

CROSSGATE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
Minutes of the meeting on Monday 3rd October 2011.
7.30 pm in Waddington Street Church Hall

1. Attendance: Lesley Aers, Goshka Bialek, Desmond and Ann Evans, Halusia Good, John Halliday, Jan Harwood, Nigel Martin, Ros Priestley, Carole Reeves, Jean Rogers, Jane Selden, David Wood, Jeff Young.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Mike Costello, Roger Cornwell, Dick and Odile Fong.
3. Carole Reeves was confirmed as Chair for the meeting and Ann Evans agreed to take the Minutes.

Items 4 and 5 were taken in reverse order.

5. PCSOs Tim Thompson and Paul Coburn were at the meeting to introduce a revised organisation for local policing in Durham City. The City Centre Beat is now responsible for policing the area around the centre. Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings already existed for outlying areas and it had been decided to use local groups (such as the CCP) to form a PACT for the viaduct area. The CCP is invited to discuss priorities for policing and to communicate them to the Beat Team through Paul Coburn. Paul announced that there would be high profile policing for our area to coincide with the beginning of University term and address problems of crime and anti-social behaviour. Complaints about noise disturbance etc should be made to the University and also to the Beat team – Telephone 0345 60 60 365. All reports would be followed up.

4. The neighbourhood warden reported that, following the student move-out, the area had been quiet. The issue of wheelie bin collection was raised and it was agreed that the system does require bins to be returned to their collection points and not gathered outside a single property – as often happens at present. The issue of use of skate boards and roller blades was also raised. The warden and councillor Martin agreed to look into these issues.

6. John Ashby was prevented by illness from attending the meeting but had sent information to the Chair. An application to build three houses at Whitesmocks on Green belt land had been rejected but an appeal is pending. There would be further public sessions on the Local Development Plan:

October 17th at Framwellgate Moor Community Centre

October 18th at the Town Hall and at St John Church Hall

October 20th at Belmont Community Centre

All sessions from 4 to 8 pm.

There would be large scale maps and new and important changes, both to plans for housing development and the two proposed relief roads, would be explained at these meetings.

Nigel Martin stressed that the Local Development Plan is more important in planning decision than the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It was important to have a local definition of “Sustainable” to interpret the NPPF in local planning decisions.

7. The Minutes of the meeting on 6th September were accepted as a true record (Proposed by Ros Priestley).

8. The difficulty of finding out the dates, times and location of AAP meetings was discussed and it was suggested that these could be advertised in the Town Hall.

The application for funding for the upgrade of Wharton Park had successfully passed the first stage and the proposal has been awarded £40,000 to develop a scheme. These are likely to include a visitor centre, a café with toilets a performance area and a renovated play area. CCP members are urged to become friends of Wharton Park – contact John Murphy for this. There was uncertainty about the arrangement to replace the TIC; Nigel Martin agreed to look into this. Grenville Holland had looked into the question of traffic calming in Margery Lane. Proposals for speed bumps had been withdrawn at the request of the organisers of the annual Cycle Race but there would be a “table bump” across the entrance to Briardene.

9. A proposal by Banks Ltd for the development of Mount Oswald Golf Course had been exhibited earlier in the day and a number of CCP members had attended it. The proposal was for housing and student accommodation. Although an improvement on the previous plans there were concerns about the shortage of public facilities available both on and off the site. Also the meeting regretted the loss of valuable open and green space. Carole Reeves would arrange for a representative of Banks Ltd to attend a future meeting of the CCP.

10. Jane Selden raised the issue of a planning application (Ref 11/00683/CAC), to develop a 49-bed Care Home in the Neville Court Building and grounds. It was regretted that this has been derelict for some years but there are concerns from local residents, especially in Farnley Mount, about this project which does not address the problems of access for deliveries, parking for staff and visitors and outside space for residents. CCP members agreed to look at the plans and to pass on concerns to the Planning Committee. Nigel would ensure that the application would be considered by the full committee.

11. The next meeting would be on Tuesday 1st November 2011.