CGCA Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 21st October 2026

Attendees: Becky, Nick, Patrick, Julie, Jack, Kath

Apologies: Shell, T, Sune

- Current balance stands at **£1,336.33**, comprising approximately £1,000 from a grant for events and running costs, plus a remaining Ward Improvement Fund amount.
- The Ward Improvement Fund balance is earmarked for **basketball nets and a replacement hoop** on the right-hand court, where the clasps have broken, responding directly to feedback from the MUGA consultation.
- **£19.27** was spent on refreshments for the previous meeting and has been reimbursed; no other expenditure has occurred since.
- Nick proposed structuring the November community meeting around a **PowerPoint presentation** covering the committee's shared understanding of problems and current solutions under discussion, to prevent the meeting from becoming a repetitive venting session and move faster to solution mode.
- Fly-tipping was broken into **three categories**: residents who believe leaving bulky items by bins is normal and acceptable; people who leave items they consider too good to throw away; and deliberate commercial or malicious dumping in alleyways or by landlords clearing properties.
- Commercial tradespeople using communal bins for waste (e.g. bags of carpet underlay, bathroom suites) was flagged as a significant issue; Nick observed vans pulling up and depositing waste directly into bins, which goes undetected by the council because it is inside the bin.
- Recycling contamination was identified as having **six contributing causes**: overflow from full general bins; misunderstanding of recycling rules (e.g. bagging recyclables in black plastic); bins not being recognisable as recycling bins; residents seeing all bins emptied by the same lorry and concluding recycling is pointless; practical constraints in small flats with no room for separate bins; and a segment of residents who simply do not engage with recycling.

- Multiple attendees acknowledged personally abandoning recycling discipline because the same refuse vehicle appears to collect both streams, creating a **trust and behaviour loop** that compounds contamination.
- Bin infrastructure problems listed include: **frequent overloading and spillage** onto the pavement; broken and missing lids; graffiti; attraction of rats, seagulls, and other animals; commercial overfilling; unsightliness in a conservation area; accessibility barriers for pregnant residents, elderly people, and those with mobility issues; and bins occupying parking spaces.
- The area's **high population density** (multi-storey HMOs on one side, all households sharing communal bins) and its role as an informal car park for nearby amenities (Salvation Army, King's Farm(?), Boscombe town centre) compound the bin capacity and fly-tipping problems.
- Attendees noted that residents surveyed **years ago resoundingly rejected communal bins**, but the council installed them anyway, contributing to a persistent lack of resident buy-in.

Decisions

- Remaining **Ward Improvement Fund** balance will be spent on basketball nets and a replacement hoop for the right-hand court on the square.
- The committee's pragmatic recycling recommendation for the November meeting will focus on a **bottle bank and can bank** on the square rather than attempting full communal mixed recycling, on the basis of highest impact for least investment.

Action Items

Nick to build the PowerPoint presentation for the November bins community meeting, structuring it around the three problem areas (fly-tipping, recycling, bin infrastructure) and the solutions currently under discussion.

Nick to share the bins document on the committee WhatsApp group for easy access.

Patrick to ask BCP's waste team to send a representative to the November community bins meeting.

Becky to re-pin the Pride in Place survey link to the top of the CGCA chat and send it to Julie.

Adam to bring the projector to the November 17th bins meeting and assist with setup.

Becky to put a poll on the committee WhatsApp group asking members whether they want to introduce online or hybrid committee meetings, ahead of a decision at the November committee meeting.

Nick to sketch the current and proposed path routing at the park gate entrance for the chair to photograph and forward to Rebecca with context from the earlier conversation with Tim.