

Minutes of crossgate partnership meeting, 25.01.10

1. Present: Matthew Bell, Nigel Martin, Richard Fong, Odile Fong, Jeff Young, Colin Green, Grenville Holland, David Ramsden, Paul Harwood, Jan Harwood, Janie Bickersteth, Jackie Litherland, Jean Rogers, Roger Cornwell, Gemma Charlton

2. Apologies: Tony Veitch, Carole Reeves, Desmond and Ann Evans, Anji Rae, Simon James, David Couling, Simon James

3. Chair: Roger Cornwell was nominated Chair for this meeting

4. Minutes of last meeting – a correct record

5. Matters Arising Jean Rogers reported that minutes can be viewed at www.crossgate.durhamcity.org.uk. Grenville reported that Michael Hurlow is no longer the officer at County Hall to report to – still not sure who we should be talking to. Nigel not able to report on money for Wharton Park. Grenville: money that was ring-fenced no longer so; seems to have got lost into a common pot. Nigel reported that one AAP identified Wharton Park as somewhere to consider funding. ACTION: next meeting - Nigel to report back, other residents' groups to be invited to next meeting for this discussion.

Difficulty in contacting Council officers – to be reported later in meeting

Implementing contact with AAP's – next city centre meeting (of residents' associations and AAP's) 3 March, 2-4pm, Town Hall. Roger – need to discuss what we want to put into this meeting, so need to talk about this. ACTION: to discuss AAP/residents' assoc. involvement in next meeting

6. Neighbourhood Issues

Report from warden very quiet over Christmas. Chose small area (back Lawson Terrace, Holly, Mistletoe and Laburnum) to start fining for bin left out, putting rubbish in bins etc – 3 month period – great improvement but now been told to stop this work. Byland Lodge trees have been cut. Jackie thanked Gemma for her work in getting green boxes removed.

Council response to snow and ice Grenville commented that lines of command at County Hall are now so long that we have no one to talk to any more. Jean commented how difficult it was to get information during cold period. Jackie asked – where were the snow ploughs? Matthew asked – why was County Hall so well cleared yet nowhere else was snow ploughed or cleared? Roger asked: *What can be done so this doesn't happen again?* Nigel reported that Council had £1m over two years to spend on this kind of situation – prioritised clearing shopping streets. Mini snow ploughs have been ordered but not delivered in time for last cold period. Colin made point that this is not a one-off situation; every year, pavements are not cleared. Jan commented that non-car owners are discriminated against – roads were cleared to shopping centres, not for people shopping in the city. Jackie concerned that this county council doesn't know how to run the City. Gemma asked whether we needed more salt bins. Grenville reported that identified places for new salt bins. Roger: What lessons have the Council learnt from this

recent cold period and what changes will it be making? Nigel: after cold period in 2008, Council did look at priority areas for gritting etc. He thinks there will be another scrutiny group on this issue. Matthew commented that inner city streets were not cleared – this will impact on economic viability of city shops.

Contact Gemma if any problems: gemma.charlton@durham.gov.uk 07970519338

7. Feedback

Balanced and sustainable communities Jan reported back on last meeting with R.B-W – same issues as usual: To Let signs, Hope Estates complaints, studentification of city centre, University – yes, there will be growth, but not undergrads, more postgrads., government announcement about student balance of housing in cities. ACTION: secretary to write to Council to urge them to implement new policies on student/residents balance.

Meeting with head of planning No one attended ACTION: Jackie asked if Carole would report back on this. Colin reported that we have asked Stuart Timmiss to come to a meeting of the CCP – (next one?)

Arts Centre no one present to report back. Jackie reported that she recently met someone who says that Allington House is a success – making a profit, with good trustees and the place is in good health. Roger: lessons from this – mustn't get a half baked affair for new arts centre which takes away from work of Allington House. Roger urged people to become a member (£10 a year). Jackie responded by saying that we mustn't be afraid to expand artistic endeavours in the city – more sites draw in new people and expanded artistic life (eg Ouseburn Centre) New arts centre needs to compliment what already exists. Jan asked whether students are involved in creative activities. Jackie believes there is a great need for a place to attract artists.

Town Council Nigel reported that this is on hold until boundary commission finalised. Expected final divisions end Feb. Roger thinks Town Council is essential. Nigel thinks we should start agitating soon. Colin: are we willing to pay the additional tax? – need to be prepared for this. Nigel: need to know what we want the Town Council to do. ACTION: put on agenda for next month

Market Place Government office West Midlands gave permission to move statues. Two things to stop it: The City of Durham Trust taking legal advice on decisions, Trust might go to judicial review. Second – if want to obstruct a highway (where horse is to be positioned), need particular authorisation. If there are objections to this, could hold up the process. Delaying might mean that project is axed.

8. Use of CCP Funds/Spending Plans

£3000 in funds. Colin asked for group to consider how we could spend this – or match it to other projects. Environmental improvements? Supporting existing community projects? Dick suggested a newsletter to try and encourage more people to get involved. Collaboration with King's Church? Improvement of allotments, Wharton Park. Grenville made point that if we don't spend it, we won't get more. ACTION: come with ideas for next meeting – small grants £500, projects that will benefit the community. Colin asked for this to be put on website. Nigel suggested that he could look to match fund projects. Jean to liaise with Colin and Nigel about what to put on website.

9. AOB

Council Tax question from Jan – re student housing and re-imburement to councils. Nigel reported Councils re-imbursed equivalent banding. No action required. Dick – reporting potholes – send email to Council – HAL (Highways Action Line) hal@durham.gov.uk

10. Date of next meeting

Monday 22 Feb