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Meeting: Resident’s Meeting

Date: Tuesday 2nd November 2021 11am

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**MINUTES**

1. **Introductions**

In attendance were

Susan Duxbury: WHA

Julie Armstrong: WHA

Sean Melton: Resident and counsellor

Kevin Doran: Homeowner Westfield estate

Mrs Harrington: Environmental chair Workington Town Council

Colin Tooley: Resident

Stephen Stoddart: Counsellor ABC

John Burrow: Resident

Margaret Stobbart: Resident

Marilyn Allison: Resident

Danielle Williams: Resident

1. **Play area**

SD explained that from the last meeting it was clear that one of the main areas for discussions was the lack of play area for the children on the estate. In turn this was causing issues with children playing on the street putting them in danger. Since the last meeting SS and HH have confirmed the Town Council has access to funding for a play area and asked if WHA could contribute towards the cost. SD informed the group she would speak to the CEO about funding and any funding application would have to be approved by board.

The area that has been identified is the exiting recreational ground behind Windsor Road where a play park once existed. It is thought the area would consist of a play area for under 8yrs that was secured by a fence with locked gates, it is expected the maintenance and liability insurance would be covered by WTC, this needs to be confirmed by Workington Town Council. Materials were discussed and suggested that metal was the better option as it would be more unlikely to be damaged.

SS said the funding was to provide play area for kids under 8 years old as there was other area that the older youths could access for their entertainment. He said Moorclose community centre have lots of things going on most nights, sessions were led by trained youth workers and was accessed by 30+ youths. He wanted us to maybe do some work with CCHA about working together to ensure everyone knew what was available. SD confirmed she had sent several emails to Angela Good asking for information amount this but had not received anything back.

SM asked what the budget was from ABC for the park as he had previously worked at getting another one fitted and could access the same plans. The cost of the other one was around £43,000.

HH said she would ideally like to take the plans to the next meeting which was at the end of the month so that it could be included in next year’s budget. SM agreed to let her have the plans before then.

The total cost applied for would be £60,000 as they needed to cover the cost of the fencing.

SD explained we would need to consult tenants and resident before going ahead. SD confirmed this consultation would be sent out this week along with a summary of the meeting to all tenants and residents.

1. **Bins & dog fouling**

SD explained that one of the outcomes of the tenant’s survey we had done recently and discussed at the previous meeting outlined the issue of dog fouling. Everyone recognised this was an issue everywhere not just at Westfield. We explained WHA had agreed to fund some more bins to be secured around the estate and ABC street scene officers had committed to emptying them. SD explained when we had our clean up event ABC had placed stickers on almost every lamp post on the estate allowing people to scan the QR code and report the fouling directly to ABC when identified. We asked where the group felt the bins were needed and the following areas were suggested.

* Westfield Bridge Court (but suggested we tried to get a metal one as the previous ones keep getting set on fire)
* Top of Garth Road
* Alleyway at Westfield drive
* Ashmore Gardens
* Cockfield Drive
1. **Open frontages & parking**

Parking and open frontages has been an ongoing issue on the estate and now that each household has more than one car each it is becoming an even bigger problem. Cars are parking on pavements and causing obstruction and children are being put in danger having to walk on the road to get past them. It was suggested that we look at what WHA can do to improve this moving forward and was it a possibility to work with tenants and resident to allow people to have driveways.

Having open frontages was also causing an issue as children were using the shared open areas to play football and this is causing harassment and disturbances to tenants and residents. It was suggested that if the open shared gardens were fenced off so that tenants had individual gardens it would help improve the problem.

JA suggested that a group was formed and put a paper together to be taken to our board asking if this could be considered, giving the reasons, advantages, and disadvantages. Sean Melton said he would take this forward and try to get a group together to work with WHA on see what options were available.

There was a discussion about how much of a worry the speeding cars on the estate were and the fear was there was an accident waiting to happen. JA asked SS if there was anyway, he could support us in putting an application together about having some traffic calming measures put around the estate. SS said this was definitely something he could help with and is happy to take this forward.

1. **Development of Residents group**

SD asked if the people who had attended were happy to form a residents’ group and did they have any suggestions of how we could encourage more tenants and resident to be involved. SS suggested knocking of doors asking people to attend meetings. Others suggested we send the minutes of the meeting to all tenants and resident to let them see what we are trying to achieve, and maybe once people see how positive the meeting was, more people would be inclined to be involved.

We agreed to do this, and they would be sent out with the playpark consultation this week. We would also put them on our website and a link on Facebook to the website.

1. **AOB**

The removal of the garages was discussed but SD explained this was a conversation that needs to be had with Diane Gorge who is the Development Officer and was not for discussion at this meeting.

1. **Next Meeting**

It was suggested that the next meeting was held in the evening in a bigger room so that we could encourage more people to attend. We agreed the next meeting would be 1st December 2021 at 6.30pm in the meeting room at the Minto centre.

The minutes of this meeting along with the play park consultation and an invite to the next meeting will be sent out this week.