

Boscombe Area Forum, Monday 10 Sep 2007 7-9pm
Selwyn Hall, St Johns Church, Christchurch Road, Boscombe.

Matters Arising: Bournemouth Centre for Community Arts (BCCA)

Letter written to the Council following last meeting. **Action: Secretary.** Post response from Council on the website & report back to next meeting.

Cllr Wakefield advised meeting about consultation on future use of BCCA. Council has commenced a two week consultation period: residents can see the plans and make their views known at Boscombe Library.

Cllr Northover advised the meeting about the three options

- 100% affordable housing from a housing association.
- 70% open market, 30% affordable housing from private developer.
- Partnership with housing association: affordable housing, day centre, offices.

It was noted by residents that the third option implied that two day care facilities would be consolidated onto the site, freeing up other sites for the Council, including the Owls Road/St Johns Road facility. The Forum speculated that they would be sold for redevelopment.

Matters Arising: Residents' Parking

Following the last meeting, the Chair discussed matter with officers, and reported to the meeting that Westby Road was unlikely to get a scheme. But Windsor and Cecil Roads stand a good chance; the next consultation cycle commencing December.

Residents' parking scheme: £50 per permit per year. Doesn't guarantee residents a space, just stops other people parking.

Matters Arising: Topics for future meetings

Patrols by Police Community Support Officers and Police Officers increased in Grosvenor Gardens. The alley through to Salisbury Road will be subject to an attempted 'crack house closure' on Wednesday; the Police are taking the matter to court.

Strategy for Boscombe: the letter from the Secretary raised the apparent lack of strategy, following concerns expressed at the previous meeting.

The Forum meeting ran late. No time was needed to look at the Constitution, and the Housing Strategy agenda item was not covered.

Next meeting is the AGM. Agenda: BCCA and Transition Towns (Susan Chapman)

Spaces into places - litterbin project

Gary Sherbourne reported on scheme to repaint the bins. Technical Services will be sand blasting and undercoating bins. Artists will then be painting them. A display board at the meeting showed the sort of art proposed for the scheme.

Neighbourhood Management, Tenants Union, and local artists are involved in the scheme.

The Forum debated compensating the artists and involvement of children. Involvement of youth service would provide an opportunity for young people to break the stereotype and 'make a contribution.'

The Council is looking to secure funding for the bins across the whole town.

Neighbourhood Management

Dawn Bevan, the Neighbourhood Manager, updated the Forum meeting about the kiosks that have been put in the precinct. They have touch screen displays to find out local information. They are also wireless internet access points to provide free WIFI in the precinct. Anticipating official launch in October. Power supply problem to be overcome.

Funding for NM ends March 2009. Working being done on succession and / or exit plans for NM. In the mean time, its priorities are the refurbishment of precinct, which is important for residents and visitors. More penalties to be issued for littering. A Strategy needed for Boscombe.

Bulky goods scheme, funded by first NM, and then the Council, is now being scaled down to being free only for people on with means tested state benefits or disabled. Everyone else will have to pay the Council fees.

News & Views

A local businessman said he felt that Bournemouth didn't understand business.

Shops in Boscombe aren't advertised to people driving through. Local business is key to the regeneration of the area.

Councillors and Officers should be more accessible to residents: the Council's customers. Forum was vocal about the lack of customer focus at the Council.

Meeting's attention was drawn to the fact that Boscombe Regeneration is no longer on the council's short list of priorities.

Action: Secretary - circulate councillor contact details.

Neighbourhood Management has commissioned a housing stock analysis for the NM area. The report should support resident's concerns about density of redevelopment.