

Crossgate Community Partnership

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2012

1. **Present:** Carole Reeves (chair), Lesley Aers, Simon Squires, David Ramsden, Ruth Chambers, Dick Fong, Odile Fong, Tim Thompson (Durham Police), Kay Howarth (Durham Police), Councillor Nigel Martin.
2. Carole Reeves advised the meeting that Desmond Evans had died the previous Saturday. The meeting expressed its sadness at this news. A minute's silence was held in his memory.
3. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Roger Cornwell, Jean Rogers, Mike Costello, Simon James, Ann Evans and Councillor Grenville Holland.
4. **Report from police**
 - a. The meeting thanked the two members of the police who had attended. PC Thompson explained that our area falls into two police areas. There could be PACT¹ meetings for both areas. These can be monthly. The police would like to know of relevant issues and concerns relating to City and Framwellgate. Councillor Martin supported this proposal. The Nevilles's Cross meeting can be the same time as the Crossgate meeting. Dick Fong suggested that a university representative should be invited to the same meeting.
 - b. Various incidents were mentioned – e.g. brick through a window in May Street; urination in doorways in Crossgate. PC Howarth mentioned the bicycle that has a tracker on it. She reported that Christmas was very crime-free. Overall the houses in the area are now secure. There was an arrest following issues with cars on Western Hill.
 - c. PC Howarth detailed a few other incidents in the City, including a group of homeless people who are not sober. Ruth Chambers commented that it is not very pleasant passing these people when they are drunk. The number to ring in these situations is 101.
 - d. PCs Thompson and Howarth asked to be included in the emails about Crossgate meetings.
5. **AAP Report:** Nigel Martin referred to the plans for Wharton Park. An open meeting is to be held in the Town Hall (10am-12noon). Some grants are available to regenerate the City centre, and Durham has made a bid (voting will take place later this year.) The next AAP meeting is on Monday 6th April, at 6pm and probably in the Town Hall.
6. **Matters arising from the March minutes:**
 - a. **Rubbish and recycling:** Some letters have been received about rubbish collection and recycling in the city centre, but not in all streets. Some areas will have more communal bins.
 - b. **Allergate Park:** Nigel Martin referred to the “play strategy” which covers recreation facilities in the area.
 - c. **Tourist Information:** Carole Reeves is still awaiting information from Middleton-in-Teesdale.
 - d. **Treasurer:** Simon Squires is still the group's treasurer.
 - e. **Letting Boards:** The perception is that the situation on letting boards is better this year.
 - f. **Article 4 Direction:** Information from the old City Council is not available; the current councillors will pursue the situation as much as they can.

1 Police and Community Together.

7. **Councillor's report:** Nigel Martin said that it is helpful to use the app “looking local” (e.g. on potholes). He also referred to arrangements for setting up parish councils². Information would be received shortly and elections would be held in May 2013. Taxpayers are already paying for a mayor, because this office has continued . Nigel Martin believes that the cost of the mayoralty will diminish with a proper town council (covering, in fact, a smaller area than between 1974 and 2013).
8. **The next meeting** will be on Tuesday 1 May 2012.

² Town and Parish Councils are actually the same thing, except that the chair of a Town Council can be styled a mayor.