



## **BRICKHILL SAFETY FORUM**

### **Minutes of meeting held on Monday 10 October 2011 at St Mark's Church**

#### **38 people attended**

The Chairman, Brian Marsh, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 **MINUTES of meeting held on 11 July 2011:** These were accepted by the meeting as being a correct record.

#### **2 MATTERS ARISING:**

- (a) The Chairman queried the progress of enforcement of restrictions on verge parking – Councillor Royden said that this was now being enforced in Tyne Crescent but that with regard to Brickhill Drive, having received Parish Council support the consultation phase with residents would be proceeding..
- (b) Another query concerning the lifting of the speed restriction of 10 mph in Ashmead Road: as this road has not yet been taken over by the local authority, the restriction cannot be altered.

3. **INTRODUCTIONS:** The Chairman introduced Borough Councillors Charles Royden and Wendy Rider and Mark Fitzpatrick (Chairman of the Parish Council), Jamie Hall (Street Ranger), Sgt Sharon Buckingham (Police representative), and Karen Wilkinson (BPHA), plus Committee members Neil Kinselley, Ray Seymour and John Wiggington.

4. **APOLOGIES:** These had been received from PCSO Rob Bonforte, Angela Williamson (Environmental Enforcement, BBC), Kim Norris (BPHA), and Richard Collis.

#### **5 FEEDBACK ON PRIORITIES:**

**Speeding in Avon Drive, Waveney Avenue Tyne Crescent, Wansbeck Road and Brickhill Drive.** Sharon Buckingham, local Community Sergeant in charge of local Policing Team Urban, reported that 4 speed enforcement checks had been conducted, with 3 people reported and 30 people had been cautioned as a result.

**Litter on Waveney Green and Mowesbury Park.** Jamie Hall reported that the park areas had been patrolled, but no penalty offences seen.

## 6 POLICE REPORT:

Sgt Buckingham explained in detail the organisation of the new police structure and the reasons for it; however dis-satisfaction was expressed by members of the meeting about the apparent reduction of local contact, and where and when police surgeries would be held.

Sgt Buckingham stated that Brickhill was not a high crime area and she reported that crime figures for the period 1 April to 16 October 2011 showed a 33% decrease compared with the similar period in 2010; detections were up by 51%; reports of anti-social behaviour in 2010 were 1300 and this year they were down (1100); however drug related offences showed an increase. Of the top 50 locations in Bedford for Anti- Social incidents, the highest Brickhill area was Tyne Crescent ranked at number 36, with 16 calls of complaint having been received. 101 non-urgent calls were logged.

## 7 AGENCY REPORTS:

### Jamie Hall (Street Ranger)

Although the report from Environmental Enforcement was not available at the meeting, it has since been received and the following information reported.

*[4 abandoned vehicles had been reported and removed; 31 broken street lights reported; one community clean-up session organised; 2 reports of cold calls and enforcement campaigns; 11 reports of fly-tipping (all cleaned up); 4 complaints of general litter; 6 reports of graffiti; 7 pot holes reported and repaired; 1 report of damaged street furniture BUT there had been no complaints received concerning dog fouling. It was reported that the new Parking Enforcement vehicle is operational and can be tasked to attend any particular area when needed.]*

Jamie reported that Street Rangers are being re-structured as a team over the whole of Bedford and gave the number for calls **227254**. He also said that he would welcome the names of anyone interested in being trained in the use of speed warning signs.

**Karen Wilkinson** (BPHA) working with young people said that there had been an improvement in social behaviour although contact with the youngsters had lapsed over the holiday period; however contact was being renewed; a recent walk in the Woodlands area had been successful and a tree planting was being arranged in November.

**8 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:** Councillor Royden reported that representation had been made to Thomas Moore School concerning the proposed expansion with the expected increase in traffic problems; there had been continued driving over grass area at rear of Westrope Way but it is hoped to put a gate up or bollards to prevent this. He also said that a roving CCTV camera was available for use in any problem area.

Councillor Mark Fitzpatrick reported on the election of a new Councillor to the Parish Council (Dean Croft); the recent successful poll against TESCO's proposal for the Bird in Hand pub; Brickhill had received a High Bronze Award in the Bedford in Bloom competition; it had been decided to hold the annual Gathering on the Green on Tuesday 5 June (one of the extra Bank Holidays to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee); a member of the Parish had given a memorial bench for siting on Waveney Green; the Parish Council had expressed extreme concern at the likely increase in traffic around Thomas Moore School if their proposed expansion takes place and have asked them for a statutory undertaking on how they intend to manage this problem; the Parish Newsletter is to be increased in size.

**9 PRESENTATION ON "A SAFER BRICKHILL":** Mark Fitzpatrick as Chairman of the Parish Council had given everyone attending a copy of the Brickhill Sustainable Community Plan 2011-2016 and went through, in detail, all the actions listed in that pamphlet. He said that there had been 1159 replies to the questionnaire delivered on this Plan. He stressed that good communication was essential to ensure a successful outcome. Already there was good progress with the Good Neighbourhood Group on ways of enabling people who need help to access those willing to provide this help. Progress on the recommendations in the Plan will be reported at future forum meetings.

He also stressed that the Community Safety Forum Committee needs more members and anyone interested in the overall Neighbourhood Scheme would be very welcome to attend (**contact Chairman/Brian Marsh 01234 210248**).

**10 OPEN FORUM:** Residents in Test Close were encountering horrendous problems with youngsters congregating and using the path at the rear of the houses for drugs, parties, barbeques and loud music and often late into the night and sometimes all night (with the consequent increase in litter). Complaints had been made to the Police; also to the Street Ranger and Jamie Hall had cleared the area once both of youngsters and litter but the problem had returned. Karen Wilkinson promised to visit the area and talk to the youngsters in an attempt to change their behaviour. This would be closely monitored and if unsuccessful police action would be taken. It was emphasised that for effective policing all suspected criminal activities must be reported to the police. Jamie Hall said he would also make sure that the litter was cleared.

Another resident complained about lorries blocking access to the Brickhill Drive shops as well as parking partly on the path. Councillor Royden asked that any photos of this be given to him and he can pass these to the appropriate department.

#### **11. ACTION PRIORITIES:**

- (a) Speeding checks to continue in Avon Drive, Brickhill Drive, Tyne Crescent, Waveney Avenue and Welbeck Road.-Police led.
- (b) ASB problems at rear of Test Close-all agencies as above.

12. **DEARNE WALK/AELFRIC COURT:** Residents in Mersey Road and Dearne Walk were experiencing considerable problems with some tenants in Aelfric Court and these problems had been going on for 2 years; although they had contacted the Management Committee of the Court, there had been no improvement. They were at their wits end and asked for help from the Safety Forum. It was agreed that the first thing to do was to contact Environmental Health and have the noise problem monitored and secondly to contact the Fire Service and get them to check the building. Once again it was noted that any suspected criminal activities must be reported to the police. It was also agreed that the Chairman should write a letter to the Management of St Cuthberts Properties, the managing agents of Aelfric Court, and ask for their comments on all the listed complaints (which had been carefully recorded with date, time and happening).

13. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm with thanks to St Marks' Church for providing facilities for the meeting and to Pam Kinselley for taking the minutes.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** This will be on **MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2012 at St Mark's Church at 7.30 pm.**