Emergency Members Meeting - 27th March 2022 - Village Hall, Rowhedge

Barbara opened meeting

 Following yesterday evenings emergency meeting please find a summery of discussions and action points as a committee we would like to thank everyone who turned up as the numbers certainly surpassed our own expectations. Discussed Police involvement along with the current situation as three officers arrived to address the meeting and listen to allotment holders concerns along with offering support and advise. Media coverage also mentioned as this was covered over two days in the Colchester local paper following the two most recent attacks on the site , views generally that this supported raising the profile to the wider community.

Christian suggested setting up a sub group which was very much embraced with those who displayed a show of hands asked to remain behind after the core meeting had taken place , also discussions around CCTV , mixed feelings on CCTV as some views that the wildlife cams would not be effective enough with the best CCTV systems likely to expensive to consider , debate at other options also discussed as the moorings have effective CCTV and agreed to seek further feedback on these options.

Paul - Did not feel CCTV would be a viable option due to cost as the cheaper systems would perhaps not provide much benefit for the site as the cost of providing electricity to the site would be around 2K which we would not be able to afford ; we do also only have three years lease left on the site with no way of knowing how we may fare with extended lease extensions at this stage , also these negotiations are carried out by the Parish council on our behalf.

Ideas more longer term also discussed , local school involvement to increase community interaction was felt to be a positive way forwards as this was also supported by the community Police to broaden the knowledge of our site within the local community would only be positive in moving forwards

Police - Three community officers kindly attended at the end of our meeting and offered very good advise on taking care of ourselves and to avoid filming the possibly perpetrators using mobile phones but do try to listen for names but it is really important that suspicious activity be reported ASAP using the 101 number , if taking photos of events occurring do please be very careful and try to phone 101 first if at all possible

Also recommended we look at CCTV using the 4G network and try to position where it is not easily noticed , also advised speaking to the local council with regards improving street lighting but under no circumstance should anyone put there selves at risk and if carrying out later patrols do try to ensure two people are present.

The Police officers are also looking at the possible provision of audible shed alarms and possible anti theft paint , once they have responses from Essex Police they will respond , any concerns or indeed feedback please e mail

42079705@essexpolice.co.uk

An allotment watts app group to be set up immediately as everyone agreed this was a very positive idea , Michelle has kindly offered to administer this process

Small skip provision agreed with Paul to order and agree dates ASAP so to dispose of the damaged property on site including all of the broken glass currently in containers

Next meeting TBC however an AGM is due May with dates and times to be circulated shortly