

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THRINGSTONE MEETING 13TH APRIL 2006

Present: Nita Pearson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Rowena Summers, Chris Mellor, Pam Clayfield, Ian Holland, Lynne Hughes, Rachel Forster, Ray Neal, Sarah Morgan, Jane and Geoff Wilson, Bernard Lee, John Carr, Pam Porter, Janet and David Stevenson, Debbie and Ian Wood, Colin Perrett, Warren Hardy, Jo Johnson, Colin Porter.

Apologies:

Sandie and Tony Newton, Dave Everett, Pam Spence, Geoff Walker, John and Karon Smith, Judith Appleyard, Denny Fosiak, Amanda Tatersall

Minutes of last meeting:

109 Hensons Lane should have read Loughborough Road. Andy Vaughan mentioned the positioning of dog mess bins on the Sustrans Trail.

Guest Speaker: Lynne Hughes

Community Safety Officer for NWLDC. (Also P.C. Ian Holland and Rachel Forster)

Lynne has only been in post for 3 months and is still learning about the area. She is keen to visit and speak to local residents to find out what their issues are. The council now have a legal requirement to establish a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy in place between police and council. This strategy is now in its second year and has learned from the first year what the priorities need to be for the second year. Main objectives are concerned with alcohol, drugs and crime. She explained that the strategy is a living document and hence things change all the time and there is a certain amount of flexibility re: the things that can be covered. She aims to be responsive to issues and accountable to local residents.

Aim is to deliver the strategy through a multi-agency partnership to include local authorities \ police \ drug and alcohol agencies \ victim support and local people.

There are themed management groups specialising in various areas.

Communication is vitally important. Lynne believes we should share success stories from different areas and learn from them what works.

Are trying to get ASBOs for bikers who ride their motorbikes in the woods – hopefully 2 or 3 to start to set an example but to do this they need hard evidence. Relevant information can be passed to Lynne, Ian or Rachel. Ray Neal asked if it was acceptable to take photographs as evidence and Ian Holland said that it was good for identification purposes. However one has to be careful taking photographs of children. Ian warned against going out looking for problems and advised to think safety at all times. Lynne has been liaising with a councillor in another area where they are trying to get landowners to take responsibility. Pam Porter said that we do not want to upset the Squire as he is kind to let us use his land and we dont want to run the risk of losing our access to it.

Ray Neal suggested having a site for the bikers but Lynn pointed out that the council would run the risk of being sued in the event of injury on a council site.

Ray asked about legislation in place to use against the bikers. Ian mentioned insurance and the fact that a bike can be confiscated if seen twice being ridden on common land.

David Stevenson asked whether Lynne got plenty of support from her boss. She replied that he does speak up for her if necessary and that she also gets a lot of support from colleagues in other council departments. She also feels that she gets a lot of support from the police.

Lynne is also going to be involved in the 'Love N.W. Leicestershire' campaign which will last for 100 days starting on 6th June. This will involve different themed weeks concerned with taking pride in the area and environmental issues.

Ian Holland

In the last 28 days in Thringstone there has been 10 instances of damage to motor vehicles \ 5 damages to dwellings \ 2 thefts \ 2 thefts from motor vehicles \ 2 assaults. He reminded people to be careful to make sure their sheds were secure or did not contain valuables. The graffiti case is still going to court and the motorbikes issue is ongoing as are the fires in the woods. Please keep ringing in and reporting these issues.

Judith Appleyard wanted it noting that she was very pleased that she was e-mailed by Andy Vaughan about the theft of her bin and that she had her money refunded.

Rachel Forster

Community Support Officer covering Whitwick and Thringstone. This is a civilian post and therefore she has limited powers. She is the eyes and ears of the police. 90% of her time is spent on foot so that she is visible and approachable. She can issue parking tickets and litter fines. Leave a voicemail message for her on 6643.

Treasury Update

The stand for the Picnic in the Park cost £18, £9 of which will come back from the Friends of Grace Dieu. £20 is due to come from Kirsty Dandy for the advert in the newsletter. £43.64 was spent on printing newsletters. A lady called Denny Fosiak has expressed an interest in helping with future newsletters by either having them printed for us or giving us £200 a year toward the cost.

Web Report

John Smith has found us 250Mb of real webspace for free rather than the MSN space we have at the moment, so now we can have a fully interactive site with questionnaires, movies, sounds, panoramic photos etc. He just needs some time to set this up. He is trying to think of some iconic images that represent Thringstone to use on the website and as a FOT logo such as the Millennium stone, Rusty Mary, Thringstone House, Thringstone Parish church, Grace Dieu. He would welcome other suggestions. Nita suggested that maybe someone would like to take a picture of the viaduct in the woods as it is quite spectacular.

Councillors' 5 Minutes

Pam Clayfield spoke about the Sustainable Communities Bill which is concerned with ghost town Britain \ shops closing \ jobs decreasing etc. Pam feels that FOT are trying to do many things that this campaign is trying to put forward – promotion of local services \ protection of the environment \ prevention of social exclusion. We are in a perfect geographical position to take advantage of this Bill. www.localworks.org. She introduced Warren who is a Thringstone Youth Councillor and whose aim is to get things done for youth in the area. He suggested that any youth issues be e-mailed to him. (Unfortunately he did not leave his e-mail address with me so if anyone has it?)

Picnic in the Park \ Compost Day stall \ Open Gardens idea \ What to sell \ Tables

There have been several volunteers to help man the stall at the Composting Event on 7th May at the Community Centre and we need to finalise what we are going to be selling. Lucinda Mason from the organisers of the event will provide us with a table.

Also the Picnic in the Park on 18th June. The Community Centre will provide us with one table.. village. Bric a Brac \ books \ plants etc. **Also need volunteers to man the stall.** Nita cant as she is already working there. Bernard \ Ray Neal \ Pam Porter and Mandy Tattersall are all possibles. FOGD will be selling their Ghost Book at the Picnic in the Park.

Amanda Tattersall has suggested an Open Gardens day if enough people are interested and also potting up plants either to sell or to improve the village. We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in opening up their gardens or who has ideas \ offers of things to sell.

Drury Lane Project

Nita has had a meeting with Steve Daniels from the County Council and he is now investigating a bollard at the top of the lane and a kissing gate at the bottom and whether we can get funding for the hardcore surface. The latter is unlikely and would take at least 9 months to get sorted. In the meantime he has taken the landowners details and will contact her.

Friends of Grace Dieu Update

Had a good meeting and are on target for the opening. Just need to sort out a few things such as the walkway \ strimming \ parking attendants etc. Parking will now be on cricket pitch and at The Bulls Head. There may be a paranormal event or ghost walk on the Saturday night. Website is now available www.xervia.info/grace and John is to look into whether a link to our site and vice versa is ok. Their next meeting is 25th April and there was a site meeting Easter Monday. St. John are to be asked to attend as are Thringstone Scouts to help with litter on Saturday night. The opening procession will leave Grace Dieu School with a procession of school children along with a band and dignitaries. Possible events still to be confirmed for Saturday are balloon race \ Ice Cream van \ Maypole \ Face painting \ dancing \ model helicopter display \ Carillon radio \ Archery demonstration \ Clown \ Falconry display. On Sunday there will just be a church service. Thringstone choir are lined up and possibly a monk from Mt. St Bernards and Rev Alison Prince from Belton. Organist, choir master and flowers are sorted and service agreed. Will be using a tent to cover instead of rain and suggesting in proramme that people bring their own chair and umbrella. Thringstone Cricket Club are helping with the provision of tables and some chairs for the open event.

A5 Publicity Leaflets.

Anyone welcome to take them to issue.

Neighbourhood Watch Update

Not a lot happening at the moment and very few incidents have been reported by police. Theft of dustbins has now almost stopped. Still some fires in the woods. A suggestion was made to Lynne Hughes to close the jitty. A new law came out on 1st April which gives county council authority to close access if it is contributing to anti-social behaviour.

Planning Issues

Next to 111 Loughborough Road 3 houses and 1 bungalow are being built. David Stevenson asked what the group was doing with regard to future planning applications. Nita pointed out that she reads lamp-posts and is usually aware of any in the area. David proposed that we make sure someone looks at these applications so that we can object if necessary. Nita said that the councillors will bring these to our attention. Rod Evans and Ray Woodward are both on the planning committee and members of our group.

Newsletters

We have made good progress with getting these delivered but not all finished yet. If anyone can think of anywhere else to do we have some left.

AOB

Geoff Walker's Calendar. We saw a copy and think he has done a great job with this and were asked if members had any prints they might like to include. Cost to us is £3.15 and it has been suggested we sell it for £5.

House on the Green. The windows still need finishing and the case may yet go to court.

Grace Dieu Cricket Club are actively looking for members and their groundsperson Barry Thomas has been invited to attend our next meeting.

A local artist called **Fred Griffin** has told Pam Porter that he is interested in having some of his work featured on our website and also that he would be willing to do our artwork for us in the future. It was also suggested that the calendar could potentially have some of Fred's artwork on it.

History. Rowena is still trying to get information on the history of the village to go with Rays Ramblings so that we can do a leaflet if we ever get any funding.

Signage. We still do not have Gateway to National Forest, Bauble Yard and Drury Lane signs. Ray Gee has offered to have the Bauble Yard sign on his property.

Publicity. We have been featured in The Coalville Echo 22\03\06 and also Village Voice.

Litter Pick. A date has been set for the next Litter Pick. Sunday 14th May. Meet on The Green at 10.00 am. Ray Woodward is sorting out sticks. **Volunteers Please.**

Date of next meeting: 18th May 2206 at The Fox, Main Street Thringstone 6.45 pm start. Speaker will be Goff Lewis who is Heritage Officer from NWLDC.