

Trull Parish Council
Canonsgrove Liaison Working Group (CLWG)
Report to Parish Council Meeting 13th December 2021

Date of Meeting

The working group met on 9th December 2021 commencing at 6pm and ending at 7.35pm

Attendance

Present: David Taylor (DT/Chair), Councillor David Lindfield (DL), Jonica Walkinshaw (JW) representing YMCA Dulverton Group ("YMCA DG") Councillor Dawn Johnson (DJ)

Simon Lewis gave his apologies

Documents considered

1. Report by SWT and YMCA DG to Parish Council December 2021
2. YMCA DG Contact log for period 4th November to 8th December 2021
3. Police report for period 31st October to 30th November 2021

Issues and Topics

This report utilises the headings of the SWT/YMCA DG report for December 2021 which is attached as Annex A.

Updates to Reports

JW has requested a report from Jerry Davies from the SWT Rough Sleeper Team and will circulate this to members of the Working Group when this is available to her.

Action Points from last meeting

All completed

Site Management/support of residents

1. Numbers of Canonsgrove Residents: We reviewed the figures relating to residents as provided in the report and noted a decrease of two from the last month. It was not anticipated that there would be a big increase in numbers over the Christmas period. Even if the Severe Weather arrangements were activated by the Government, not all people provided accommodation under these arrangements would be allocated to Canonsgrove.

2. JW confirmed that the Live Data table relates to monthly figures and the General Data and Moved on/Evicted tables relate to the whole period Canonsgrove has been in operation.

JW clarified:

- a) the Pathway to Independence figures relate to services provided to care leavers or other vulnerable young people aged 16 to 25. As Canonsgrove only accommodates over 18's they would all be young people between 18 to 25.
 - b) Missing persons are required to be reported to the police within 72 hours unless they are related to an incident of concern or have social work involvement when shorter periods apply.
 - c) The two former residents shown as moving on to "prison" are not recorded as evictions. JW understood they both related to recalls back to prison rather than a recent sentence.
 - d) The Inter Hostel Transfers occurred for a variety of reasons. Some residents no longer needed the multi-agency support available at Canonsgrove and were ready to "step down" to different accommodation short of living independently.
 - e) As Canonsgrove is operated as a supported housing project (and not a care or residential home), residents' privacy and data protection will always mean that some data will be missing. JW confirmed plans to reduce the number of residents to 40 by spring 2022.
 - f) The annual rough sleeper account has just been completed by SWT. In the absence of SL, JW could not confirm the numbers, but the results will be publicly available.
3. Education: JW confirmed that Somerset Skills and Learning have been approached to provide basic skills training in English and Maths as they are better suited to meet the varied needs of the current residents. Horticulture courses are continuing. The help with cooking and life skills is currently being provided by staff rather than volunteers.
 4. Recent operational changes: The Government's decision to change to Covid "Plan B" will affect the operation of Canonsgrove.
 5. Canonsgrove is supported accommodation, not care and accordingly, residents have the same legal rights and are subject to the same Covid legal requirements as all citizens. Under data protection rules, staff do not have access to residents' medical records without their written consent, nor any authority to require Covid testing.
 6. However, access to the site can be controlled and to reduce the risk of Covid spreading, visitors to Canonsgrove will be limited to existing regular volunteers and professional visitors. No outside activities with staff will be able to take place.

7. Apart from the two cases noted in the report, no further cases of Covid have been recorded. Many residents have taken up the offer of vaccinations provided by the visiting GP, Dr Hall. JW said that the help provided by both Dr Hall and all the health professional who regularly visit Canonsgrove has been invaluable.
8. Litter pick: Unfortunately, because of a Covid case on site this had been postponed but it is planned to hold this in the future. DJ said that leaves on the footpath up to Canonsgrove are a hazard to pedestrians. Somerset County Council Highways Dept are aware. The meeting suggested that leaf sweeping could be included in any future litter pick.
9. Bike Lights: The Police have now provided a number of bike lights. JW confirmed that several residents have fitted them to their own bikes. DJ reported that she has seen a number of residents using the lights. We agreed that this represents a big improvement in road safety for all.

New meal arrangements

1. As agreed at our last meeting, we reviewed any impact of this change on the local community. No reported incidents appear to be connected with the change in food arrangements.
2. JW confirmed that the change had been well received and that most residents are happy with the choice and variety on offer to buy on site.
3. Some residents are choosing to shop off site which JW considered was a positive sign of independence that will be needed when moving on to other accommodation. Help is being provided to assist residents in how to make the most of food provided by the Food Bank. Residents can use the microwaves in the Gym area to heat up food or in some cases to use the kitchens in the accommodation blocks to prepare meals.
4. JW confirmed that YMCA DG will be providing a Christmas meal to all the residents free of charge.
5. DT asked how the staff felt about the food provision changes. JW recognised that the way Canonsgrove now operates is different from when it was first set up and agreed to keep these changes under review.
6. We were pleased to note that there had been no reported community incidents related to the change in food provision but will continue to review this as a specific agenda item at future meetings.

Incidents and antisocial behaviour

1. Reports of incidents (that may relate to Canonsgrove) made to the Police, Steve Keen (Trull Parish Council) and direct to the YMCA DG remain very low.

2. Of those that are reported, details are often limited which makes it difficult, if not impossible, to investigate them in a way that can prevent similar incidents occurring in the future.
3. The report dated 15th November 2021 (relating to an “increase in rough sleepers”) was responded to appropriately. Both DJ and DT said they had seen people sitting in the bus shelter opposite Trull stores not obviously waiting for a bus. DJ said she had received reports of people using the bus shelter to drink in and urinating nearby.
4. We recognised that without more details, there was no clear link with Canonsgrove and thus nothing further this working group could do. JW suggested that in the future it would be helpful to note if anyone causing concern had a dog with them. If so, they would not be likely to be from Canonsgrove as dogs are not now allowed on site.
5. The incident recorded on the YMCA DG log on 11th November 2021 was clearly a very serious incident. This is noted in the “Additional Reports “section of the Police report. It occurred on 1st November between Gatchell Oaks and Church Lane.
6. DJ said that she had spoken directly with the person who had been attacked. It was reported to the police on 101 but he was unable to give a description of the persons who had attacked him and did not want to take it further. DJ said that because of this incident, residents at Gatchell Oaks were now concerned about their safety if they were to go out and needed more reassurance than they had been given by the police.
7. Although there was at present no link to any Canonsgrove resident, JW agreed that she would contact her Police liaison contact again about this. DT agreed to speak to PC Rigby as well and go to the next police drop in at the Hive Café.

Accommodation Strategy and new accommodation solutions.

In the absence of SL, we noted this section of the report.

Review of outcomes

1. This working group has now been in operation for 5 months.
2. The Chair thanked all members for their active participation in the group and their willingness to embrace the operating principles set out in our terms of reference.
3. All agreed that it has been a helpful forum for open dialogue and as a result there is now an increased trust between the members and a greater understanding of both the difficulties of operating Canonsgrove within a quiet semi-rural setting and the legitimate concerns of local residents arising from its existence in their community.
4. We are pleased that many fewer incidents are now being reported but to enable us to function effectively, we do need to hear from the community about problems so we can try to resolve them in the interests of everyone.

Matters agreed.

To encourage reporting of incidents or concerns with as much detail as possible (including if a dog is present or not)

Matters remaining unresolved.

Additional police reassurance as above

Action Points for next meeting

1. JW to liaise with her police contact
2. DT to contact police and attend Hive drop in
3. JW to let DT know when litter pick can be considered again

Recommendations to Parish Council Meeting

1. To note this report
2. To continue to encourage reports of all incidents (with as much detail as possible) to be made directly to the dedicated Canonsgrove email address Canonsgrove@ymca-dg.org.

David Taylor

Independent Chair of Canonsgrove Liaison Working Group

10th December 2021

Annex A: SWT/YMCADG report for December 2021

Annex B: Contact log 4th November to 8th December 2021

Annex C: Police Report 31st October to 30th November 2021.