



Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Residents' Community Association

Registered Charity No. 279592

Minutes of User Group Meeting held on Wednesday 18 July 2007

Present:

Committee: Ian Millar (Chairman); John Pettet (Treasurer); Anne Sole; Loraine Martin; Elizabeth Barrett; Jan Dawkins (Bookings Secretary)

User Groups:

Denise Tosdevine & Anne Sole (Pre-School Playgroup); Loraine Martin (Hampshire Wildlife Trust); Keith Taylor (Badger Farm Parish Council); Tina Sharp (WI Country Market); Douglas Richardson (St Luke's Church); Joan Millar (Ian & Joan Millar Dancing); Matt Short & Alex Fielder (BBLAN)

1: Apologies:

Rachel Skinner (Vice-Chairman); Jane Foster (Committee); Geoff Sharman (Oliver's Battery Parish Council); Reg Nutting (Italic Handwriting); Carolyn Freeth (Parents & Toddlers)

2: Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 18 April 2007:

The Chairman reported that locks were due to be fitted shortly to the doors in the ladies toilets. It was noted that rats in the area were still a problem. Denise agreed to speak to Sainsbury's again regarding this.

There had been no further problems with the clinical waste and Denise would advise if the situation changed.

The Minutes were approved and accepted on a proposal by Keith Taylor and seconded by Denise Tosdevine.

3: Report from Executive Committee Chairman:

Ian reported:

- a. Following the introduction of the smoking ban on 1st July 2007, the Centre had become a smoke-free zone with the exception of the garden outside the Warren and Bushfield rooms. The Executive Committee had agreed that there should be no smoking in the Battery Courtyard to protect the surface of the children's play area and the comfort of those people using the Battery and Whiteshute rooms. The Conditions of Hire had been amended accordingly.
- b. There had been an accident in the Social Club Bar a few months ago. One of the surveyors, whom he had engaged to check on the condition of the Centre roof, had fallen from the ladder, which had given way when he had tried to climb into the loft. He had not been badly injured: no bones had been broken, but his legs had been bruised. He had refused offers to take him to A&E. Last month he had instructed his solicitor to sue the Social Club with a claim for damages. The matter now rested with the Social Club insurers and the claimant. The Association was not involved.
- c. He had arranged with our local Sainsbury's superstore to have the foliage cut back from the path outside the Centre's main entrance. It was now much lighter and less threatening for hirers and visitors. He was still waiting for the two lights in that area to be repaired and had reminded Sainsbury's of that.

- d. Following the smoking ban, he had arranged for the Warren and Sett rooms to be redecorated at the beginning of September. He hoped that the carpets would also be cleaned. The air filter in the Sett was to be replaced with a more efficient model, but the one in the Warren would be removed. The new bar Steward, Mark Wilson, was beginning to introduce improvements in the running of the club. With his agreement and co-operation, we were now locking the disabled toilet door from 6pm each evening due to recent problems with a few people misusing the facility. Night-time hirers had been notified and advised that they could collect the key from the bar staff if needed by their members. The new arrangement seemed to be working well.
- e. Following his letter last month, Jan had received a number of art-works from users for inclusion on the notice board in the Battery. She was now working on those where assistance had been requested. It was still not too late for users to provide their copy.
- f. Our caretaker, Mervyn, would be taking his Summer break from 6th to 19th August. Members were asked to help keep the Centre clean after use and to put away any tables and chairs afterwards. Jan would be also taking her holiday from 12th to 30th September, so service would be limited in her area. If hirers had any day-to-day problems they were asked to inform the caretaker, who would contact a Committee member if he could not resolve the matter.

4: Report from Badger Farm Parish Council:

Keith reported:

Motorbikes were still causing problems on footpaths and open spaces. There had also been complaints of dog fouling and a dog officer had visited. There was a fixed penalty scheme in relation to this offence.

An alcohol exclusion zone had been extended to the Badger Farm area. However, this did not apply to the area occupied by the Community Centre as it was classed as private ground owned by Sainsbury's. In reply to a question regarding contacting the local Police Community Support Officers, Keith advised to dial 101 and leave a message. The Chairman mentioned that he had spoken with the Manager of Sainsbury's in connection with disturbances by local youths and felt that alcohol was the underlying problem.

5: Report from Oliver's Battery Parish Council:

Geoff Sharman was unable to attend and did not submit a report.

6: User Group Reports:

BBLAN: Matt suggested that the Committee look into the possibility of having an Internet connection installed in the Whiteshute Room at the Centre to enable people to use their own computers. The Chairman advised that this topic was to be discussed at the Executive meeting but noted that several potential hirers had had to be turned down because this facility was currently unavailable. He said he was keen to expand and offer this service.

WI Country Market: In reply to Tina's query, the Chairman advised that painting would shortly be undertaken in the toilets.

Joan Millar: Joan commented that she was pleased with the condition on the floor in the Battery. It was noted that annual refurbishment was due to take place on 1st, 2nd and 3rd August. Three regular users would be affected by this and Jan advised alternative arrangements had been made for them.

Playgroup: Denise reported that she had received positive comments from parents following the No Smoking ban. She also reported that the children were enjoying the garden and would be making use of this by putting in plants in September.

HWLT: Loraine asked if it would be possible for her group to meet earlier at 7.30pm but Jan advised another regular hirer was still using the room at this time.

7. Any Other Business:

There was no further business.

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 17 October 2007 at 8.00pm.