

Wilford Community Group

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 18th January 2010 at Wilford Social and Bowls Club

Present: Stephanie Taylor (ST) Chair
Roger Steel (RS) Vice Chair
Sheila Atherton (SA) Treasurer
Chris Allsopp (CA)
Josie Foster (JF)
Brian Hardy (BH)
Bill Roughton (BR)
Frank Wakelin (FW)

Elaine Stenson (ES) Neighbourhood Action Officer
PCSO Nathan Wright
Rowena Holland Parliamentary Candidate for Nottingham South

Residents: Approximately 30 Residents

Invited Guests: Andrew Price and Wilford Library Staff

Action

1 Apologies

Dave Boulton

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the November Meeting

2 **ST welcomed guests and visitors and opened the meeting** by inviting Andrew Price to give an outline of the details leading up to the imminent closure of Wilford Library.

Originally the aim over the past two years has been to find a means to improve the library. Unfortunately five libraries were being considered for closure or Community Transfer. Wilford Library is in a very poor condition and Ian Malcolm has tried hard to keep the library functional. Wilford Library has been offered to the Community for £10 as a Community Purchase.

Due to the age and condition of the library AP expressed his personal doubts whether transfer of the library to the community would work in this situation. The Council are not prepared to spend any money on refurbishing the Library, as Wilford is not seen as having enough deprivation to warrant a library.

Many points were raised by residents with regard to the elderly population in Wilford who are not able to travel far and appreciate the short walk to a local library to change their books. Libraries are an important educational value as children are able to visit with their parents from a very early age and choose books. If the library closed access to libraries can only be accessed by car or bus and in a green environment not to be encouraged.

The library Manager told the meeting that they have provided reading sessions for tots, Brownies, Rainbows, a book group, computer training giving tuition in family history sessions and learning to email. The question was asked could an untrained volunteer group provide these services?

BH stated that the WCG has battled for several years for a bigger, better library, even if combined with say a Doctors' Surgery or Post Office. Could 106 money be used? Could it be used for leisure? AP replied "not at this moment in time"

ST mentioned we now had two huge new schools, new housing and that Compton Acres also used this library. BH said we are not allowed to use figures related to usage by residents of the schools or Compton Acres as these are not in the City.

Although Wilford Library was the smallest in the City it ranked 12th out of 18 in terms of number of book issues.

The Library Manager mentioned that the staff were not told about the closure until a member of the WCG informed them

RS said the building was effectively at the end of its life and if the community were to take up the offer of purchase the implication of funding a new building would have to be carefully looked into. If we went for land ownership we could maybe have a Post Office staffed by an employee, rather than home owner.

AP told the meeting a new library would cost approx £3 million. We should ask Councillor Trimble for a 2 year reprieve to try and raise half the required money.

There are over 8,000 grant making trusts and very high on the list is libraries, if we could access that money it would be a good basis to begin. Get a commitment from Cllr Trimble then see if 106 money is assigned to us for new library. Look at the feasibility of using that land perhaps shared with a third party (ie Post Office).

RS thought it was like a “poison chalice” – there is no chance of the council pulling down library and building a new one – the only way forward is for us to try.

The offer to us of buying the library for £10 - does this include the council demolishing the library and the land it stands on?

AP asked if someone could come along and explain to us what Asset Transfer is all about?

A visitor asked if we could approach the Lottery Fund?

ST asked if the Post Office would be interested?

Beechdale Library formed a committee 18 months ago but is now closing.

SA asked if it would be worth talking to Beechdale to learn from their ‘failure’.

Rowena Holland could help here with contacts.

Five libraries are closing and all the staff will not be reallocated enabling the council to save a lot of money.

A visitor asked how would we fund staff and a new library building?

Would a local builder build it and the council continue to run it?

BH: We would want a bigger building and more convenient hours.

Visitor – we need a “White Knight” – Councillor Ian Malcolm may have funding, so keep him in the loop as a useful connection or White Knight”.

ST bought the discussion to a close saying a small group would be meeting Cllr Trimble on Thursday 21st January at the Bowling Club at 7.30 pm and would like a volunteer from the residents to join the meeting. Maureen Godfrey agreed to attend. ST said she would email all those who left their address and for others it would be posted on the official www.thisiswilford.org.uk web site and on the Notice Boards including the Library.

The agenda would run as follows:

1. Reprieve request
2. Use of 106 money
3. Timescales
4. Asset Money

ST asked people to leave contact details if they want to help or be kept informed.

The visitors were invited to remain for the Committee Meeting; however, most of the visitors chose to leave after giving their details.

3 Review Outstanding Actions

i) **LINK Group** - BH has not heard from the LINK group.

ii) **Footpath by allotments** – John Lee has informed us that work will commence on 25th January. Allotment owners will be able to walk to their gardens but vehicular access will be restricted.

ST

iii) **Cycling on Bee Bank** – A practical solution is needed. 'No Cycling' signs are not working. Steve O'Sullivan has responsibility for the area and has conducted a survey and has attended an Enabled Action Meeting – ES said she would email WCG the results of the meeting.

iv) Nottingham in Bloom: the award certificate is still not on the Notice Boards – ST will organise.

v) **AOB – Litter** – The council has surveyed the area on Wilford Lane and do not think there is a problem.

Dog fouling is a problem in Wilford and dog owners are now going to be fined for leaving dog faeces on the ground. Information will be placed on our notice boards. A waste bin will be placed on the bank side at the top of Bell Lane.

V1) **Crime Update:** January – December crime figures are down in Wilford and Silverdale. There was a robbery at the Co-op at the weekend bringing the total to 4 robberies in 6 months. Crime figures are published on the web site and PCSO Nathan Wright mentioned that anti-social behaviour is not classed as a crime.

4 Youth Provision

SA reported on the meeting she had attended that day with DA in relation to Silverdale, Wilford.

A proposed mapping exercise of Youth Services and Family Services in the area with DA taking a lead by bringing along some friends. They will be meeting at the Church Hall on the 2nd and 9th February together with Groundworks Outreach and Angela Mills.

There will be Graphic Design Work to make people aware of what is available.

Links with Iremongers Pond in relation to the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

Green Lane Youth Centre is a centre of excellence.

DA would like to focus on what can be done to develop Ruddington Lane Park and get the youth involved

AP suggested that the University Campus is another venue that could be used and travelling to events such as rock climbing.

The Sea Scouts have a 17 seater mini bus, contact Karen Gregg to see if it could be utilised.

5 Any Other Business

(a) BR had been approached by a teacher at Bluecoat about a 3 day project for 10 to 15 year olds and could we think of something they could work on in Wilford.

There was not enough litter around the pond to keep them organised for 3 days.

RS suggested litter picking along the banks of the Trent where litter is trapped from Bell Lane to Clifton Bridge. They could also be involved with making Bird and Bat Boxes.

(b) BH talked about the Canada Geese causing a problem with their droppings especially now that the boardwalk has been opened up near the Emmanuel School and the birds are now encroaching on to the Moderns Rugby pitch and fields leaving the players in a not very sanitary condition.

Action

(c) DA, as part of his GCSE's, is taking Citizenship as an exam. He and other students taking the same exam would like to run a project 'Know your Neighbour' in the form of a 'Community Get Together' on Sunday June 13th. This will be a one day event at Iremongers Pond. BR will arrange to have the grass cut. DA will approach Dominic Heale and Radio Nottingham about publicity and is going to approach the Church about funding.

(d) The Suspension Bridge is due to open at the end of January 2010.

ES

(e) ES talked about an Advice Centre at the Bowls Club for local residents to have Advice on Finance, Debt, Benefits and any other financial aspects. A lot of benefits are under claimed. Clare Ashton, Chair Person of Advice Centre has written to Robert Maxwell and they will be liaising on Wednesday afternoon at the Bowls and Social Club to see if they are suitable premises in regard to private interviews. Would the WCG advertise about the pilot scheme?

ES

(f) The wall in Cribb Close has not been rebuilt. The intention was to have it rebuilt by the Learning and Skills Council. Don Bulmer is involved and AP is trying to get it underway.

(g) ES asked if we would advertise an environmental project for the 16-25 year olds called SPROUT which stands for Supporting Young People's Environmental Projects in Nottingham. To find out more go to www.sproutnottingham.org.uk

(h) ES asked if we would put Community Clean Up on the next Agenda

6 The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

7 **Date of next WCG Meeting Monday 15th February 2010 at 7.30 pm at Wilford Social and Bowls Club.**