

Record of Discussions of the Wellwood Ward Partnership

Held at St. Matthias Church on Thursday 17th November 2005, 7pm

Present: Peter Heathcote (Chairman), PC Trevor Thomas,
Cllr Mrs B McPhail, Cllr John Hanley, Tracey Cabache,
Wendy Hancock

Apologies: Peter Williams (Parks Dept)

Attendance: 70+ Residents

Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05 pm. He welcomed the new Secretary Mrs Hancock and expressed thanks to Mrs McPhail and Mr Hanley for their past assistance. He also apologised to the meeting, as the venue was unfortunately inadequate in size for the number of persons attending. A number of residents were unable to get into the hall and had to stand in the corridor.

Matters Arising:

Overgrown hedges opposite shops – The council had asked owners to trim overhanging hedges. There had been some compliance. For the ones outstanding, the council will wait a further 28 days. If necessary can send in contractors and seek to recoup costs from negligent owners.

Litter on Marine Drive:

Improvement reported by resident, Mr J Davies.

Parking:

Parking outside school – Both parents and residents should comply with regulations. Too many people parking when school opens and closes. PC Thomas was not aware that parents were petitioning for zebra crossing in Ilsham Road. This would lose even more parking spaces and the shopkeepers were concerned. In 2006/07 the crossing in Babbacombe Road will be converted to a Pelican. It was not practicable to make Ilsham Road one way. Action was taken about illegal parking in the road. Ticketing was now done by parking attendants.

Pavement outside Greengrocer, Ilsham Road – No action taken.

Venue Nightclub:

The pavement outside would be widened in 2006/07 which would make it less hazardous.

Dorchester Hotel:

PC Thomas had seen the owner and the hotel was now boarded up/fenced securely. Waiting for planning permission.

Daddyhole Plain:

Coaches blocking road. Cllr McPhail had meeting with residents/council/PC Thomas. Various issues to be pursued.

Barrington Road:

PC Thomas has spoken to hotel owners, who have placed notices and will bring to the attention of their guests.

Church Road/Babbacombe Road:

No action as yet. A concerned resident had written to council and was told that there was a moratorium in Torquay and could only be actioned when funds allowed. Cllr Hanley said policy had changed. He will report back.

Pumping Station:

Cllr McPhail reported an improvement in appearance. Had held a meeting with residents/council officers/SW Water officials. To be monitored.

Proposed annexation of Wellswood Green by Ilsham School:

Mr Philip Wilson addressed the meeting. He put forward various objections to the proposal. He pointed out that it was covenanted land and that the school had already appropriated 1002 sq. metres. He also quoted from Council Minutes 21 June 1994, when it was stated that further release of land to the school would not be considered. A solicitor is investigating the covenant.

The general concensus of the meeting was that Ilsham was an excellent school. There were various suggestions from the floor calling for some form of compromise. One suggestion was mooted for the land to be divided differently ie across rather than diagonally. Rev. G Percy read a letter from a Mrs P Barr who was in favour of the proposal. Some suggested that the number of pupils should be limited to suit the environmental limitations.

It does not have to expand in order to have a successful school. In reply Ofsted will only fund for a certain number of pupils. Someone stated that the Green was known to elderly residents as 'The Stansfield' Cllr Hanley suggested that it might be helpful if residents wrote to the council giving their views. Several people stated that they had written to the council but had not received replies. The person to write to was Josie Medforth, Policy and Planning Officer at Oldway Mansion.

Various people had stated that the Green was underused and covered in dog faeces. One of those present then stated that she had monitored the green for a month and kept a daily diary. On only one occasion had she observed a single deposit. It was stated that a village green is part of our heritage. Another objection against the proposal was that due to school holidays etc the green would only be used by the school for 36 weeks of the year. It would also be rendered unsightly by the high railings that were proposed. Wellswood is a conservation area. Someone else suggested that perhaps the electricity sub-station could be removed. SWEB should be approached as to its long-term plans for its site.

In reply to a question, Rev Percy stated that Ilsham was not a church school, it is a voluntary controlled school. Rev Percy is Chairman of the Board of Governors and the church is entitled to another three representatives on the Board of Governors.

Another resident said that although she had initially been in favour of the scheme, she was now opposed. She felt that Torbay Council could not be trusted to honour any

lease. There would be no guarantee that the land would not be built on. Although it was stated that the land was required for environmental/scientific study by the children. Someone else pointed out that all parents were aware when they sent their children to the school that there was limited play space. If this was an issue, there were other excellent schools in Torbay with plenty of open space, so why not send their children there.

At the end of a lively meeting, Tony Jordan from the Childrens Services department of the council stated that he was preparing a report on the matter. Any decision would be taken by the elected Mayor, who would read all views presented.

Any Other Business:

It was proposed that a sign be erected on the green 'Welcome to Wellswood'. Also, perhaps a Christmas tree and Christmas lights. There would be a discussion with local traders but it was perhaps too late for this year.

It was suggested that a mini roundabout be constructed at the top of Ilsham Road.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 15th February 2006.