let him know a.s.a.p.

Sedgefield Residents Forum - Dave Harrington attended this and was made very welcome - various housing issues had been discussed and the minutes from this meeting were circulated.

Miners Pit Wheel Monument - Photos of the proposed Miners Pit Wheel Monument were circulated; the steel tubs have been paid for by The Royal Order of Buffs.

Bank Account - should be up and running now.

Next meeting(s)

The next Meeting will be Monday 14th November at 7p.m.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm