



BRICKHILL SAFETY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 11 July 2011 at St Mark's Church

41 people attended.

The Chairman, Brian Marsh, welcomed everyone to the meeting especially the guest speakers Chris Bilby and Tom Bennett from Bedford Borough Council (Emergency Resilience Planning).

Minutes of meeting held on 14 April 2011: These were accepted by the meeting as being a correct record.

Matters arising: None

Introductions: The Chairman introduced Angela Williamson (Environmental Enforcement Team), PCSO Roberto Bonforte (Local Police Community Support Officer for Brickhill), John & Joyce Pritchard (founder Trustees of Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association), Jamie Hall (Street Ranger), Wendy Rider (Borough & Parish Councillor).

Apologies: These had been received from Councillor Charles Royden, Mark Fitzpatrick (Chairman of Brickhill Parish Council), Janet Jefferies (Neighbourhood Watch).

Presentation: "Emergency Planning, and how to make our community more resilient".

Chris Bilby introduced his colleague Tom Bennett, who is the Senior Resilience Officer at Bedford Borough Council, and explained the need for Emergency Resilience planning which operates at national, regional and local level. The planning involves being ready for any emergency, the responses to such an emergency and the result of the emergency. Tom Bennett then gave a very informative talk on all that is involved considering the number of agencies that may be called upon to act in any emergency. The levels of command and control are operational, tactical and strategic and volunteer organisations play an important part. He also gave information on how to set up a community safety plan (Brickhill is reviewing this). The Chairman thanked the speakers for coming to this meeting, for their presentation and for the literature they provided giving full information.

Feedback on Priorities:

PCSO Rob Bonforte reported on the three priorities that had been set at the last meeting as follows –

There had been a decrease in burglaries over the last 3 months (3 in April, 2 in May, 2 in June);

There is a police operation running continuously at the moment covering all anti-social behaviour hot spots throughout Bedford, and this includes the Carron Road area;

There have been a number of police checks in roads nominated as speeding areas, which were Avon Drive, Tyne Crescent, Waveney Avenue and Brickhill Drive –and a number of speeding tickets have been issued and warnings given.

Police Report: In addition to the burglaries reported above, there had been one theft each month from vehicles; no vehicle thefts; other burglaries – there had been 9 in May, and 4 in June and 1 to date in July; there were 15 reports of criminal damage in April, 11 in May, 7 in June and 2 so far in July; there had been 39 recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour in April, 39 in May with a reduction to 32 in June. In response to a query Rob stated that a high police presence is made in all drug related incidents.

Rob continued by informing the meeting of the changes that are to take place from October to the local Policing teams throughout Bedford – there will not be a dedicated community police officer based locally, but they would in future be part of a centralised team of officers who will be deployed to communities where needed. In Brickhill this meant that PC Andre Tringham is being withdrawn and the responsibility for dealing with local issues has been transferred to himself as the local PCSO. Rob himself is hoping to stay in the area and the police surgery at St Mark's Church will continue on Thursday afternoons.

Agency Feedback:

Jamie Hall (Street Ranger. Telephone 01234 227254) reported that from April to June there had been 4 resolved investigations concerning fly tipping; there had been 8 complaints about general litter, 2 fixed penalty notices had been served for parking enforcement, and there had been 3 incidents of damage to street furniture.

Kim Norris (BPHA) reported that there were 33 young people from Carron Road and Woodlands estate involved in 2 successful Youth Groups – these youngsters were enthusiastic and were hoping to stage various events.

Brian Marsh (Neighbourhood Watch) reported that the successful Road Show held last Autumn in Brickhill, was being repeated around the Borough and there will be one running in Putnoe shortly; a walker/dog walker watch is being instigated as a scheme reporting

anything suspicious, criminal damage and/or anti-social behaviour; volunteers are being recruited to operate speed guns (Community Speedwatch) with Police training.

Wendy Rider (Borough Councillor) thanked everyone for their support in the recent elections when she and Councillor Royden were re-elected. She reported that re-surfacing of part of Avon Drive will take place shortly; Lune Walk is currently being upgraded; the 2 vacant shops on Brickhill Drive have been re-let (a delicatessen is now open and a fish and chip shop is hoping to open soon); there is no positive news concerning the future of the pub site; the next surgery will be on 23 July on the Brickhill shopping parade.

Mark Fitzpatrick (Chairman of Brickhill Parish Council): in his absence, Wendy read his report – the new Clerk to the Council (Francesca Johnstone) has started work and is available on a daily basis; Brickhill in Bloom entry has been judged; the recent Parish Council newsletter had given news about Brickhill Community Plan, the forthcoming Gathering on the Green to be held on August 3rd, news from local schools, a policing insert and an order form for residents to purchase SmartWater for property marking, which, by its use, should reduce on burglaries. The newsletter also included an initiative entitled Good Neighbour Scheme and asking for those interested to tell the Parish Council of how they would like to be involved (either volunteering help or requesting help).

Open Forum:

(1) The Community Safety Forum now has a page on the Parish Council website. (Local Amenities-Community Safety Forum) where meeting agendas and minutes can be accessed.

(2) Is the 10 mph speed sign at the start of Ashmead Road necessary? **Kim Norris** has investigated this and reports that the road has not yet been adopted by the Borough Council and the Highways Department has informed her that while development work is continuing, the site manager will monitor the need for this speed as a precaution. Once the Borough Council has adopted the road it will automatically revert to the national speed of 30 mph **(Thanks to Kim for this information.)**

(3) Restriction on parking on grass verges – restriction signs can only be put up by consensus with residents – the Chairman will speak to Councillor Royden regarding the specific problems and issues involved. Brickhill Drive was raised as a potential candidate for restriction.

Action Priorities:

As a result of police reorganisation they will only accept one priority as police led, but it was noted that other priorities such as anti-social behaviour and burglaries, for example, would still be targeted by the police as at present. It was agreed that the police priority is to be speeding in and out of Wansbeck Road in addition to the existing priority roads of Brickhill Drive, Avon Drive, Tyne Crescent and Waveney Avenue.

The meeting agreed that a further priority – for the Street Ranger and Environmental Enforcement Team – was litter left on Waveney Green and, although out of area, in Mowsbury Park, as it is used by many Brickhill residents.

The Chairman closed the meeting with thanks to St Marks' Church for providing facilities for the meeting and to Pam Kinselley for taking the minutes.

Date of next meeting: 7.30 pm on 10 OCTOBER 2011 at ST MARK'S CHURCH