

Love's Farm Community Association Meeting  
Love's Farm House  
16 March 2016, 19:30

The meeting started at 7:30pm

**1 Welcome and apologies**

Present: Marcus Pickering, George Yazigi, Rosie Ferguson, Keela Shackell-Smith, Helene Tame, Ben Pitt

Apologies: Jenny Parris, Steve Emberson, Elle Gray, David Wells, Ian Gardener and Julie Wisson.  
Emma Lovelock has said she may be late.

**2 Minutes/Actions from last meeting**

Speedwatch - notice on website done

Adding all events to website - **ACTION** Marcus to double check. Fun run article.

**3 Senior youth update**

CIO application has been submitted, waiting for a response from Charity Commission.

Declan Tonks successfully obtained a grant for a Playstation 4 and games. While waiting for money to come through, Declan has asked if it's OK for the equipment to be bought from his (or Rosie's) own funds in time for 29 March and be reimbursed later. This was approved, but Marcus requested that Declan sends his shopping list through to George for scrutiny first.

**ACTION:** Declan/Rosie to forward shopping list to George

**ACTION:** David Wells to complete form for grant application. Marcus to forward.

Kids & Sibz launching on 3 April. Flyers being made to go to schools, SENCOs, bpha. Terri Johnston has joined the team, along with Rosie, Judith and Jessica. SNTC has given £2500 towards costs. Most going on premises hire, some on setting up, insurance, starter equipment.

Rosie expressed a willingness for Kids & Sibz CIO to provide financial support for other projects that benefit youth, disability, supporting the family. Rosie would prefer for requests to come via LFCA.

MP: Funding for senior youth was applied to SNTC for - still waiting to hear back.

HT: younger YC is moving to Friday after Easter. Easier to get adult helpers at 5:30pm on Friday than 5pm on Tuesday. Allows Pilates group to add another session. Helene feels it's a better fit on a Friday. Had to close the group as approaching 40. Tidy-up music is a great success. There's no admission fee, but refreshments are charged for.

#### **4 Speedwatch**

Last month MP agreed to put something on the website. There were some differences of opinion but MP felt if we can get volunteers then it's a good thing to do. Article has had 3 responses. One from Scout leader - representing Scouts. Great but can only be 18+. Needs a minimum of 5 or 10 to qualify for the scheme. George and Raymon have also offered, making 5.

Forums - fairly active thread with strong opposition raised. "Orwellian tactics". MP noted that, on Love's Farm, the legal limit is 30mph but there aren't many places where that's appropriate. Not much help if the machine shows a smiley face to people going at 29mph.

First need to liaise with Police. Can we set a limit ourselves? It's a national scheme so unlikely we can set the rules.

KS noted that the limit used to be 20mph. MP recalls signs showing 10mph. Gallaghers said (a while ago) that the legal speed limit will be 30mph but the traffic calming is intended to make it 20mph.

HT: speed limits are not targets. It's only allowed if it's safe to do so.

**ACTION** George to follow up the implications of a 30mph limit. Discuss with Daniel first. Also ask Daniel, is it something that residents are complaining to Daniel about?

KS asked that we also talk to Daniel about parking on Stone Hill.

#### **5 Farm House Update**

BP: Six new groups starting in April: Kids & Sibz, Life Drawing, Little Loves, Rainbows, additional Pilates class, Intermediate Street Dance class. It's hopefully a matter of weeks rather than months before our front door locking issue is resolved. Generally going well but we need to look at employing someone to take on some of the administration.

RF passed on feedback that the bar is so cheap that a group of young people came to a private party first to get pre-drunk before heading to town. MP and BP felt it's right that prices are lower than in town.

Further feedback that the hall can be quite warm. BP explained the difficulties of controlling the under-floor heating, which still isn't working as intended and has design flaws.

KS asked about overnight hire fees.

**ACTION** BP to check LFH trustee minutes and feed back to Keela.

## 6 Updates from working groups:

### • Dogs

MP noted what a fantastic job Keela has done with the No Such Thing As A Dog Poo Fairy campaign.

KS planning to continue throughout March. Different team each week. Fantastic volunteer response - ran out of cans. KS has replied to all the Facebook posts. Dog walk has picked up too - spraying on walk. Kids were loving it.

Next plan is to look at signage. Wraparound "dog poo fairy" signs for bins.

Was going to stop spraying at end of March, different colour in three months. Feedback from meeting was to consider continuing into April with another colour.

RF suggested a Poo Fairy of the Month. BP offered to create a Photoshop photo of them hovering with wings and pixie dust

HT offered up a poetic alliteration: The poo fairy poster is purple

HT recognises the spraying has worked, but wonders whether it'd be worth explaining on FB that it's non-toxic, washes away etc. There have been some concerns that it looks like vandalism and victimises dog owners. Keela has contacted people to address concerns.

[Emma Lovelock arrived at 8:10pm]

EL has not had any negative messages about the campaign

KS is keen to reinforce that it's the responsible dog owners who are spraying and picking up.

**ACTION** BP to check that it says it's non-toxic in the newsletter.

**ACTION** KS to buy more spray paint and wrap-around posters for bins (£5 for 3)

EL thinks there are 18 bins on Love's Farm, KS 15, Ben 24

### • Events

Danceathon raised £100

The Queen's birthday party 12 June, 2-4:30pm

Chocolate bingo 31st March

Easter egg hunt on 24 March - 10 April. Draw at Farm House Coffee Shop on 11 April

Fun Run - 22 May but not much progress. Moved to the afternoon as don't want it to clash with Breakfast Church. Caroline doing a map to send to council along with insurance details .

**ACTION** David to send existing PL insurance to Emma

MP has offered to follow up on the offer of sponsorship for an LFCA event.

Queen's birthday is another possible

Fun run - prizes?

**ACTION** - MP to put a price list together and share with officers before forwarding

MP: AGM - agenda for future meeting but it has taken a lot of time and resources and not convinced the payoff has been worthwhile. Expo was a good event but the AGM didn't really work. Year before was good but turnout was poor. Awards are good though. Main thing is to get people there and involved. Only thing we're bound to do is to give a report and elect officers. One committee meeting could be the AGM. We need to decide how much weight and effort we put into it.

HT suggested bringing the LFH and LFCA AGMs together.

**ACTION** Ben to raise with LFH trustees

KS thinks it'd be a shame if we didn't have any kind of public effort to get people involved. MP agreed that we need to have a method of recruiting. The question is whether AGM is the right way to do that.

BP: the best way to recruit volunteers is to give the impression than existing volunteers are getting things done and enjoying the experience .

MP: a key aspect of the new website will be "how can I get involved?"

KS suggested debates in different parts of the building?

**ACTION** AGM on the agenda for a future LFCA meeting

BP asked for information about the Queen's Birthday Party. EL explained it would be a traditional party, similar to an indoor big lunch. Sandwiches and cake - for kids only. Suggested games include crown on the queen, pin lips on prince frog, pass the parcel. £1.50 per child, 50p per adult. BP asked who was involved. EL said she would do all planning and preparation but would welcome help on the day.

#### • SMART

Clean for the Queen was a great success. Radio interview can be heard at <http://tinyurl.com/lfcaqueen> (2 hours 27 mins).

EL: Frankie and Benny's very happy with their publicity. Went down well on the St Neots Facebook page too.

HT would like to redo the banner but need the redesigned logo. EL remembers it costed £75

**ACTION** BP to causally chase Richard re logo

## • Parking

MP: Local Highways Improvement Initiative grant was unsuccessful. Not rejected in principle, but there's a fixed amount of money in the pot. Schemes are scored and put in a league table. We scored roughly in the middle. Most that made the cut were speed reduction. Score based on persistent problem, road safety, community impact, added value. We scored highest for added value. We can reapply next year

David arranged a meeting with Ross Hamilton of Cambridgeshire Local Highways Initiative, met with Ian Gardener and Julie Wisson. CCC will consider putting restrictions on unadopted roads as long as top surface is on and as long as they are expecting to adopt.

Established that the main cost is the public notice - £700. SNTC has made noises that it's willing to stump up money. Discussions continue. Another meeting on site with an officer from the county council. Longsands restrictions have been approved and will set a precedent.

## • Street Reps

Nothing to report

Getting together with Helene, Rebecca (neighbourhood watch) and Daniel, Simon Barlow

## • Website

Nothing to report, other than Richard is working on the logo and has offered to work on the website design.

## • Finance

David Wells sent his apologies for missing the meeting and provided the following information by email:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| LFCA funds at 10th March are £4221.77, comprising |  |
| Natwest Bank                                      | £3981.77                                     |
| Petty Cash  | £90 - needs confirming with Emma             |
| Unpaid Invoice                                    | £150 - Anil at pharmacy says he has now paid |

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Split of funds is: |          |
| General            | £2575.24 |
| Junior Youth       | £106.73  |
| Senior Youth       | £1539.8  |

BP asked whether we need to think about whether and how funding for Senior YC is transferred to Kids & Sibz. LFCA could possibly continue to pay rent with existing allocated funds.

RF suggested that LFCA continues managing Sr YC but Kids and Sibz handles the money

HT would prefer for this to stay with K&S

RF: Issue of continuity, taking on both funding and oversight

BP: Is it a question of branding or of responsibility?

GY: Policies have a clear demarcation of H&S, Safeguarding down to whoever is managing the session.

RF: Safeguarding is the responsibility of the Locality team. Rosie would prefer branding to be more LFCA.

HT: Need to define what's meant by LFCA, already overstretched.

MP: Not about offloading but want to have a dedicated team to focus on youth

## 7 AOB

The following letter from Cllr Julie Wisson was read out at the meeting:

Loves Farm Community Association  
Meeting March 16<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Report from County Councillor in absence

**Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of Cambridgeshire County council boundaries:** during 2015 the LGBCE consulted with residents and the county council regarding a review of the county council boundaries. They have given their decision in February 2016 and this includes a reduction in the number of county councillors for the county from 69 to 61 councillors. The changes to this division are that the northern half of the division joins with Brampton to become Brampton and Buckden division and includes Brampton, Buckden, the Offords, Southoe and Midloe and Diddington. And the southern half of the division remains unchanged to include Loves Farm, Great Paxton, Toseland, Yelling, Abbotsley, Waresely and Great Gransden and will be known as St Neots East and Gransden division. The commission writes that they 'received a number of submissions objecting to our proposed division for this area. It was argued by councillors, local residents and parishes in the proposed division that the Loves Farm development in St Neots town should be included in a St Neots based division. We investigated whether it was possible to include the housing development in one of the St Neots divisions to the west of the railway line. However this would result in poor levels of electoral equality. . . . We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for St Neots East & Gransden as final. While we note the views of respondents in this area, we consider our proposed division provide for the best balance of statutory criteria.' The recommendations must be now approved by Parliament and will come into effect at the elections in May 2017.

Elections this year include the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire 5 May 2016 and the EU referendum on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016. If you require a proxy or postal vote for either of these elections please visit <http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/elections/how-to-vote/> or for further information please go to <https://www.gov.uk/voting-in-the-uk/postal-voting> . Please contact me for help if you do not have internet access.

At the full county council meeting in February 2016 it was decided after a 12 hour debate to increase the county council portion of the council tax by 0% but to take up the governments offer of a 2% Adult Social Care precept which will cover the cost of the Living wage which is being introduced in April 2016. This gives an overall impact on residents of a 2% increase in the county council portion of the council tax. This money is ring fenced for use in Adult Social Care.

I am available at the councillors surgery at Loves Farm for one hour 10.00am on the first Saturday of the month should residents wish to speak to me on any topic.

MP closed the meeting at 9:25pm