



BRICKHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Meeting held on Friday 19 October 2012 at St Mark's Church, Calder Rise

26 people attended including Committee members – Brian Marsh (Chairman), Neil Kinsley, Anjani Singhal, Clare Watt, Jamie Hall (Ranger), Borough Councillor Charles Royden and Mark Fitzpatrick (Chair of Parish Council).

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave instructions on the event of a fire.

1. Minutes & Matters arising: The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2012 were accepted by the meeting as being a correct record. There were no matters arising.
2. Introductions: The Chairman introduced two PcSOs Kerry Cox and Nicholas Attwater who were attending in place of PcSO Emma Muggridge.
3. Apologies: These had been received from Vicki Barrett, Dean Crofts, Lisa Davies, Stephen Hollis, PcSO Emma Muggridge, Karen Nicholson, Wendy Rider, Ray Seymour, Trevor Wall.
4. Feedback on Priorities:
 - (a) Speeding – there had been no reported police speed checks in the last quarter although Jamie Hall reported that a Community Speedwatch event had been held in Waveney Avenue with 2 new volunteers (he said speeds had increased immediately the signs were removed). The Chairman asked for more volunteers to enable this system to work successfully.
 - (b) Anti-social behaviour issues – the Police have been dealing with this in various places. A particular issue was around Skerne Passage/Carron Road where a Mosquito system had been installed by residents which had eased the nuisance to some extent.
 - (c) Motor cyclists (noise and congregating around Avon Drive shops) – there had been no further reports to the Police for this area although there have similar issues reported elsewhere. A member of the meeting said that she had been nearly knocked over by a youngster around Avon Drive shops. The PcSOs asked that all incidents be reported (101 call) for them to build up intelligence.

5 AGENCY REPORTS.

POLICE: PcSo Kerry Cox gave the crime numbers since the last meeting: the figures given show a comparison in brackets with the same period last year – Violence against the

person 32 (36): Sexual offences 1 (0): Robbery 0 (1): Domestic Burglary 15 (12): Burglary (other) 7 (17): Vehicle crime 12 (7): Other theft 46 (30): Fraud & forgery 2(4): Criminal damage 36 (55): Drugs 1 (9): Other notifiable offences 1 (1) giving an overall total of 153 (172) – an 11% reduction. Both PcSOs recommended that residents should be constantly aware of unusual happenings or appearances especially as Christmastime draws near. The Chairman also recommended the use of Smartwater/marker pens to safeguard property. Two people who were attending the meeting for the first time told of an arson attack – their car was burnt out on their drive – Councillor Royden promised to position a mobile CCTV camera at the property both to reassure the property owners and to monitor any future activity. The PcSOs were asked to take this matter up urgently especially as it appeared to have had low profile reporting and action.

RANGERS: Jamie Hall reported that since the last meeting there had been reports of 6 abandoned vehicles; report of one vehicle for sale on the roadside; 29 non-working and/or damaged street lights; 1 community clean-up session; one report of dog fouling which is currently being enforced; 2 complaints of general litter; 9 complaints of graffiti: parking enforcements – 4 hours enforcement, with 25 visits and 15 tickets issued: 6 pot holes reported and repaired: 3 reports of damaged street furniture: also that the bus stop near the Catholic Church (opposite Waveney Green) has no marking so that there are times when the bus cannot stop – Councillor Royden will deal with this. There was a thank you from a member of the audience for the clearing of the nature trail in Falcon Avenue. Again Jamie asked that any environmental issues be reported (101 call).

BPHA: Due to reorganisation taking place there will be new Neighbourhood and Development Officers for Brickhill and both Lisa Davies and Karen Nicholson would be working in Brickhill. No one from BPHA was able to attend this meeting but final reports were read out. Lisa Davies reported that many moped nuisance instances were being monitored by the police but there was no evidence at present that Bpha customers are involved. No other ASB issues have been reported recently. Karen Nicholson will no longer be able to work with the young people in the area – a great disappointment as she has made a great difference both in their progress as individuals and in the fact that there has been a drop in youth ASB in Brickhill. She is taking the group to MK as a final event and closure of the project. Karen has really enjoyed this challenging work and the support she has received within Brickhill and asked that she be contacted if any young BPHA people need employment support.

6. **BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:** Councillor Royden said that all the items he is reporting can be accessed on the Council website - Putting brickhillfirst.com.

There will be a change in bus routes – the No28 Grant Palmer bus will now go to Woodlands (Anjulita Court) 5 times daily; the No 6 will revert to its old route through Tyne Crescent; the work on traffic lights at Manton Lane is now complete: part of Avon Drive has been re-surfaced and Parish Council will recommend future re-surfacing requirements; there is a proposal to have yellow lines outside schools to improve parking (and safety); the litter enforcement policy is proving successful.

7 **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT:** Councillor Mark Fitzpatrick reported that with the provision of the No 28 bus going to Anjulita Court, the Coffee Shop there provides a

welcome for passengers. The £500 grant which had been given to Karen Nicholson for her youth project in Brickhill has been returned: Extra play equipment is being provided for younger children on the Waveney Green play area: There were 3 activity sessions in the summer for younger children and it is hoped to have 3 more next year – two at Easter and one in the Summer: The Parish Council is supporting a group of youths who are trying to set up a Youth Cafe: The next Parish Newsletter will be out soon and contributions are asked for: The Community Covenant Review concerning Woodlands is nearing completion. Work on the Brickhill Ward Community Plan is also continuing and the Community Directory is being up-dated: The Good Neighbourhood Scheme is proceeding well: More planting is planned in Mallard Hill, Westrope Way and along Dove Road when help will be required. The Parish Council is attempting to get various local walks identified and leaflets printed. Brickhill Community Association – a Christmas Party for older residents will again be held this year.

8 ELECTION OF POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE: The election for this office is to be held on 15 November; a statement was read out to the meeting which had been compiled by Ray Seymour (attached). A meeting of this Safety Forum is planned for Friday 9 November at 7.30 pm at St Mark's Church (this meeting for Brickhill Residents only). All known candidates had been invited and 3 had accepted so far. The proposed agenda would be an overview of the position, powers and responsibilities of the Commissioner This will be followed by 5 minutes allocated to each candidate to outline their policies for policing and concluded by questions to the candidates.(Residents are asked to submit their questions to the Chairman prior to the meeting by completing forms available at the meeting or by using the tear off slip on the Flyers being distributed advertising the event)

9 OPEN FORUM: A question from the floor concerning drainage on the playing field at Beauchamp School; Councillor Royden said that work has already been done – drains cleared, etc. Another question about the changes to the bus services into Woodlands Park where the frequency of service had been significantly reduced. Councillor Roydon explained the history of the bus problems which arose from unsuitable planning decisions when the estate was being developed. Woodlands Park residents' opinions were divided, but those reliant on the bus service felt the reduced frequency a problem. It was noted that the buses would stop anywhere on route on request. To conclude it was suggested that those unhappy with the situation should direct all complaints in writing or organise a petition to their local Borough Councillor (At present Woodlands Park remained within Ravensden not Brickhill) and the more people who write the greater the chance of improvement.

10 ACTION PRIORITIES: It was agreed that these continue as follows:-

- Speeding on local main roads as previously:
- The setting up of a team of Speedwatch volunteers to enable this project to operate successfully.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 2013.

Date and venue to be announced.

(point 8 refers – the following statement was read out)

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

On November 15 there will be a public ballot to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire. We know that there are five candidates for this post, which commands a salary of £100,000 per annum, and they are Kevin Carroll (British Freedom Party), Sandra Glenn (Independent), Linda Jack (Liberal Democrats), Olly Martins (Labour) and Jas Parmar (Conservative).

This is an important appointment as the Commissioner will replace the existing Police Authority and all police and police authority assets will be held by this individual, though in time some will be moved on to the Chief Constable. These will not be owned by them personally but placed in new company structures which they will control. The commissioner will have the authority to hold the Chief Constable to account for their actions and in extremis to hire and fire the Chief Constable, but the reality is that this would be a rare event.

The Commissioner has responsibility for setting the strategy for policing in Bedfordshire, which is the aims and objectives of the force, but cannot get involved in operational matters as that is the responsibility of the Chief Constable. This has to be set out in a police and crime plan and this should reflect the needs, desires and ambitions of the public. The budget and how much will be charged to council tax payers will be determined by the Commissioner. The Commissioner answers to the electorate through the ballot box every four years but must not apply a political bias to the position.

In addition there is a wider responsibility to deliver community safety and reduce crime, a duty to deliver value for money, and improve the effectiveness of policing. This will include establishing collaboration and working arrangements with neighboring forces and liaising with the community. Also, the Commissioner will also have responsibility for the probation and court system in Bedfordshire.

For help and assistance the Commissioner can retain administrative staff, including a Chief Executive and Deputy, who could take over in the event of the prolonged absence of the Commissioner for any reason. A separate and independent Committee will be established at the same time the Commissioner is elected, and this will monitor the activity of the Commissioner and oversee the appointment of senior staff. How this will work is not yet known.

The Brickhill Community Safety Forum is holding a meeting here on 9 November at 19.00 hours for 19.30 hours to enable you to question the various candidates as to how they see their role and how they intend to fulfil it. To date we have been advised that Kevin Carroll and Jas Parmar will attend, and Linda Jack has offered to send a person to represent her and answer questions. Sandra Glenn will attend providing she has secured the deposit and requisite number of signatories to her application by the end of this week. Olly Martins has declined to attend.

Ray Seymour

17 October 2012