

**Minutes of St Mary's Island Residents' Association Ltd (SMIRA) Residents' Meeting held at the
Community Centre on Tuesday 30th July 2019 commencing at 7.30pm**

Chair: Mandy Samrai (MS)

Directors: Yvonne Bishop (YB) - Treasurer, John Tower (JT) - Secretary

Attendees: Steve Quayle, Brenda Mills, Chris Mills, Richard Holt, Barbara Southworth, Brain Saunders, Jane Wiggins, Phil Gilley, Ranieri Notarianni, Karen Notarrianni, Jennifer Adams, Gerald Adams, Brian Viney, Doreen Viney, Richard Bavister, Marian Bavister, Janet Adkin, Dave Elder, Milla Onyiah

CMT Representatives: Julian Perry (CEO, Chatham Maritime Trust)

Guests: Cllr. Piers Thompson (Medway Council), Tanya Bain-Ferry (Living River Foundation), Matt Small (CMT Watersports Manager)

Apologies for Absence: Glenn Rogers (Vice Chair, SMIRA), Cllr. Habib Tejan, Grant Leathwhite (CMT), Chris Reynolds, Chris Rainbow

Abbreviations: CMT – Chatham Maritime Trust, CML – Countryside Maritime Ltd (developers), HCA – Homes and Communities Agency (SMI landowner), MDL – MDL Marinas, SMI – St Mary's Island

Secretary's Note:

A list of Questions and Answers (abbreviated if necessary) from the meeting can be found in Appendix A. Poll Results from the meeting can be found in Appendix B and follow ups in Appendix C.

Full information regarding all of the above is still recorded below.

Item A01: Opening of the meeting

MS outlined the running of the meeting with the usual requests to accord those speaking the respect to allow them to finish, along with the respect for views that may not be the same as your own. All the other usual rules also apply.

Item A02: Apologies for Absence

Please see above

Item A03: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A question was raised from the floor regarding item A08 from the previous meeting (18th June 2019) whereby a resident raised concerns about the way that the parking fines were being levied in the Ship & Trades car park. The minutes recorded that a meeting would be set up with the resident to discuss this but, as yet, no meeting has been held. MS said that they had a chat with the resident after the formal meeting and that it was agreed that the Board would contact the car park management and then report back. The full update is available below under Item A04.

JT requested a Proposer and Secunder for the minutes to be adopted.

Proposed by Milla Onyiah

Secinded by Barbara Southwick

Item A04: Follow Up Actions from the Previous Meeting

Item A04/1: Approach Ship & Trades Car Park Management to find ways of improving their data capture

Action: MS & GR to liaise with a concerned resident and then GR approach the Car Park Management company

Update: The resident was contacted by MS & GR. GR now has a contact number for the car park management company and is finding out how it will be managed in the future. However, the parking time has already been extended to 3 hours and they are looking to improve the monitoring.

Item A04/2: Find out who is representing SMIRA on the CMT Security Committee

Action: Grant Leathwhite to speak to Julian Perry and to pass on a request that MS & GR can attend.

Update: This is a combination of a written answer and a verbal update given by Julian Perry at the meeting. An invitation to join any Trust sub-group is a matter for the SMIRA Board to agree. The request to join this sub-group will be noted to Board Members and the Trust will look to invite a SMIRA representative, if agreed.

As a summary of the position regarding SMI, anti-social behaviour within the river ward has increased but SMI is still classed as low crime risk area with the ward. The current provisions for Security have been reiterated at a number of SMIRA meetings and at the Board Security Sub Group. CMT have no objection to hold a small meeting with SMIRA and residents to talk over provisions and this is to be arranged for later in August, subject to availability of staff. Residents who have expressed an interest in this would be invited.

The Current Contract provides a full range of security provisions as attached and noted below:

- Package 1: CCTV System Surveillance
- Package 2: Mobile Patrols Man, Guarding and Ad Hoc call out
- Package 3: CMT Estate Officer – Carl Davis
- Package 4: POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER PCSO – Angela Saunders
- Package 5: Local Authority Community Warden – Chris Harrison

Item A04/3: Ascertain whether the bird of prey can be flown over the Island

Action: Grant Leathwhite to feed back to Julian Perry.

Update: This is a combination of a written answer and a verbal update given by Julian Perry at the meeting. SMI Pest control provisions on the island relate exclusively to land owned and maintained by the trust. Each individual resident has a responsibility to maintain his or her own land and buildings with netting, spiking and reduction of food and water in locations to minimise harbouring of pigeons or other pests.

The Trust as part of its biodiversity and wild life policy have introduced a number of bird, bee and beetle boxes to promote wildlife on the island. The introduction of a Bird of Prey would interfere with the natural balance of all wildlife on the Island so would not be deemed to be an appropriate action.

A follow up question was asked by a resident saying that they had only recently started to see large numbers of pigeons, was this to do with the build out on Colonial Wharf and what could CMT do about it? Julian said that it wasn't understood what was causing the problem, but it may be the build out and that this should hopefully be alleviated once the building work was finished. But he wasn't sure if anything could really be done about the issue at the moment.

Item A04/4: Find out the difference in budget between a PCSO and a full Police Constable

Action: Grant Leathwhite to attempt to obtain this information.

Update: This is a combination of a written answer and a verbal update given by Julian Perry at the meeting. CMT can confirm that this is not an option available to an organisation such as the Trust, as Kent Police do not offer a full time PC paid by others, only a PCSO. The decision to take on a full time PCSO was decided upon a request from Residents, SMIRA and others due to the concerns over the limited powers of a Security Guard. The current 3-year contract agreement between CMT and Kent Police expires on 1st April 2020.

A resident expressed concerns that there was a perception that security was being wound down and was not as effective as it had been in the past. Coupled with this, there was also a perceived lack of action by the police, so how was this to be resolved. Cllr. Thompson said that he could not talk regarding the CMT provided security, but that the police talk about the numbers and prioritisation. The more reports that are made regarding crimes and anti-social behaviour, the more likely it is that a response will be forthcoming. If things are not reported, then any response will be given a lower priority than it otherwise might have. MS said that there was going to be a meeting arranged with the residents and CMT but it needed to be a meeting specifically for that and that a Residents Meeting was not the forum to discuss this. It is only possible to inform residents of things via e-mail if we have their e-mail addresses through them being SMIRA members but that we also put things on Facebook and on the SMIRA Notice Boards. The SMIRA Board are using every avenue possible to get information to residents about matters such as this. JT said that he was happy to resend the invitation out to account for the increased membership since it was first proposed but he is limited to the mailing list that he has of SMIRA members. MS said that we needed to move on but that there was a need for a proper dialogue to take place and that this was why the security meeting was agreed on.

Item A04/5: Follow Up on 20mph speed limit on SMI

Action: Cllr Piers Thompson will contact the relevant departments in Medway Council to find out what is possible in regard to this with the intention of updating the next meeting.

Item A05 – Update on CMT Watersports by Matt Small

Matt introduced himself as the Manager of the CMT Watersports Centre in Basin 2. The aim is to provide a watersports facility for the CMT ‘family’ comprising SMI, the Universities and the Businesses. They are now licenced to provide tuition for under 18’s on sailing, kayaking, windsurfing, paddleboarding and improvised rafting. They are working towards other recognition with the Royal Yachting Association.

Pay & Play Boat hire is available on Mondays & Wednesdays 1400hrs – 2000hrs and Saturdays 1000hrs – 1600hrs. Open to anyone aged 8+ for kayaks & paddleboards with no previous experience. Sailboat & Windsurfing qualifications are required to ensure competency on the water and details are available upon request. On Thursdays during the summer holidays, a day of activities from 0930hrs – 1600hrs for £35 is available for those aged 8-15 on a pre-booked basis.

Watersports courses and workshops will be available once the relevant recognitions are received and group/schools activities are planned for the near future, tailored to requirements.

All details are available at www.cmtrust.co.uk/play/water-sports and residents are encouraged to take a look at this. Matt has also been given access to the SMIRA Facebook page to keep residents informed

Matt was asked what the current opening months are. Matt said that they will be open on the relevant weekdays until the end of September and on Saturdays until mid-October but will close once the evenings are becoming darker much earlier.

Another question was asked regarding how the competency of groups could be assured so that safety and behaviour could be maintained. Matt said that all groups will be given basic tuition by the instructors and that there would be constant supervision.

Item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

MS said that there were 8 pre-submitted questions.

A06/Q1. Pre-Submitted Question: There are a lot of posts on social media regarding drone activity over Marine View/Little Victory Mount/The Causeway and we were wondering if there was any specific CMT policy or advice regarding this?

Julian said that there a dedicated policy as noted under the 'Land Management' section of the CMT website, where the Estate Regulations 1-8 are noted. Drones would come under item 7 of this list www.cmtrust.co.uk/about-chatham-maritime-trust/land-management/ Any such activity should be reported to the Trust by residents.

JT then said that he had looked up the laws pertaining to drones and that he could advise the following:

Always keep your drone in sight

It's against the law to fly your drone over 400ft (120m)

From 30th November 2019 and for drones over 250g, you must pass the drone test and register with the CAA before you fly

Distances: People and properties – 150ft (50m) Crowds and built up areas – 500ft (150m) and don't overfly

- SMI falls just outside the restricted zone for Rochester Airport but most of Chatham is within it (so no drone flying is legal without ATC clearance!)
- You cannot shoot down a drone - danger of damage & injury from stray shots.

You cannot jam a drone as the frequency jammers are illegal in the UK.

The CAA will only be involved if there is a danger to aircraft.

Report to the Police on 101 and CMT, but even then they must actually catch the person in the act of flying the drone.

In response to a follow up question, Julian confirmed that CMT will issue commercial licences for specific surveys and control the terms of the flying. A further question was asked that, even if SMI was outside the exclusion zone for Rochester Airport, what about the airstrip on the Isle of Grain? JT said that the airstrip on the Isle of Grain does not fall under CAA jurisdiction as shown on their website and thus there was no exclusion zone around it.

A06/Q2. Pre-Submitted Question: Does the PCSO – Angela Saunders have a mobile number that can be used to contact her and when should we contact her?

MS said that between this question being asked and the meeting, someone had posted the PCSO mobile number on Facebook, but that the follow up of when she should be contacted was still valid. Julian said that the best option was to phone 101 or to contact the Trust and they would inform the police/PCSO themselves. Out of hours, 101 or Ward Security – but the preference is always to contact 101 in the first instance.

A06/Q3. Pre-Submitted Question: When is Neighbourhood Watch to be overhauled and relaunched?

MS said that this is a question for the SMIRA Board. We have Neighbourhood Watch in 3 sectors of the Island, but that we are looking to expand this in association with the Sector Reps. This is a piece of work that the Board will be focussing on in the coming months.

A06/Q4. Pre-Submitted Question: So many posts on various FB pages on issues/antisocial behaviour with residents not sure what to do/contact. Could someone from SMIRA not assist on these posts, advising residents on the best fit course of action?

MS said that there were a number of Facebook pages. SMIRA Board members can only administer the official SMIRA Facebook page, that they are not given access to some pages and that there are only 5 people who can be looking for such posts. However, we would always look to respond to posts on the official SMIRA Facebook group.

A06/Q5. Pre-submitted Question: Hedge trimming on Riverside Walk in front of Westerly Way - some cutting has occurred, but not on all hedges and only to the front side of the hedges that have been touched - none of the tops have been cut. Can you please let us know why this is the case - is there a reason?

Julian Perry said that the sides of the hedges have all been trimmed recently using the truck mounted hedge trimmer. However, at the time of cutting, many of the shrubs were in bloom. Cutting a plant that is in bloom is not good practice and can result in significant die-back and so the cutting of the top of the shrubs has been delayed to allow the blooming season to finish. The cutting of the shrub tops has therefore been booked in for later in August, following completion of this blooming season.

A06/Q6. Pre-submitted Question: Piling on the Persimmon build is being carried out outside the agreed times. Is there anything CMT can go about this?

Julian said that there are currently no piling works ongoing on the Persimmon site. The demolition contractor Goody Demolition has been carrying out some concrete breaking works, which can be noisy at times.

The pile driving that residents can hear at the moment is from works being carried out on the Chatham Waters development site to the south of the commercial dock in Basin 3. CMT have not as yet made any formal complaint to Environment, Health and Safety department of Medway Council regarding the out of hours piling noise but will look to do this now that it has been raised by residents and if it continues to be an issue. Cllr. Piers Thompson also agreed to take this back to Medway Council and confirm the agreed hours with them. If these are being breached, he will ensure that this is taken up with the developers. JT to act as liaison on this.

A06/Q7. Pre-submitted Question: Although its summer, with lighter nights, is it still OK for children to be around play areas at 10pm and making noise? What can be done about this?

Cllr. Piers Thompson said that there was freedom to make noise until 11pm. After that time, maybe contact the Council for Environmental Health to investigate but that this was a very difficult subject to deal with and it may be something that you just have to live with.

A resident asked if the gates to the play areas could be locked at a certain time at night and then re-opened in the morning. YB said that this used to be done but that as soon as the man locking the gates had left the site, the children were climbing the fence to get in. CMT then took the view that it was safer to leave the gates open. Julian agreed to take this point back to the Trust and see what the situation is regarding this.

A06/Q8. Pre-submitted Question: I understand the school expansion plans have been accelerated, so what will be done about the parking given that the extra pupils are likely to be coming from off the Island?

Julian said that CMT have been working with the school since January 2019 on this issue and that they have had meeting with the Headteacher, Mrs Easton. Four options were available originally to attempt to minimise the issue. Three of these involved changes to the actual highway and these were all rejected by Medway Council Highways Department. The final proposal was to build a new car park off the existing Community Centre car park and use that for drop off and collection during the school run. This was the proposal given to the school and they were to check that this land was available for use. No response has since been given by the school and this has made it hard for CMT to progress. Even if a positive response was received now, it is still too late to have it ready for the start of the new school year.

JT was also able to provide further information as follows:

The original expansion plan was that the Reception Class of September 2018 would increase from a 2 Form Entry (2FE) to a 3 Form Entry (3FE), thus moving from a potential maximum of 60 children (and this was always over-subscribed) to a potential maximum of 90 children. The 3FE this year has actually not gone to the full numbers. The idea was that this 3FE would then work its way up the school with future intakes following behind until, by Year 6, all the school was 3FE.

As of September 2019, Years 1 & R will be 3FE as planned. However, Years 3 & 4 will also be 3FE which was not planned. This is not the choice of the school and has been imposed on them by Medway Council.

They are hoping that a lot of the increased intake will come from Colonial Wharf which, although off-Island, is within walking distance. JT spoke informally to the Deputy Headteacher about the parking and she said that they do send out letters asking that Island residents walk their children to school and that others park considerately. Unfortunately, neither she nor the Head, Mrs Easton, had any availability for a meeting before the end of the school year. JT to pick this back up once the children return to school in September. MS also happy to attend any meeting.

A follow up question was asked by a resident as to why there should be so many cars for a school for Island children. JT explained that the school is not exclusively for the children of SMI residents. The school has a dual intake policy. Firstly there is a geographical catchment area that includes, but is not exclusive to, SMI. Secondly, as a Church of England school, one third of the school places were reserved for children at two partner churches. MS assured the meeting that everyone was working together to try and resolve this. Julian Perry also confirmed that the drop-off area in Azure was still planned but that it would be at least a year before it was ready.

A further question was asked as to whether it was known exactly who owned the land that the proposed car park would be sited on? The buildings belong to the diocese, but who does the land belong to? Julian said that this was part of the issue and that even the Headteacher did not know for sure who the land belonged to.

A06/Q9. Resident at Meeting Question: Can CMT ensure that all contractors are reminded of the need for them to keep their areas secured? People were found swimming in the Basins having accessed the area via areas still under development, during the working day.

Julian said that the basin in question is under the jurisdiction of MDL and that they would send someone out to investigate this. It was pointed out that the children in question were climbing over the fences around the basin and then jumping into the water. Julian said that the area was not yet under CCTV coverage as it hadn't been completely built out and that, although he recognised that it

may be too late for this year, it would help in the future. MS asked if there was anything that CMT could do and Julian said that he would look into this. Piers Thompson reminded residents that they should report any behaviour such as this to the police to ensure the correct picture was built up.

A resident asked if the security firm would attend the Island if they were made aware of anti-social behaviour taking place? Julian said that this was very unlikely to happen as that was a police matter. The security firm was employed to secure Trust land and property and that residents were not paying for them to secure their own properties. Should anti-social behaviour be witnessed on the CCTV, it was recorded and passed to the police. The issue may be that residents did not then hear about any prosecutions that followed and that the Trust could look to improve that sort of communication.

A final question was asked as to who had the responsibility to erect the CCTV cameras in the new build areas. Julian said that it was the responsibility of Countryside to do so and that the cameras would then be handed over to CMT to be added to the existing network.

MS then thanked both Julian and Piers for attending.

Item A07 – Litter Free Maritime by Tanya Bain-Ferry of Living River Foundation

Tanya introduced herself and said that she wanted to let residents know about the Litter Free Maritime project that had been set up in conjunction with CMT and MDL. Not only was litter getting into the basins but also escaping from there into the estuary.

The idea is to stop the litter at source with the project expected to last 2 years. Charlotte Ralph is acting as the Community Ambassador and looking at clean-up activities as well as running liaison with the school to educate them about the effects of litter. The initial idea is to try and trace exactly where the litter is being found and where its source is. This will advise any interventions that may be needed. If it can very easily be seen that litter is coming from a particular business, then the reasons for that could be looked at such as where the litter bins were sited and ideas such as that. At the moment, it is all centred around data collection.

There are signs around the Island that will advise as to when the litter picking times will occur. Litter will be filtered to separate the recyclable items from the landfill. LRF can easily be found from putting Living River Foundation into any internet search engine. Almost everything they do is internet based to minimise their own footprint.

Item A08 – CMT Board Review – Mandy Samraj

MS said that she wanted to reassure residents that no decision has yet been made about SMIRA representation on the CMT Board. CMT are looking to carry out a review of their Board structure but it is at the very early stages. CMT are reviewing their Board as the current structure has been in place for 20 years (see structure attached as part of the presentation) and they want to ensure that the CMT Board structure is still relevant. At the moment, SMIRA has 2 representatives and MS believes that SMIRA residents will want to still have a voice on the CMT Board and that any proposed change is brought to a Residents Meeting for a consultation and possible vote to ensure that the SMIRA representatives accurately reflect the wishes of the SMIRA members.

Item A09 – SMIRA Budget – Yvonne Bishop

YB said that there is not a huge amount to update. The 2019/2020 budget has still not been presented to CMT but they have asked for a 2020/2021 budget which has been provided to them. The 2019/2020 allocation in the CMT budget has been being paid quarterly but CMT have agreed to settle the amount outstanding in full within a few weeks. The General Fund has £1158 available to be used for the running of SMIRA and which, technically, should be returned to CMT if in surplus at the end of the financial year. Countryside Maritime generously donated £500 earlier in the year which has been put into the Community Fund for use on community projects and events. This fund can be rolled over year on year.

Item A10 – SMIRA Branding – Milla Onyiah

MS introduced Milla as the person who has been working with us on the communications and branding side. Milla has been working on modernising and refreshing the logo and standardising our communications look so that it is easy to see that a message comes from SMIRA as well as making it look more professional.

Milla has been looking at colours and images. In terms of the logo, the flags have been kept as they have both a maritime feel and they also spell 'SMIRA'. Colours have been chosen to be easily identifiable and to avoid colour combinations that are known to be difficult to distinguish on both screen and paper. Standard templates and fonts will be used and large print will be available if needed.

MS said she wanted to thank Milla for the amount of work that she has done to make the SMIRA Board look far more professional in their communications.

Item A11 – Sector Rep Nominations – Mandy Samrai

When the Island is complete, there will be 16 sectors with 12 already completed. The Board is aware that they cannot be fully aware of everything that goes on in every sector. We're looking for people with a real feel for their area and who want to help their community without wanting to necessarily join the SMIRA Board. The idea is to end up with 3 Sector Reps per sector making 36 now and 48 when the final build out is completed.

The first set of nominations have been received and the following people are the first of our Sector Reps:

Sector 2 – Dave Elder

Sector 2 – Ali Mohammed

Sector 3 – Kiran Gill Dusanj

Sector 9 – Chris Reynolds

Sector 10 – Jess Whitehead

We'll be promoting them as the people to come to if you have an issue within your sector. There are different issues with different parts of the Island and this is where Sector Reps will be so useful. Nominations are going to re-opened and this will be an ongoing item. Those present were happy to ratify the first nominations and MS congratulated them.

Item A12 – SMIRA Progress Update

MS wanted to give residents an update on what the SMIRA Board have been doing since they were elected and what they are still hoping to achieve, with the help and support of residents, within the next 12-18 months.

Completed:

- Revamped the format and layout of the Formal Residents meeting, with Stakeholder Q&A and polls/votes take place
- Introduced Saturday drop ins
- Rebranded SMIRA - One Island, One Community, One Voice and new branding scheme
- Easter Egg Hunt in April 2019 for 100 residents
- Launched Sector Representative initiative
- Launched Associate membership
- Increased communication with the use of regular updates on notice boards, Facebook, Twitter and email as well formal meetings and Saturday drop ins.
- Reviewed the governance arrangement for SMIRA & confirmed memberships statuses
- Promoted local groups

Still to come in 2019/20

- Summer Picnic and Dog Show on 26.8.19 for 500 residents
- Recruit sector representatives
- Once funds received to purchase a laptop to ensure SMIRA is fully GDPR compliant and complete work reconciling SMIRA membership
- Design and approve resident consultation on SMIRA articles of association around membership and following approval at the AGM (November 2019) to deliver this in 2020.
- Launch the new SMIRA website
- Development and launch of SMIRA Member Benefits
- Work with residents on increasing Neighbourhood Watch across the island

The result is that the SMIRA organisation is far more inclusive than many be it was in the past – please see the organisation chart in the attached presentation.

Item A13 – Summer Event – Choice of Charity to be supported – Mandy Samrai & Yvonne Bishop

The Summer Event is a Community Picnic & Dog Show exclusively for SMI Residents and their family & friends with a limit of 6 tickets per household to be applied for online. If anyone has issues with getting online, MS advised that a member of the SMIRA Board would be happy to assist. The event will also be Litter Free & Single Use Plastic Free in conjunction with Living River Foundation.

Following a Facebook poll, the two charities that gained the most support to be taken forward to a vote tonight are Animals Lost and Found in Kent & The Alzheimer's Society. A question was asked as to why we could not support both charities. MS explained that the idea was to keep things as simple as possible for this year and to try and support two charities would have made things more complex than the SMIRA Board really wanted, given all the work that was already going into the event. Supporting two charities was a possibility for future events, but not this one.

A vote was asked to decide which would be the one to be supported by the Summer Event. The results were:

Animals Lost and Found in Kent - 6

The Alzheimer's Society – 11

Therefore, The Alzheimer's Society has been chosen as the charity that we will support via a JustGiving page.

MS said that Animals Lost & Found in Kent will be attending the event to provide animal First Aid and free micro-chipping, but that she did not reveal this before the vote in order to avoid any perceived bias.

Item A14 – Any Other Business

A question was raised from the floor as to why what most residents would see as the most important subject at the moment, security, didn't seem to be given the top priority that it should be and that equal effort appeared to be being given to things such as Summer Events.

MS explained that she did understand how residents felt, but that the SMIRA Board had to look at all areas of life in the Island and that, as a new Board, there had been a lot of other things that needed to be addressed such as governance, membership etc. At the same time, there is only a limited amount that the SMIRA Board can do under the current format and that, ultimately, was beholden to CMT to provide the forum and space for the matter of security to be discussed fully and openly. There are questions around CCTV, anti-social behaviour but the SMIRA Board cannot tackle this on their own and it requires CMT to explain what our money is paying for and what the future looks like.

Item A15: Closing the meeting

MS thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that the next formal meeting would be on Tuesday 10th September 2019 commencing at 7.30pm and held in the Community Centre.

The meeting was formally closed at 9.15pm

Appendix A: Full list of Questions and Answers from the meeting 30.7.19

A04/Q1: Only recently have large numbers of pigeons been seen on the Island. Is this to do with the build out of Colonial Wharf and what can CMT do about it?

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A04 – Follow Up Actions from the Previous Meeting

Answered by: Julian Perry (CEO, CMT)

Julian said that it wasn't understood what was causing the problem, but it may be the build out and that this should hopefully be alleviated once the building work was finished. But he wasn't sure if anything could really be done about the issue at the moment.

A05/Q1: What months is the Watersports Centre open for?

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A05 –Update on CMT Watersports

Answered by: Matt Small

Matt said that they will be open on the relevant weekdays until the end of September and on Saturdays until mid-October but will close once the evenings are becoming darker much earlier.

A05/Q2: How will the competency of groups using the Watersports Centre be assured?

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A05 –Update on CMT Watersports

Answered by: Matt Small

Matt said that all groups will be given basic tuition by the instructors and that there would be constant supervision.

A06/Q1: There are a lot of posts on social media regarding drone activity over Marine View/Little Victory Mount/The Causeway and we were wondering if there was any specific CMT policy or advice regarding this?

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JT then said that he had looked up the laws pertaining to drones and that he could advise the following:

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JT said that the airstrip on the Isle of Grain does not fall under CAA jurisdiction as shown on their website and thus there was no exclusion zone around it.

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MS said that this is a question for the SMIRA Board. We have Neighbourhood Watch in 3 sectors of the Island, but that we are looking to expand this in association with the Sector Reps. This is a piece of work that the Board will be focussing on in the coming months.

A06/Q4. So many posts on various FB pages on issues/antisocial behaviour with residents not sure what to do/contact. Could someone from SMIRA not assist on these posts, advising residents on the best fit course of action?

Asked via: Pre-submitted question during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: Mandy Samrai

MS said that there were a number of Facebook pages. SMIRA Board members can only administer the official SMIRA Facebook page, that they are not given access to some pages and that there are only 5 people who can be looking for such posts. However, we would always look to respond to posts on the official SMIRA Facebook group.

A06/Q5. Hedge trimming on Riverside Walk in front of Westerly Way - some cutting has occurred, but not on all hedges and only to the front side of the hedges that have been touched - none of the tops have been cut. Can you please let us know why this is the case - is there a reason?

Asked via: Pre-submitted question during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: Julian Perry

Julian said that the sides of the hedges have all been trimmed recently using the truck mounted hedge trimmer. However, at the time of cutting, many of the shrubs were in bloom. Cutting a plant that is in bloom is not good practice and can result in significant die-back and so the cutting of the top of the shrubs has been delayed to allow the blooming season to finish. The cutting of the shrub tops has therefore been booked in for later in August, following completion of this blooming season.

A06/Q6. Piling on the Persimmon build is being carried out outside the agreed times. Is there anything CMT can go about this?

Asked via: Pre-submitted question during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: Julian Perry & Piers Thompson

Julian said that there are currently no piling works ongoing on the Persimmon site. The demolition contractor Goody Demolition has been carrying out some concrete breaking works, which can be noisy at times.

The pile driving that residents can hear at the moment is from works being carried out on the Chatham Waters development site to the south of the commercial dock in Basin 3. CMT have not as yet made any formal complaint to Environment, Health and Safety department of Medway Council regarding the out of hours piling noise but will look to do this now that it has been raised by residents and if it continues to be an issue. Cllr. Piers Thompson also agreed to take this back to Medway Council and confirm the agreed hours with them. If these are being breached, he will ensure that this is taken up with the developers. JT to act as liaison on this.

A06/Q7. Although its summer, with lighter nights, is it still OK for children to be around play areas at 10pm and making noise? What can be done about this?

Asked via: Pre-submitted question during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: Piers Thompson

Cllr. Piers Thompson said that there was freedom to make noise until 11pm. After that time, maybe contact the Council for Environmental Health to investigate but that this was a very difficult subject to deal with and it may be something that you just have to live with.

A06/Q7-1. Can the gates to the play areas not be locked at night and re-opened in the morning?

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: Yvonne Bishop

YB said that this used to be done but that as soon as the man locking the gates had left the site, the children were climbing the fence to get in. CMT then took the view that it was safer to leave the gates open. Julian Perry agreed to take this point back to the Trust and see what the situation is regarding this.

A06/Q8. I understand the school expansion plans have been accelerated, so what will be done about the parking given that the extra pupils are likely to be coming from off the Island?

Asked via: Pre-submitted question during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: Julian Perry & John Tower

Julian said that CMT have been working with the school since January 2019 on this issue and that they have had meeting with the Headteacher, Mrs Easton. Four options were available originally to attempt to minimise the issue. Three of these involved changes to the actual highway and these were all rejected by Medway Council Highways Department. The final proposal was to build a new car park off the existing Community Centre car park and use that for drop off and collection during the school run. This was the proposal given to the school and they were to check that this land was available for use. No response has since been given by the school and this has made it hard for CMT to progress. Even if a positive response was received now, it is still too late to have it ready for the start of the new school year.

JT was also able to provide further information as follows:

The original expansion plan was that the Reception Class of September 2018 would increase from a 2 Form Entry (2FE) to a 3 Form Entry (3FE), thus moving from a potential maximum of 60 children (and this was always over-subscribed) to a potential maximum of 90 children. The 3FE this year has actually not gone to the full numbers. The idea was that this 3FE would then work its way up the school with future intakes following behind until, by Year 6, all the school was 3FE.

As of September 2019, Years 1 & R will be 3FE as planned. However, Years 3 & 4 will also be 3FE which was not planned. This is not the choice of the school and has been imposed on them by Medway Council.

They are hoping that a lot of the increased intake will come from Colonial Wharf which, although off-Island, is within walking distance. JT spoke informally to the Deputy Headteacher about the parking and she said that they do send out letters asking that Island residents walk their children to school and that others park considerately. Unfortunately, neither she nor the Head, Mrs Easton, had any availability for a meeting before the end of the school year. JT to pick this back up once the children return to school in September.

A06/Q8-1: Is the school for Island children and, if so, why are there so many cars used during the school run?

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: John Tower

JT explained that the school is not exclusively for the children of SMI residents. The school has a dual intake policy. Firstly there is a geographical catchment area that includes, but is not exclusive to, SMI. Secondly, as a Church of England school, one third of the school places were reserved for children at two partner churches.

A06/Q8-2: Is it known exactly who owned the land that the proposed car park would be sited on? The buildings belong to the diocese, but who does the land belong to?

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: Julian Perry

Julian said that this was part of the issue and that even the Headteacher did not know for sure who the land belonged to.

A06/Q9. Can CMT ensure that all contractors are reminded of the need for them to keep their areas secured? People were found swimming in the Basins having accessed the area via areas still under development, during the working day.

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: Julian Perry

Julian said that the basin in question is under the jurisdiction of MDL and that they would send someone out to investigate this. It was pointed out that the children in question were climbing over the fences around the basin and then jumping into the water. Julian said that the area was not yet under CCTV coverage as it hadn't been completely built out and that, although he recognised that it may be too late for this year, it would help in the future. MS asked if there was anything that CMT could do and Julian said that he would look into this. Piers Thompson reminded residents that they should report any behaviour such as this to the police to ensure the correct picture was built up.

A06/Q9-1. If a resident reports anti-social behaviour taking place on the Island to the security firm, will they send someone over to deal with it?

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: Julian Perry

Julian said that this was very unlikely to happen as that was a police matter. The security firm was employed to secure Trust land and property and that residents were not paying for them to secure their own properties. Should anti-social behaviour be witnessed on the CCTV, it was recorded and passed to the police. The issue may be that residents did not then hear about any prosecutions that followed and that the Trust could look to improve that sort of communication.

A06/Q9-2. Who has the responsibility for setting up the CCTV cameras in the new build areas?

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A06 – Stakeholder Q&A

Answered by: Julian Perry

Julian said that it was the responsibility of Countryside to do so and that the cameras would then be handed over to CMT to be added to the existing network.

A13/Q1. Why can both of the most popular charities from the Summer Event Facebook poll not be supported?

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A13 – Summer Event

Answered by: Mandy Samrai

MS explained that the idea was to keep things as simple as possible for this year and to try and support two charities would have made things more complex than the SMIRA Board really wanted, given all the work that was already going into the event. Supporting two charities was a possibility for future events, but not this one.

A14/Q1. Why is the matter of security not being given the priority that many residents feel it should have?

Asked via: Resident at the meeting during item A14 – Any Other Business

Answered by: Mandy Samrai

MS explained that she did understand how residents felt, but that the SMIRA Board had to look at all areas of life in the Island and that, as a new Board, there had been a lot of other things that needed to be addressed such as governance, membership etc. At the same time, there is only a limited amount that the SMIRA Board can do under the current format and that, ultimately, was beholden to CMT to provide the forum and space for the matter of security to be discussed fully and openly. There are questions around CCTV, anti-social behaviour but the SMIRA Board cannot tackle this on their own and it requires CMT to explain what our money is paying for and what the future looks like.

Appendix B: Polls and Results

Poll: Which charity should SMIRA support for its Summer Event?

Taken during: Item A13 – Summer Event

Animals Lost and Found in Kent: 6

The Alzheimer's Society: 11

Appendix C: Follow up items for the next meeting

Item: Inform people of the meeting with CMT regarding security on the Island.

Action: JT to reopen the list of interested parties and to send a new e-mail giving people the opportunity to sign up for it.

Item: Follow Up on 20mph speed limit on SMI

Action: Cllr Piers Thompson will contact the relevant departments in Medway Council to find out what is possible in regard to this with the intention of updating the next meeting. JT to act as the point of liaison on this.

Item: Confirm agreed working hours at Chatham Waters, especially in regard to noisy activities

Action: Cllr. Piers Thompson to take this back to Medway Council and confirm the agreed hours with them. If these are being breached, he will ensure that this is taken up with the developers. JT to act as liaison on this.

Item: Can the gates to the play areas not be locked at night and re-opened in the morning?

Action: Julian Perry to obtain further information on the CMT stance for this action.

Item: What is being done about parking issues that may be caused by the increased intake at the SMI Primary School?

Action: JT to speak to the Headteacher and/or Deputy Headteacher to find out what the school can do to promote not using cars for the school run prior to increased parking being available.