



BRICKHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 14 April 2011

At Brickhill Baptist Church

36 people attended.

1. Chair's opening remarks.

The Chairman, Brian Marsh, welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular the following guests – Liam Pickford and two colleagues, the guest speakers from B: DAT, The Bedfordshire Drug & Alcohol Action Team; PCSO Rob Bonforte, Angela Williamson (Environmental Enforcement Team), Laurence Abbott (Bedford Borough Council), Charles Royden and Wendy Rider (Borough & Parish Councillors), Mark Fitzpatrick (Chairman of Parish Council), and members of the Committee.

He continued by thanking Ray Seymour, who has been Chairman of this Forum and founder member since its constitutional inception in April 2009, for ensuring the continued success of the Forum.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 January 2011.

These were accepted as being a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.

3. Apologies.

These had been received from Pc Andre Tringham, Neil Kinselley, Tim Gannon and Karen Nicholson.

4. Guest speakers - The Bedfordshire Drug and Alcohol Team.

Liam Pickford gave a brief resume of the work of The Bedfordshire Drug & Alcohol Action Team (B:DAT) which is a multi-agency partnership working to implement the National Drug Strategy. He introduced his two colleagues: Val, who deals with Drug services available to young people and Ursula who deals with people in custody who have tested positive for a Class A drug.

Val, the Service Manager for Plan B (a charity called CAM) provides a service for young people offering advice and counselling, but whose aim is to work with the whole family not just the young drug abuser. She has a team of 10 including a nurse who is able to carry out health checks.

Ursula (from Westminster Drug Project) is based in Greyfriars Police Station. The Drug Intervention programme is for those using Class A drugs and who are involved in the Criminal Justice System. Its aim is to help people out of crime. She told us that everyone who is arrested is checked for drugs and if found positive can be helped towards therapy and other treatments.

There was a question asked concerning educational awareness – the reply being that in addition to visiting schools in the area, there is a web site giving full details.

The Chairman thanked our guests for coming to this meeting and for the presentation and the literature which they had provided giving full information.

5. Feedback on priorities.

PCSO Rob Bonforte reported on the 3 priorities that had been set at the last meeting:

- **Cycling without lights** – There had been only one transgressor but Rob has also spoken to those cycling on footpaths (mainly children).
- **Policing on the buses** – No 6 & 10 – As he and Andre have to use these buses to get to Greyfriars and back, police presence is ongoing, but there have only been 2 calls within the last 3 months.
- **Carron Road estate** – CCTV is now in operation which it is hoped will act as a deterrent; there has also been successful contact with youngsters and residents in the area. **Kim Norris** (BPHA) reported that two groups have been set up (one in Carron Road and one on the Woodlands Estate) involving approximately 25 youngsters in each group; two projects are being organised by these young people (a talent competition and an 8-week sports event).

6. Police Report.

- PCSO Roberto Bonforte reported that there has been a steady spate of house burglaries, 20 in the last three months; the numbers of theft from motor vehicles has gone down: violent crime has reduced (mainly domestic), but there has been a steady flow of criminal damage and an increase in thefts (mainly shoplifting): there has been an increase in calls concerning anti-social behaviour (particularly when an area is targeted, residents are encouraged to phone in). There were still reports of vehicle nuisance (a mini moke in the area).

7. Agency feedback.

- **Laurence Abbot (Borough Council)** reported as follows: Abandoned Vehicles (1); Broken street lights (59); Community clean-ups (2 planned); Cold Calls (0); Dog Fouling (2); Fly Tipping (4); General Litter (4); Graffiti (8); Parking enforcements (16 hours with 11 visits); Pot Holes (32); Damaged street furniture (4). It was noted that there was now a policy of zero tolerance for litter with fixed penalties, and problem areas targeted. He also gave useful telephone numbers for members of the public to use – these are given at the end of these minutes. He added that crime figures in the Borough are now on line.

It was reported that Bedfordshire Police in conjunction with Bedford Borough were to introduce **Community Speedwatch**. This operation would be police controlled but would use volunteers to operate SID speedguns in speeding hotspot roads throughout the Borough. It was hoped to have the scheme operational in the late summer.

(Anyone wishing to be trained as a volunteer speed gun operator should contact Sgt. S Buckingham at Greyfriars Police Station, or for further information contact Brian Marsh, telephone 210248.)

- **Kim Norris (BPHA)** reported that 200 people had attended a community tree planting event. 500 trees had been planted on Woodlands Estate and hopefully another tree plant will be organised for later in the year.
- **Charles Royden & Wendy Rider (Borough & Parish Councillors)**: Charles said that the Parish Council works with all appropriate agencies to ensure that Brickhill is a safe and pleasant area for all. He reported that the pedestrian crossing at Waveney Avenue had to be postponed but would be revisited in the next financial year; the pot hole hit squad had received 772 requests and has filled in 1106 holes with 4 teams in operation; street lighting was being reviewed continually; 300 parking tickets have been issued following the use of the CCTV vehicle. There are some problems in Goldcrest Way which are being dealt with; new street trees have been planted; and the re-routing at the traffic lights at Manton Lane will be in place shortly. The Borough will shortly have 3 CCTV cameras which will be issued for use in areas which have on-going problems. **There was a question** concerning the empty shop and closed pub in Brickhill Drive and no news of new tenants – unfortunately these are both privately owned.
- **Mark Fitzpatrick (Chairman of the Parish Council)** reported that youngsters are being encouraged to join in litter picking; Gathering on the Green would be held on 4 August where all groups will be welcomed; the survey concerning the Brickhill Community Plan has now been completed and plans are in place for its implementation. He also reported on the transfer of assets – Waveney Green

and Community Centre to be transferred from the Borough Council to become the responsibility of the Parish Council – leases will be issued shortly.

8.Open Forum.

- The Chairman gave an overview of the “Street Watch” project now being piloted in Central Beds. A question was asked concerning the loss of the police computer in the Police Office at St Marks.

9.Action priorities.

These were agreed as :-

- Speeding in Tyne Crescent, Waveney Green and Brickhill Drive
- Anti-social behaviour on the Carron Road estate
- Day time burglaries

All three priorities are police led.

Date of next meeting.

This is to be held at **7.30 pm on 11 July 2011 at St Mark’s Church.**

The Chairman closed the meeting with thanks to Brickhill Baptist Church for hosting this meeting and to Pam Kinselley for taking the minutes.

Useful telephone numbers:

Council General enquiries: 01234 267422 generalenquiries@bedford.gov.uk

Report It website: <http://bit.ly/hKQ5jc> - report all kinds of issues direct to the council (online)

Highways helpdesk: 01234 228661 highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk

Environmental Health: 01234 227257 ehadmin@bedford.gov.uk

Environmental Crime helpdesk: 0800 121 8888 callcentre@bedford.gov.uk

Trading Standards (via Consumer Direct): 08454 04 05 06 consumerdirect.gov.uk

Community Safety: 01234 221881, www.bedford.gov.uk/communitysafety, communitysafety@bedford.gov.uk

Pride in Bedford: 01234 227328, prideinbedford@bedford.gov.uk, <http://twitter.com/PrideinBedford>