



Friends of Moneyhole **Security Barrier Meeting minutes**

Time: 10 – 11.15am Date: March 06th 2010

Venue :Roseacre Gardens Resident Lounge

<http://www.welwynhatfield.co.uk/moneyhole>

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| Present: |
| TK Choo (FoM), Cllr Irene Dean, Cllr D Bennett, Cllr R Trigg, Cllr S Johnson, Cllr L Lotz |
| Local Residents (20) |
| Apologies: Cllr A Canter, T Beyer, E Fielder, P Boulton, |

TK welcomed the councillors and residents to the fact finding meeting. The purpose was for the SOSC councillors to learn about the Moneyhole car-related ASB the residents had to endure for many years.

1) Steven - Russett House resident of 13/14 years

Steven related the problems he suffered over the years. His sleep had and is still been disrupted when he is woken at night regularly. The noise comes from the Moneyhole car park. As a radiographer, who works shifts, the interrupted sleep often left him tired especially when he has early shifts at 6am. Not wearing his hearing aid in bed, the noise had to be very loud to wake him. The effect on other residents must be much worse.

He cited examples of the type of incidents encountered:

1. Cars frequently racing around the car park.
2. Cars playing stereo loudly with heavy bass.
3. People camping overnight in the park waking residents in the early hours
4. Cars speeding around with a chap on the bonnet.
5. There were 4 cars racing in the snow in January to the early hours.
6. Last week he had two nights of cars revving engines between 11 and 12.20am.
7. On Friday (05/03) morning, between 2-3am, he was woken by loud banging. It turned out that thieves were stealing lead flashing from the flats below. There was a van in Moneyhole car park. The resident below confronted the thieves. Steven was concerned for the neighbour as the thieves must have knives to cut the lead. He reported the theft.

Steven said the police only come when the culprits are long gone, if he gets through.

When asked what effect it has on him, Steven said that the sleep disruption is the hardest in particular when he has early shifts. He is also upset and disappointed that nothing has been done when the problems have gone on this long since he has lived there.

2) Rex - Dalewood resident of over 25 years

Rex endorsed everything that Steven said. Rex had suffered ASB going back many more years.

Examples given were:

1. Car set on fire around 3am. Explosions woke residents in the neighbourhood. The Fire engine unable to gain entry due to the high anti-travellers barrier.
2. Car raves in the early hours around 1 am.
3. Disturbances between 10pm – 5am by gangs of kids screaming and partying. Beer cans and litter left behind.
4. On Friday (05/03), there was an 8am drug raid on flat in Dalewood with a history of past reported ASB. He was concern that these people may have dealt drugs at the park.

Rex has made 15 calls over the years about the ASB and damage to the allotments. The police do not come. He has stop bothering to call them now.

The effect on him and his family are disrupted sleep. He has concerns for his son who has to work in the mornings. There is frustration and disillusionment by the Authorities' inaction.

3) Ian – Wyton resident of 14 years

Ian supported what was said and talked about stolen, abandoned and torched cars in Moneyhole over the last 4-5 years. Ian had:

1. Reported an abandoned stolen Metro. Another Metro, also stolen, drove into the park as he was speaking to the Police by the abandoned car.
2. Seen a fire engine racing past his back fence to attend a burning vehicle in the Park
3. Known of 4 torched cars in the car park in the past
4. Heard cars zooming out of the car park regularly
5. Cars are an attraction to the groups of youth.
6. Confronting the culprits and been threatened.

Ian also mentioned other ASB encountered.

1. When his partner and her mother were attacked by youths whilst driving past the park.
2. Travellers entering the car park after cutting the overhead barrier padlock
3. Noisy gangs of youngsters.
4. Toileting behind his fence.
5. Saturday (06/03) morning girls were screaming in the park in the early hours

The police have been ineffective over the 14 years in dealing with the car related problems.

4) Richard – Russett House resident of 16 years.

Richard also endorsed what had been said. He commented on the disco that goes on in the car park keeping residents awake. There is also car vandalism and petrol theft in Russett House car park. Being woken up affects his wife most, who cannot get back to sleep.

5) Doreen – Roseacre Garden resident

Doreen raised the issue of police response or the lack of. Having been asked to be part of the Park Neighbourhood Watch, she rang the police at 2 am when she saw cars and 6 people going into the park. No police came having waited for an hour and a half. She felt let down by their response.

6) Alex – Russett House resident

Alex said he has been woken up and kept awake in the early hours. At times he returns after 1 am and hears the noise from the car park. When he is woken up or kept awake, he finds it difficult to go to work for a 6.30am start. He sleeps with his head phones on and do not wish to sleep like this forever. Alex reiterated to the councillors the importance of stopping ASB because it will save police and the council money and time, and more importantly give residents a better quality of life.

7) Lyn –Scheme Manager for Aldwyck Housing Association at Roseacre Gardens for 4 years

Lyn sends her apologies. At the meeting, TK read out extracts of her letter to Cllr Trigg.

“Ever since I have lived in the scheme manager's flat Roseacre Gardens which overlooked the Sylvan Way & Moors Walk roundabout, we have been plagued by anti social behaviour during the night and well into the early hours of the morning.

We have some very vulnerable residents at Roseacre Gardens who suffer sleepless nights due to the rowdy behaviour in the streets and party noises coming from the park going on and on well into 03:00 and 04:00am. Our residents have purchased property at Roseacre Gardens to live a peaceful retirement & do not deserve having to 'put up' or tolerate such anti social behaviour in our lovely environment.

Cars have been vandalised in our car park here at Roseacre Gardens, our bottle bank gets attacked and the bottles are drained per mouth by the youngsters, our Private Property signs have been vandalised twice, hence the signed on walls now and our back gate next to flats 23 and 24

has been vandalised as well. The cost to replace and repairs comes out of the development's sinking fund.

Our local park is a heritage which TK and others are fighting to improve all facilities for the benefit of all in our neighbourhood. What is the council doing to assist and what is the council doing to address this very disturbing problem? Hooter orchestra, loud music, drinking & possible drug abuse going on plus they then get in their cars and race off down the road heading towards Black Fan Road or Moors Walk hooting and going round the roundabout several times to wake everyone up. They also wave and shout out the windows with the music still blaring. It is a nightmare."

The letter, which also included other local issues, was handed to Cllr Trigg to take forward.

8) Police Focus Group Sat 05 Dec 09

A small number of residents group met at the behest of Sgt Morris where all these problems were raised. Some residents left with the view that Sgt Morris was disinterested in these **"past incidents"**. Residents were told that the police attendance within an hour, is **only an aspiration and residents are to 'get real'**. She had her separate agendas that excluded dealing with ASB.

9) Summary

The residents have endured and are still disturbed by car related ASB. Being dismissed and ignored for so long disenfranchise the victims. It makes them angry and frustrated. The litany of such incidents, which go back years, cannot continue. Undisrupted sleep is a basic human right.

A security barrier will stop the cars related incidents. This will allow residents to have quiet enjoyment of their homes and save the pointless police attendance, when the culprits are often long gone. The FoM welcome a better solution that the Council comes up with.

Cllr Irene Dean kindly offered to present the residents views to the Council Leader and at SOSC meeting. The three Panshanger Councillors, Roger Trigg, Darren Bennett and Sara Johnson, cited conflict of interest and committee procedures on why they cannot or feel able to represent the residents' case. Our Councillors' non representation still baffles and disappoints.

Residents were asked to check if their home insurance includes legal protection cover.

TK thanked the councillors for coming to listen to the residents affected.

10) Acknowledgement

The FoM would like to thank kind Roseacre Gardens residents for the use of their Residents Lounge.

Dates:

SOSC report due date: **Tuesday 16th March 2010**

SOSC meeting: **Thursday 25th March 2010, Campus West at 7.30pm**

FoM meeting : **Friday 26th March 2010, Barndicott Hall, Barndicott, Moors Walk AL7 2BS**

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