

WELLSWOOD WARD PARTNERSHIP

Meeting held on Monday November 20th 2006 at Living Waters Church at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr Peter Heathcote (**Chairman**), Tracey Cabache, P.C. Trevor Thomas, Councillor John Hanley, Councillor Beryl McPhail, Wendy Hancock, Richard Jackson (**Highways**), Richard Maddock (**Kay Elliot Architects**), Martin Baker, Kate Chappell, Paul Curd, J. Davies, Pamela Foster, Rosemary Harris, C.G. King, Dave Martin, Mr & Mrs McSporran, Sylvia Norris, J.D. O'Madden, Patricia Rockett, Margaret Spring, Trevor Stevens, Colin and Dana Sylvawood, Maggi Waugh, Elaine Wendell, Rev. Ian Williams

Apologies: Joan Mason Marten, Philip Wilson.

1) Welcome.

Mr Peter Heathcote, the retiring chairman, welcomed everyone present.

2) Traffic plans – Warberries

Richard Jackson from the Highways Department spoke about the concerns that had been expressed about the proposal parking restrictions. Parking in front of the church would be affected. If wedding and funerals were pre-warned, parking services would waive the restrictions, but they must be notified of numbers of limousines, hearses, etc, expected. Everything else would be subject to parking restrictions. A representative of St. Matthias Church wished to know if the restrictions would apply every day of the week as there appeared to be no provision for worshippers. It was confirmed that there would be no waiting at any time. There had been no consultation with St. Matthias. Rev. Williams confirmed he had the same problem at Living Waters. Chairman stated that this issue would be pursued. It was confirmed that the bus stop is being moved 17 meters down the road. Members of the public had asked for it to be moved as it was too close to the zebra crossing. It was pointed out that moving the stop would interrupt the line of the grass and chestnut trees. Planning needs to be consulted. Work is to start in higher Warberry Road widening the central crossing island, putting in curbs, and widening footway, which would make it safer for pedestrians. The main issue is the junction with the Babbacombe road.

A resident of Lisburne place complained about the parking on yellow lines at the end of the development and wished to know what power the residents have? He was informed by P.C. Thomas that he could phone Parking Services direct. It was a contentious point whether this inconvenience to the residents was a safety issue, but a short term annoyance. He will pass the matter on to parking control.

3) Palace Hotel

Richard Maddocks, the architect for the hotel, explained that the hotel wishes to maximise the use of the site, as the conference market is moving to more specialised locations where they have more facilities than are available at the Palace. The tennis courts were built in 1936 and are indoor courts with wooden floors which are no longer popular with tennis players. Mr Maddocks explained that the original planning

permission had been granted for 36 flats and had involved the demolition of the cottage and several trees. The planned new development would fit in a new crescent, retain the trees and the cottage and important views. It would consist of 140 flats, leisure facilities, and underground car park. The plans were to reconnect the Bishops Walk and extend the walks in consultation with Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust. As it would be holiday accommodation it would not create too much extra traffic into Babbacombe Road, and the use of bicycles would be encouraged. There would probably be green roofs on the flats and the development would encompass all green issues. It has not yet been submitted for planning (no timescale at the moment, but would be probably be submitted in the spring) so the information is purely for consultation.

4) Feedback from Ward Partnership Consultation

Tracey Cabache distributed copies of the analysed consultation results. 43 people had visited the caravan and the top three priorities had been community safety, transport and traffic flows, and parks, open spaces and coastlines. In line with all the other ward consultations, cleanliness of the borough as a whole had been the major concern. She also reported that the issue of the Wellswood Green had been deferred to February 7th 2007. Mr. Wilson had just had a major operation.

5) Play facilities in Wellswood and Torwood

There are no such facilities in the area, and suggestions were invited.

6) Welcome to Wellswood Sign

It had been suggested that a sign should be erected on the green: "Welcome to Wellswood". It was felt that this would help the community spirit and establish a sense of pride in Wellswood. A suggestion was made that a street cleaner could be employed exclusively for Wellswood, as already happens at St. Marychurch. Cost prohibitive? Cleansing Services to be asked to review schedule. P.C. Thomas reported that Mark the greengrocer is contributing a 20 foot Christmas Tree on the green. He also organising via Western Power a power point for lights. They will cost in excess of £1000 to which the police, Living Waters and the shopkeepers are contributing. If all goes well, next year we could have street entertainment, carols, etc. It was agreed that a sign was a good idea, a vote was taken with 12 in favour and only 3 against.

7) Issues from the floor

There was an issue regarding the lack of publicity for the Ward meetings, which is being addressed. P.C. Thomas and the Rev. Williams would break open the notice board on Torwood Green and replace the padlock so that the board can be used for future publicity. It was also noted that Ilsham Road is poorly lit, and this matter needs to be addressed. It was also suggested that there should be a lollipop lady for the school crossing at Ilsham. P.C. Thomas stated that although it is a paid position, there is a shortage of lollipop persons. A question was raised about beggars in Fleet Street – the police are aware, and

dealing with the matter. There will be a new community police support officer in January which will mean another uniformed presence.

8) Steering community

Volunteers needed: The steering committee meets between public meetings, and 7 new members are required, and it will be necessary to elect a new chairman. There were 6 volunteers appointed: Rev. Ian Williams, Kate Chappell, John Davies, Lynne Hookings, Patricia Rockett, and for St Matthias, there would be a nomination.

The meeting closed at 9p.m.

The next meeting will be held at St Matthias on February 20th 2007 at 7pm