Report on activity in Marleigh – 28th September 2023

There has been a lot of activity in Marleigh over the summer and residents information and communication has been a focus with a 'Helpful Contacts for New Residents' checklist compilation in circulation since 2nd August. (It includes gas, electricity, snagging contacts, council tax, refuse collection, dentist, doctors parish and district council, hospital, post office etc) via social media. It will also be available on noticeboards and at the Community Centre.

Marleigh Service Directory which includes a much broader and detailed list of useful contacts: sports facilities, religious organisations, schools, activities, shops, now includes a monthly section promotion on social media. The Directory is also now 'pinned' prominently on the Facebook page. Links are also included in the Locality welcome postcard posted in each new house once the occupants have moved in after around 6-8 weeks to avoid leaflet overload on the doorstep on day one.

Social Media is a popular way for residents to receive information. The members of the Marleigh Facebook group have increased from 207 (June) to 255 (Sept) which is growing steadily. Occupation is now at 250 homes. The Locality run WhatsApp group is at 74 members and is specifically for advice, troubleshooting and sharing factual updates. There are several other Marleigh WhatsApp groups run by the residents themselves and the Land Trust also has a one-directional WhatsApp group to promote activities at the Community Centre.

The Outdoor Cinema event organised by Hill/Marshall in Jubilee Square on 9th September was well attended particularly in the evening. A recent poll on Facebook has shown that most residents (70%) would prefer evening events with a smaller number wanting daytime for retirees, older people, home-workers, parents/carers (<1%).

A website for Marleigh was discussed but this would need setting up, hosting and updating regularly and there is not yet an obvious online location or owner. Locality are currently hosting the Facebook page but over time it is hoped that a resident might take responsibility for a Marleigh website or the Parish Council may be willing to take on this role.

A newsletter specifically for Marleigh has been suggested but it is also noted that such initiatives can be very intensive in their resource requirements and challenging to maintain regularly. It was suggested that in discussion with Fen Ditton PC the possibility of expanding their newsletter could be included on the Marleigh website digitally once it is set up.

The most common queries from residents on Facebook and in person, relate to the opening of the Coop and Signorelli's café. R3Form Pilates who are moving into the 3rd commercial

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unit will open on 7th October and they are communicating directly with the residents via the FB page and offering some free taster sessions. Signorelli's had a pop-up coffee stand at the recent Open Air Cinema event in Jubilee Square and are fitting out the café for an opening planned for late October. The commercial team at Hill have advised the Coop may open in December but this is not guaranteed and relies on sufficient footfall.

Sharing of events – the Hallmaster (Land Trust) system can display events being held in the area (not just the Community Centre events) and Hilary is going to update it regularly. A QR code for events will be displayed at the Marleigh Academy.

Marleigh Community Chest – substantial progress has been made. Postcards advertising its availability have been circulated around Marleigh. One award has been made for a professional Table Tennis table which is now regularly used on Monday evenings. Another successful application for 'Dance and Relax' sessions which will begin in October (7 sessions will be funded and free). Two more applications have been received – for a chess tournament/club and a street party – probably to be held in 2024. Locality are working with the applicants to expand on their ideas, set a budget and discuss longevity of the project.

An invitation will be prepared for residents to attend a 'feel connected' drop-in session with representatives from services available in Marleigh - It will be planned for later in the autumn.

Discussions with L&Q to help improve communications with their residents (particularly those in the flats) will include circulation of the South Cambs Magazine (to all residents in Marleigh). The magazine contains useful information on recycling. The postcodes in Marleigh where homes are occupied, have been supplied to SCDC Communications Officer to confirm that all residents are receiving the South Cambs magazine.

There is some low-level vandalism occurring in Marleigh and a network of police contacts, community workers, city and council ASB officers has been established how these incidents can be shared, recorded and compared for trends and if necessary, for further action to be taken. The focus on several ASB incidents has taken up time over the summer. We have produced a policy document and flow diagram of how to contact the authorities to report incidents. A meeting of the network of professionals on 13th September reviewed video evidence and shared information on the perpetrators. Intelligence from Fen Ditton and Teversham PCs has shown this is a common problem in parishes. All advice received has indicated that reporting every incident through 101 (see poster appended) will establish patterns and trends for the Police Neighbourhood Team and bring the problem up their list of priorities

Signage can be improved by having a sign from the Park and Ride indicating where Marleigh exists beyond the crossing. A new noticeboard on the wall of the bike store has been suggested, as parents collect there to pick children up from school. Discussions with the Land Trust will investigate the possibility of providing a sign on Marleigh land.

A swishing party (bring an item and take an item) is planned for December following on from the Action Day (and using some of the donated items if in good condition)

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Setting up pot-luck lunches are planned for the autumn/Christmas period and contact has been made with the faith groups operating in Marleigh to help promote them.

A Community Action Day is proposed for October 22nd. The theme of Environmental Sustainability may include a free bike repair workshop, bike riding lessons, sustainable travel advice, and the council's Recycling Team will man a 'take it or leave it' table, a recycling information table and take donations for the next boot sale/swishing party, making art from recycled materials, engaging with the Fire service to provide an attraction for the children and advice on safety. The Harvest Festival weighing of pumpkins will run concurrently at Community Centre – growing food and plants and reducing food waste will be part of the theme.

It has been noted that the soil conditions at Marleigh are poor (in common with many new developments which have recently been building sites) and many plants are suffering from lack of rainfall or at least sporadic watering! A leaflet/poster will be produced to share information on what plants will thrive/survive in Marleigh and it is hoped this may start a Green Fingers Group in time. the Fen Ditton gardening club is helping together with Darwins Nursery to co-design the leaflet with acknowledgement of their contribution.

Bad parking is a source of much irritation to residents and Cambridgeshire County Council are aware of the issues of bad parking. Parking offences may be decriminalised in the near future and if so, it will be responsibility of South Cambridgeshire District Council to enforce parking regulations, although this is likely to be a long-term solution once the Marleigh roads are adopted (not all roads will be adopted). Cambridgeshire County Council have been reviewing the developer's submissions (the site is currently divided up into four parcels, all of which will have their own s.38 if they are signed) and they are progressing to technical approval. The actual signing of the agreements is in the hands of the developer, CCC have no powers to force them into the s.38 and it is likely to be years rather than months when the roads are adopted, looking at other examples such as Clay Farm and Trumpington Meadows.

There may be scope for a parking management officer to be employed on the site although this will require discussion and agreement with the developers and the officer would be capable of issuing fines – this will need the approval and acceptance of the residents.

Guidance on methods of transport exists in the interim travel plan for Marleigh in relation to promoting non-car transport modes. WSP are producing the full residential plan and organising the first Travel Plan Steering Group meeting in the Autumn. (The full residential plan needs to be drafted within 9 months of 200 dwellings being occupied, it is then approved by CCC with 12 months of the same date and implementation measures are taken upon its formal approval). WSP are the agency appointed by Hill/Marshall to undertake the plan – it will be overseen by the Transport Assessment Team at the County Council.

Guidance from VOI and the Combined Authority suggests that there will not be an extension to the current city limit. The Smart Journey Team at CCC are looking to extend the VOI

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provision elsewhere around Cambridge and note that a small part of the Marleigh site is in Cambridge city and perhaps could be the farthest reach of current VOI provision. Establishing VOI in Marleigh sits under WSP's remit as they are the Travel Plan Coordinator and will be submitting the Travel Plan for Marleigh.

The trader who supplies the Cantonese Food Market on Fridays in Jubilee Square requested help to obtain the correct licence to trade. Locality sought advice from the Licensing Department at South Cambs District Council now Jubilee Square has a Consented Premises Street Traders Licence. Residents have suggested extending the market.

Allotment registrations are being held by the Land Trust in advance of the allotments being available. A staged release of spaces will ensure that future residents have a chance to take part and all the spaces are not taken up too early. The S106 includes a requirement for a Management and Maintenance Plan.

An informal MUGA (Multi-use Games Area) would be a popular addition at Marleigh. There have been requests for a basketball hoop and space for youngsters to congregate safely.

During the summer promotion of parks for dog walking, children's activities e.g. Under £10 activities, bushcraft, and other wellbeing activities were advertised on the Facebook page.

A meeting with a doctor and the practice manager from East Barnwell Health Centre discussed the availability of social prescribers (by health centre referral only) who have a signposting role. It was understood that social prescribing may include activities such as walking or gardening, but we learnt that may clients have a high level of need and most referrals relate to housing or financial support. Low-cost events being held at Marleigh will be regularly shared for the social prescribers.

A meeting with Marleigh Academy took place on 27th September to discuss collaboration topics including a chess programme for primary schools, the good citizenship programme, recycling, experience of ASB at Marleigh and the school travel plan.

It is evident that young people are in need of activities (both formal and informal) and that some young people may need additional support. There has previously been a Young Peoples Working Group which gathered available options for supporting young people. The Marleigh Steering Group will consider recommencing this group which could consider co-ordination of existing outreach; access to activities; engaging residents as to what they want Marleigh to offer young people and potentially increase understanding of adolescent development/ young peoples needs. Nicky Shepard has advised that funding for Abbey People has been extended to include fringe sites such as Marleigh and they will be able to provide some outreach support. Hilary has contacted a lecturer in Youth Work who may be able to provide trainees to help at Marleigh. A resident who is a parent of 13-year-old has also expressed interest in volunteering.

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28th September, 2023

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