

1. Minutes of the DCA meeting Thurs 16th June

Apologies: Nick Cox, J Holden, Alison Coates

Crime figures: Burglaries on Ambrose crescent, Spurn Lane and Devon Drive.

On Huddersfield Rd there was vandalism to vehicles and scrap metal taken. We were urged to be vigilant and to look out for neighbour's property too.

Bus shelter on Hudds Rd has been vandalised: wood and stone taken. This has been reported but nothing done as yet.

Action: Mark will email to chase up

Debate: Interfaith debate went very well and Duncan very pleased with the way it went. It was good to hear about other faiths and their religious views and this also promotes religious tolerance, so all considered it to be a good thing.

Diggle Blues festival: Report from Dave Woods- Another successful year, with bands lining up to play as they know they will get good audiences. The bands gave positive feedback. Dave sold all T shirts. He would like to step down this year. Mark thanked Dave for all his hard work in putting Diggle on the map.

Diggle Diggers: Report from Stuart Coleman: Have gone from strength to strength and 15 people have so far volunteered. So far they have planted a bog garden, trees on the tip and a large planter at bottom of Sugar Lane. Some people thought the stone "Welcome to Diggle" was in the wrong place but it is extremely difficult to find a suitable place. Stuart reported that Nicky Kirkham has given us £500 and an application has gone in for a grant of £4000 (since heard that this has been granted)

Greg Cookson, an independent youth worker has been working with Saddleworth school children to balsam bash and will be involved with future projects which will involve nature trails and facilities for learning about wildlife in Diggle. Some ideas that have been put forward are:

An orchard on Diggle tip

Strawberry and other soft fruits available to all. .

Projects for schoolchildren to get involved.

Ecology areas

Dedicated wildlife lab

Watch this space as some great ideas and projects are in the pipeline

Newsletter: DCA need to have on and there will be one published in the near future. This is to enable the people of Diggle to have information if they don't get to meetings. Post Office has been v supportive in displaying posters etc. It needs to go out to whole of Diggle.

Above and beyond awards

Ken Bennett has explained what these are as they are his initiative. Questions about the ceremony. JJ asked whether each village could nominate more than one person, others were confused about the ceremony as there was cost involved for the community Assocs. Nominations are to be in by the 31st August.

Diggle red phone box

BT wants to decommission. The lady who owns the land wants to keep as part of her garden furniture but presumably will not be available to public for any other use.

Defib

We now have one in the nursery but obviously not available 24 hours a day. Ray Withnall was negotiating with Garth Harkness so no one sure what is happening.

Action: Mark will chase up.

Mark has made some inquiries about where the dog fouling signs could go: Path around the duck pond/Hudds Rd /Ward Lane/ nursery/Chip shop or higher up near the bus stop/along canal.

Marlene reported that there was evidence of fouling every morning at bus stop area. Furthermore at least 2 of the dog bins have been taken away which will compound the problem. SC reported that this was cost cutting. KL said that the cuts are due to the fact that the Saddleworth manager now has to cover Shaw and Royton

Action: Take this to district partnership and. MB will get more signs to put up.

Diggle Fete: They want to try something different so they are having a leavers party combined with a Ceilidh. This is in order to raise funds for a new library. There will also be a barbeque, stalls and games and a bar. Diggle school choir will entertain.

8th July at 5pm until 9.

Saddleworth school update: OMBC has been served with a judicial review. People have donated money to pay for this. Attempt to ensure that OMBC understand the strength of feeling towards the school being built in Diggle. For any further info contact Keith Lucas, independent councillor for Diggle. Keith reported that the weakest link has always been the road plan. Keith suggested that double yellow lines will extend way beyond the Hanging Gate and the two front fields will be used for housing; thus ensuring that Diggle receives a double whammy and as we all know, Diggle has not got the infrastructure to support the kind of traffic that this will generate.

Digfest: Annual event will be held at the band club on 24th September. Tickets will be on sale soon.

AOB: Tues 23rd every month the cancer cafe will be available for cancer sufferers and their carers. From 10-12 at the Scona Cafe. Next meeting: 8th September 16