

FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE – MINUTES OF MEETING 9TH MARCH 2006

Present: Nita Pearson, Pam Spence, Lorraine Whitehurst, Sarah Morgan, Sandie and Tony Newton, Margaret Smith, Amanda and Marshall Tattersall, John Carr, Peter and Jenny Walker, Judith Appleyard, Tricia and Paul Banham, Dave Everitt, Ray Neal, Colin Perrett, Janet Stevenson, Jan Cufflin, Karon and John Smith, Bernard Lee, Ian Smith, Niels Nielsen, Ray Woodward, Pam Clayfield, Andy Vaughan, Ian Holland.

Apologies: Rod Evans, Rowena Summers, David Stevenson, Pam Porter, Brenda Simpson, Jo Johnson.

Minutes of last meeting: No issues arising.

Guest Speaker – Andy Vaughan – Director of Environment – NWLDC

The environmental department of the council is divided into 3 sections.

- 1) Street Management; inc. cleansing, refuse, parking, markets, grounds maintenance & public toilets.
- 2) Planning & Development; inc. planning policy and applications, building control etc.
- 3) Environmental Protection; inc. food, health and safety, licensing etc.

The corporate priorities of the environmental directorate are:

- a) to improve Streetscene, litter and quality of life issues
- b) Recycling and dealing with waste and landfill
- c) Revitalising Coalville and Ashby town centres

What they are planning:

At present there is no meaningful capacity in the district for enforcement against fly-tipping, litter and dog-fouling. Aim to formulate a robust enforcement regime, including naming and shaming. They will also focus on environmental campaigning – on raising the profile and challenging peoples behaviour. They want to improve the speed of response to clearing away rubbish.

There are 3 **Street Environment Managers** for the district, who will develop ward action plans. They will attend community meetings such as ours to engage with people and make sure that their views are registered.

Recycling – the aim is to increase access to recycling facilities to 100%.

As far as the revitalisation of Coalville goes, they will be looking at the mix of available units for businesses to come into the area.

John Carr commented that in recent years only charity shops and estate agents had come into Coalville. He also believes that the introduction of parking charges has had an adverse affect on Coalville's trade. Andy Vaughan believes that we have a lot of shops selling the same thing. He also believes that the market needs nurturing if it is to continue despite the national trade that such markets are declining. He commented also that the council make no money from the parking charges as it pays for the maintenance of the car parks.

Nita raised the issue of overflowing bins. Bernard reiterated his suggestion of having large wheelie bins chained up to prevent them being stolen. Andy replied that there was no problem with us having

bins if we wanted them and that it is a good idea to link in with refuse collection. John Smith mentioned that the bins are a fire hazard and someone else suggested fire resistant bins. Dave Everitt feels that there needs to be a response from the council, to the public that report wrong doings. Do we know that the complaints are getting to the right departments?

Peter Walker asked if the council is going to take action against dumping on private property. Is it possible for them to clear it up and then take action against the land-owners afterwards? Andy Vaughan replied that it is always the responsibility of the Street Environment Manager to deal with the problem of private or public land if it affects the public.

Sandie asked if people had to pay to have stolen wheelie bins replaced as Judith Appleyard has been told that she must pay £38 for hers and the pensioner next door £18. Andy gave his assurance that the bins will be replaced at no charge if he is e-mailed with the addresses of those affected. Andy requested that the major issues covered tonight and any other questions arising be e-mailed to him to deal with.

P.C. Ian Holland

There cannot be a police presence in Thringstone at all times and he relies upon people giving information about goings-on although he accepts that there is fear of reprisal. He agrees with naming and shaming offenders and threatening them with eviction. He will be working on the names that he has already got. Sometimes the police know who the offenders are but do not have proof and therefore need our help. Ray Neal raised the concern about reprisals against Friends of Thringstone projects if we seen to be telling tales.

Nita asked that John Carr be kept informed of any crimes in his neighbourhood watch area and that any others are reported to her.

Lynn Hughes is our **Community Safety Officer** and she is keen to meet with Nita and John.

We have a new **Community Support Officer** for the area – **Rachel Forester**.

One of the first things that the police will try to look at is the problem with motorcycles and will try to prosecute. They would also like to find some land that can be used by genuine bikers.

The lighting of fires is also a big concern at the moment. Ian believes that one of the reasons for the increase in crime in the area at the moment is his absence since November.

Treasury Update

£250 has been spent at Staunton Harold on plants for Drury Lane. We have tonight taken £18 for the raffle and £7 in membership fees. There will be a full update when Pam returns from holiday.

Web Update

John has continued to do a great job with the web site and has added some links as well as David Taylor' telephone number. We are also now linked to the Leicestershire Villages web-site and John is going to put our meeting dates in their events diary. He has created a quicker http address to our site <http://thringstone.hopto.org>

John has produced membership cards for each member. These will all be given out by the end of the next meeting. Also some A5 flyers that we can hand out to people at various events.

Councillors 5 minutes

Ray Woodward has tried to contact Mrs Mardej again but had no luck. We need to know what she is planning to do. Does she want to apply for planning permission?

Pam Clayfield updated us on the house on The Green; the improvements will be going ahead and will go to court if the owner doesn't do what he is supposed to.

Church walls; Pam is collating documentary evidence to build a case for the district planning section to resolve this problem, as it could be dangerous.

Ray Woodward has managed to get a large boulder placed at the entrance to Drury Lane to prevent vehicular access. He had a meeting with Andy Reed at Whitwick quarry and this was carried out almost immediately. Ray would like a letter of thanks to go to Andy Reed and Nits formally thanked Ray for all his effort, on behalf of the group. Ray has also spoken to Andy Reed about possible further assistance in the form of gravel. The quarry may be able to help us with this if we take the request to the next liaison group meeting.

Drury Lane Project

We can apply for Heritage Lottery Funding for this. We are looking at having bat and bird boxes. Geoff at CVS can supply these at a good price. Nita has also asked him to do a rustic looking sign for Drury Lane. She has e-mailed Jacky Sykes, who is responsible for the signage in Thringstone to ask about signs for Drury Lane, Bauble Yard and Entrance to the National Forest. Are we to provide them or will they? We are looking to the tourist trade in the future and need to get more people using the facilities so that we don't lose anymore businesses from the village.

Nita asked Ray Neal what plants we still need for the rockery. We have had a quote for Heathers, Laurels, Silver Birch, Cowslips and Cornus. We are also looking at path M97 and Lily Bank area.

Friends of Grace Dieu update

Pam Spence would like to see a mass at the opening. It will be a 2 day event with entertainment and catering and hopefully parking on Mr Breams land if he gives his permission. They are expecting an attendance of around 2000 people. For the 2nd day Nita and Pam are going to arrange a mass that will suit any faith and are trying to arrange a choir. Pam thinks she has found an Augustinian priest in Birmingham. Nita stressed that she is not doing this as a representative of Friends of Thringstone but as a committee member of Friends of Grace Dieu.

Neighbourhood Watch update

News is circulated by John Carr as it happens. If you have friends who are not on-line, please pass the information on to them.

Planning Issues

Rear of 67 Hensons Lane – plans are being held in abeyance because of objections. Also trying to find out who has bought Mrs Maloney's bungalow. Number 109 Hensons Lane has been sold with planning consent.

Next Newsletter

We need to start working on the Spring newsletter. Janet Stevenson can do 400 copies but we need volunteers to produce the rest and to deliver them. Pam Clayfield has offered to deliver some.

AOB

Geoff Walker has produced a **calendar** for 2007 for Thringstone and Grace Dieu and wants to know if we would like to take it on as ours. He is going to come along and show it to us. This could be a good means of publicity.

Environ day at the Community Centre on May 7th. This will be a fun event aimed at increasing environmental awareness. There will be demonstrations, book sales, leaflets, children's activities, refreshments etc. We could have a stall selling things to raise funds (**ideas please**). Pam Clayfield \ Ray Neal \ Ray Woodward \ Sarah Morgan and Jan Cufflin all volunteered to help out.

History: Rowena and Ray Woodward went to visit the Whitwick Historical Society. They are going to put together some information on the area, including Ray's Ramblings.

CVS Dial-a-Ride Bus service 23 from Whitwick and Thringstone to Tesco and Morrisons will be free for people with mobility problems.

Pantomime Society is thinking about including us in their collections.

Parking in Springfield – the next print of the nature leaflet will remove the reference.
Date of next Friends of Grace Dieu meeting is 10\4\06 at the Council Offices.

Date of next meeting

13th April 2006 at 6.45 pm at the Community Centre.