

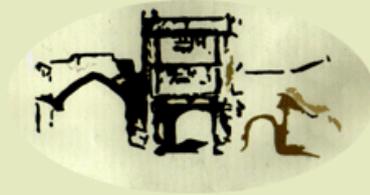
WALMGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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e-voice.org.uk/walmgateCA/



Minutes of AGM held 24 January 2024 1800-1900

Location: St Denys Church Hall

Agenda

Welcome, Apologies for Absence, Announcements, Administration

WCA priorities

- Crime and antisocial behaviour
- Unauthorized work at Castle Mills site
- Commenting on developments and planning
- Air quality control
- Outdoor storage for bikes
- Working with the City of York Council on improving the area
- Urban gardening
- Activities for children
- Better links with local businesses and other organisations

Any other business

Future Meetings

Proceedings

- Adam Parfitt chaired the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

- Apologies for absence from Sarah Friar, Charlette Shiel-Small, Chris Donegani.

Chairman's AGM report

- Adam Parfitt delivered the AGM report in the absence of the WCA Chair.
- The minutes of the 2023 AGM are to be subject to confirmation at the next open meeting, but will be presented again at the next AGM.
- WCA activities over the past year under the framework of the WCA priority list were summarised.

- WCA posters have been inserted in the area noticeboards.
- Work has begun to create a new WCA flyer for distribution in the area.
- Improved local awareness of, and involvement in, WCA to be added to the priority list.

Treasurer's AGM report

- Adam Parfitt delivered a summary of the AGM Treasurer's report in the absence of the WCA Treasurer.
- Full report has been sent to WCA Secretary.
- Closing balance for 2023 around **£1,900.00** after payment for winter/Christmas Lights.
- CYC has discontinued funding for community/residents associations from this year.
- **Funding for Christmas Lights for the next two years. is already in place thanks to CYC and York bid.**
- It is not clear whether CYC will continue to fund York Bid for Christmas Lights after the next two years.
- Councillor Merrett to follow up on the CYC intention in regard to funding Christmas Lights York-wide and WCA.
- The funding requirement is likely to be too high for WCA to bear the cost from its own resources.
- Local businesses may offer another funding channel.
- **Comments in red updated after the meeting.**

Election of WCA Committee

- Chair – vacant, Sarah Friar to stand down
- Vice-Chair – Adam Parfitt standing
- Treasurer - Charlette Shiel-Small continuing
- Secretary – Sarah Friar continuing
- Jose Knowles - continuing
- Jennie Howells - continuing
- Chris Donegani - continuing
- Digby Waller – continuing

CYC transport survey

- Shiona Marsh has notified WCA about the CYC Transport Consultation.
- Please share on social media, with local people, your networks, and feel free to fill it in yourself. Anybody that uses Transport in York (including wider Yorkshire, outer villages etc. can take part)
- Have your say on the future of transport in York
- Transport is a huge topic and City of York Council wants to know what you think of our ideas to create a more accessible, more affordable and more reliable city.
- For example, can you get a bus home early in the morning or late at night? Can your children and grandchildren cycle where they want to go? What improvements would you like to see to the pavements and cycle paths near you?
- All the info and survey can be found here: <https://ourbigconversation.york.gov.uk/> and the closing date is Sunday 4 February. You do not need to fill in the whole survey, just the bits you are most interested in.

Bi-Monthly Walmgate Walkabout

- Councillors Melly, and Clarke together with Sharon Hutchinson (CYC) and WCA residents took part in a local area walk on Thursday 9 November 1400-1530.
- A second walk took place on Wednesday 10 January 2024 1400-1530.
- Councillors Merrett and Clarke, PCSO Ward, and residents took part.
- The next walk is scheduled for Wednesday 6 (or 13?) March 2024 1600-1730.

Priorities for WCA in 2023/2024

Crime and antisocial behaviour

Drug-trafficking and abuse in WCA area

- There was discussion on drug-trafficking in the York area relating to County Lines and its impact in the WCA locality.

Background

County Lines

- County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.
- The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs. Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of this trend.

National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) definition of a County Line

- The 2018 Home Office Serious Crime Strategy states the NPCC definition of a County Line is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

Exploitation of young and vulnerable people

- A common feature in county lines drug supply is the exploitation of young and vulnerable people. The dealers will frequently target children and adults - often with mental health or addiction problems - to act as drug runners or move cash so they can stay under the radar of law enforcement.
- In some cases the dealers will take over a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate their criminal activity from. This is known as cuckooing.

- People exploited in this way will quite often be exposed to physical, mental and sexual abuse, and in some instances will be trafficked to areas a long way from home as part of the network's drug dealing business.
- As we have seen in child sexual exploitation, children often don't see themselves as victims or realise they have been groomed to get involved in criminality. So it's important that we all play our part to understand county lines and speak out if we have concerns.

How do you know if County Lines drug dealing is happening in your area?

Some signs to look out for include:

- An increase in visitors and cars to a house or flat
- New faces appearing at the house or flat
- New and regularly changing residents (e.g different accents compared to local accent)
- Change in resident's mood and/or demeanour (e.g. secretive/ withdrawn/ aggressive/ emotional)
- Substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia
- Changes in the way young people you might know dress
- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g clothes, jewellery, cars etc)
- Residents or young people you know going missing, maybe for long periods of time
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Young people seeming unfamiliar with your community or where they are
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- An increase in anti-social behaviour in the community
- Unexplained injuries

Calder House

- Discussion of recent developments at a property in Calder House.
- A resident has been recently charged by the police and acquitted.
- Separately Paul Morrison and Matthew Ward CYC ASBO unit have engaged in discussion with a group of local residents, and are continuing to examine the case of the same resident.
- Councillors Merrett, Clarke and Melly to seek clarification on CYC ASBO intentions and actions in regard to the case.

Background

- The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer (ASBO) CYC currently managing the tenancy at Calder House is in contact with a number of local residents who regularly report problems due to shouting etc.
- Any reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) should be passed on to this officer as there is a need to know what is affecting people.
- The ASBO intends to serve a notice of seeking possession against ASB offenders, and needs to include as many reports as possible to capture a true picture of the nuisance being caused.

Robinson Court

Changing Lives

- There was discussion about the role and responsibilities of Changing Lives supervisors at Robinson Court.
- Robinson Court supervisor(s) has not to date taken up invitation to attend WCA open meeting.

Previous e-mail to WCA from Catherine Ingram - Robinson Court

- Unfortunately, due to family commitments I will be unable to attend the meeting this evening (ie 22 November 2023).
- **I can however confirm definite attendance at the meeting on 24th January 2024.**
- Changing Lives wish to work collaboratively in partnership with the committee and local residents so that we can respond and resolve any issues with ASB that directly involve clients from Robinson court.
- We have licence agreements that all clients sign up to on admission to the service which outlines specific conditions they need to adhere to during their stay. We work intensively with clients around any issues regarding ASB and have internal policy to address any issues.
- Our aim is to try where possible to avoid clients losing their accommodation as this can then lead to increased issues impacting on the local community.

Working with the City of York Council on improving the area

Bi-Monthly Walmgate Walkabout

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- A second walk took place on Wednesday 10 January 2024 1400-1530.
- Councillors Merritt and Clarke, PCSO Ward, and residents took part.
- The next walk is scheduled for Wednesday 6 (or 13?) March 1600-1730.
- There was a discussion of drug-trafficking and dealing in identified locations.
- There was discussion on road potholes and blocked street drains

Activities for children

Children's playground Rosemary Place

- Funding is in place and work started in late November 2023.
- Construction of the playground is well underway by late January 2024.

- Opening date is planned for Saturday 3 February – no time set yet.

Better links with local businesses and other organisations

General

- There was discussion on improving links with local businesses.
- Councillor Clarke to explore new business start-ups.

St Denys's Church Hall

- Jose Knowles updated on recent well-attended activities at St Denys's Church Hall.
- The weekly Wednesday and Thursday gatherings are well supported.
- New Friday afternoon Bring & Mend weekly initiative now taking place with focus on IT, arts and crafts training 1400-1600.
- Monthly movie show planned for Saturdays, to begin in February..

Addition to Priority List

Improved local awareness of, and involvement in, WCA

- Improved local awareness of, and involvement in, WCA to be added to the priority list.
- WCA posters have been inserted in the area noticeboards.
- Work has begun to create a new WCA flyer for distribution in the area.
- WCA focus group to be formed.
- Existing WCA IT infrastructure and content to be developed to achieve objective of improved awareness and involvement.

Date of next meeting

- Fourth Wednesday of month.
- 28 February 2024, 1800-1900, St Denys Church Hall
- 27 March 2024, 1800-1900, St Denys Church Hall

Attendance

Committee members

Adam Parfitt (Chair)

Jose Knowles

Jennie Howells

Digby Waller

Residents

Maureen O'Hare

Paul Ellison

Councillors and Officials

Councillor Dave Merrett Guildhall Ward

Councillor Rachel Melly Guildhall Ward

Councillor Tony Clarke Guildhall Ward

Others

Bill Hill (Red Tower)