

SMART
(St Mary's Association of Residents)

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting 6pm 7th December 2010
St Mary's Church Hall

The meeting was chaired by Robin Hanny

Present:

Robin Hanny, Catharine Jenkins, Max Bashir, Adriano Maio, Annie Hulbert, Reg and Margaret Clarke, John Gregg, Stephen and Rachel Fessey, Ed Jones, Caroline Gray, Robin and Charity Pajmans, Jackie and Eddie Thompson, Nigel and Lyn Jones, Steve Eling, Bob Piper

Apologies:

Yvonne Kerr

Introduction

The meeting was opened by Robin who introduced councillors Eling and Piper and thanked them for attending. Cllr Eling proceeded to give an overview of the possibilities for a residents group and the resources and support that can be offered by the council. Robin then outlined the purpose of the group which is to identify local problems and work together to deal with them so as to enhance the local community.

Agenda

There was no official agenda as this was the first meeting. Attendees were invited to identify local problems with a view to identifying three priorities for initial action

The following issues were identified:

- Parking
- The exit from the road – the yellow box needs repainting
- There is a hole in the fence (on main B'wood Rd opposite St Mary's) which could be a danger to children
- The unsafe crossing on the main road to the left of St Mary's exit
- Are CCTV cameras operating? (no)
- Litter – specifically from fast food outlets

- Dog fouling
- The upkeep of the exterior of some houses
- Drug trafficking
- Road signage - ? excessive
- Planning issues

The councillors were invited to advise the group on the effective running of a residents association.

Cllr Eling advised that we should have a committee, a newsletter and meet bi-monthly. The residents association should be an opportunity for residents to communicate with each other and to speak to councillors with one voice. It is a useful way of moving things forward and is owned by the residents. Support with running costs is available from the council. Cllr Eling explained how residents of Anderton Rd had been able to influence the outcome of a residents parking scheme there but that the result of 2 surveys in our area had shown little support for a residents' parking scheme here.

Our next steps:

To develop a plan
 To keep minutes
 To agree priorities

We agreed three priorities for action:

- Litter
- Parking and traffic
- Anti-social behaviour

Management of future meetings:

1. Meetings will be held every 2 months
2. Robin will be chair, Catharine act as secretary and Max as treasurer
3. Issues can be channeled through Robin (who has the email addresses of attendees)
4. We will address our priorities through smaller focus groups
5. We will all bring somebody else with us next time

The cost of hiring the hall is £20 - this amount was collected - thanks to all who gave.

Date and time of next meeting: tbc