

## **Minutes of the Community Residents' Association Forum meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.**

**Present:** Simon Priestley (Crossgate Community Partnership), Richard Hornby and Carole Lattin (Gilesgate Residents Association), Kirk Lester (St. Nicolas Community Forum), Alan Hayton and Desmond Ward (Whinney Hill Community Group), Roz Layton (Elvet Residents Association), Will Greeves (Neville's Cross Residents Association), Adam Shanley and Alan Doig (City of Durham Parish Council) and John Ashby (Durham University Residents Forum).

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Apologies were received from Fiona Adamson (Mount Oswald Residents Association).

### **2. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Forum meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **3. Presentation by the Forum Secretary on a new planning training document**

The Forum Secretary presented a planning training document he had created to support both Councillors and local residents in helping to understand the main planning issues within the City of Durham parish area as well as being a signpost to key planning policies which may be relevant in any and all future applications in the City.

The Forum Secretary advised that this document was created to guide residents on how best to make representations on new planning applications. In addition to this, the Forum Secretary advised that the Parish Council is hosting a planning training session with its planning consultant for Councillors and residents at 6pm that evening (21<sup>st</sup> July 2021) and reminded members of the Forum that they are welcome and encouraged to attend this.

The Forum noted its thanks to the Secretary for his work on this important issue.

### **4. Collaborative litter-picking activity proposal by Gilesgate Residents' Association**

Richard Hornby from Gilesgate Residents' Association (GRA) advised that the recent litter picking event organised by GRA had been a huge success with 80 bags of litter collected in total.

Richard advised that 60-70 volunteers had taken part in this event and passers-by had even got involved as the litter picking was taking place. Richard advised that this included both permanent residents and student residents and thanked all those involved.

Richard also took the opportunity to thank McDonald's who had supported the activity and also advised that it is hoped that this could become a more regular event. Richard advised that the next litter picking event is planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> October and members of the Forum are welcome to get involved.

### **5. Discussion of possible solutions to student related anti-social behaviour in the Parish area.**

The Forum Convener noted that the longstanding problems of student related late night noise and anti-social behaviour has been identified as a key issue for the Parish Council's Community Residents Association Forum and the Forum is keen to progress solutions to the issues which are well documented in the City.

Richard Hornby advised that he had approached Durham University about possibly publishing – on a monthly basis – the statistics from the University's CRT team regarding how many incidents they attend and what follow up action is taken.

Alan Hayton stressed that the issues the Forum Convener had highlighted are very much ongoing in the Whinney Hill area. Alan advised that there is much discussion taking place about possible solutions, however the system which both Ron Hogg (Durham PCVC) and Mike Barton (former Chief Constable of Durham Police) had in place – with the support of two excellent PCSOs in the City – and including the issuing of CPNs and CPWs worked well for a number of years.

Will Greeves advised that he totally agreed that CPNs and CPWs did work very well.

John Ashby advised that the CRT team plays a vitally important role in gathering evidence from complaints. John highlighted that the CRT team only works during term time and until the early hours of the morning.

John also advised that the University had recently provided students with the opportunity to rate their experience of the CRT. Some concern was expressed about this as this may impact on how the CRT team addresses any complaints with students directly.

Kirk Lester advised that he felt that there is no one simple solution to this issue and it would take a number of actions to help resolve complaints from residents.

Des Ward advised that he had been attending DURF meetings for a number of years and there appeared to be no difference made to the issues highlighted.

The Forum Convener advised that he had invited John Ashby to this meeting from DURF as he hoped to progress with John the production of a late night noise and ASB consultation paper for local residents and partner organisations. The Forum Convener advised that this would be produced, agreed by the Parish Council and then sent to partner organisations such as the new PCC, Durham Police, Durham County Council and Durham University for their feedback.

## **6. AOB.**

In light of the Forum Convener needing to leave the meeting early. The meeting was closed at this point.

Alan Hayton asked that the role of the Neighbourhood Wardens be discussed at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the Convener thanked all members for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a smaller, cursive name. A long, horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

**Forum Convener**