



BRICKHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Meeting held on Wednesday 25 July 2012 at the Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive

31 people attended including Committee members Brian Marsh(Chairman) Neil Kinselley, Ray Seymore and Anjani Singhal.

1 Neil Kinselley took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Minutes and matters arising**: The minutes of the meeting held on 25 April were accepted by the meeting as being a correct record.

3 **Introductions**: The following were introduced – PcSo Emma Muggridge, Jamie Hall (Ranger), Elaine Wright (Pride in Bedford), Councillor Charles Royden, Mark Fitzpatrick (Chair – Brickhill Parish Council), Lisa Davies (BPHA).

4 **Apologies**: These had been received from Councillor Wendy Rider.

5 **Feedback on priorities**:

- **Speeding in Avon Drive, Tyne Crescent, Waveney Avenue, Wansbeck Road and Brickhill Drive.** The newly appointed PcSo for Brickhill, Emma Muggridge, reported that because Brickhill had been without Police representation for the past four months, nothing had been done but a volunteer had assisted Jamie Hall in a Community speed check using the new equipment after which 12-15 letters had been sent out – there has not been a de-brief as yet.
- **Asb around Brickhill.** Jamie Hall reported on the Day of Action Day in the Carron Road area on 12 June which was considered to be a success – it had been well supported by local agencies (BPHA, Water company, Fire Service, etc) with positive outcomes with a number of properties surveyed for smoke detection, water checks, etc. There had been no further problem in Test Close (it has been agreed with residents that the Rangers will respond to calls as needed). There had been a call concerning possible trouble on Waveney Green – **Emma said that this**

problem was near the wooded area and late shift patrols have been asked to monitor the situation.

There had been 36 calls over the past month concerning youths congregating and drugs in the Carron Road, Ashmead Road, Grenadier Close area.

6 AGENCY REPORTS

Police: PCSO Emma Muggridge reported on crimes. The figures given show a comparison in brackets with the same period last year.

– Violence against the person 18 (25): Sexual offences 1 (0): Robbery 0 (0): Domestic Burglary 8 (7): Burglary (other) 7 (14): Vehicle crime 7 (5): Other theft 36 (21): Fraud & forgery 0 (3): Criminal damage 25 (38): Drugs 1 (2): Other notifiable offences 1 (1) with detections being 12 (19) overall. She asked that Police be informed of anything that causes concern and gave telephone numbers – 101 for non-emergency reports and 999 for emergency reports. She also gave the telephone number for the Local Policing office – 01234 275362 (her E-mail address is emma-jo.muggridge@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk).

Rangers: Jamie Hall reported that 2 of his colleagues are targetting Brickhill Drive and Avon Drive shops. During this last 3 month period 1 abandoned vehicle had been reported and removed: 13 broken street lights had been reported; there had been 1 community clean up: 2 reported cold calls and enforcement campaigns: 1 report of dog fouling: 4 reports of fly-tipping plus 1 enforcement: 5 reports of general litter: no reports of graffiti: Parking enforcements were as follows – 1.5 hours enforcement; 12 visits; 6 tickets: 14 pot holes had been reported and repaired: 1 report of damaged street furniture.

BPHA: Although Karen Wilkinson was unable to attend, Lisa Davies said that she would like to thank the Parish Council for funding a coach to take 14 young people to Bedford Museum. She also reported on the continuing success of the group of youngsters formed from the Carron Road/Woodlands area who have organised themselves and had entertaining meetings.

7 Borough Council Report: Councillor Royden said that yellow lines will shortly be painted in Kestrel Drive and Tyne Crescent and Hawk Drive (near the Schools). Drawings are in for new lights at Manton Lane. There have been many complaints about weeds but these are the result of the recent wet weather and the Council can only work to the planned 3 times a year weed control system. There had been some flooding which has caused problems. A 20- mph speed limit will shortly be imposed in Tyne Crescent (but speed bumps will not be removed because of cost). Hawk Drive will be re-surfaced shortly as will the path inside the park. Restrictions on verge parking are under consideration. The No 6 bus is still unable to access Woodlands Park but until the developers hand over the area, there is nothing that the Council can do; the Larkway bus route is

under consideration. The Council continue to pursue a zero tolerance on all crimes including environmental crime issues.

8 Parish Council report: Mark Fitzpatrick reported on the Gathering on the Green which this year was held to coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee but next year this event will revert to August. A new Parish Councillor (Anne Reid) has been elected. The Parish Council is holding Activity Sessions during August with a Matrix Challenge for 8-15 year olds and a session for 7-12's (Cost £5 each and places need to be booked prior). In the last Parish Newsletter suggestions were requested concerning bulb planting sites and feedback is needed; the next Newsletter is due out soon and any contributions will be welcomed.

9 Sustainable Community Plan: Mark Fitzpatrick gave an update – the Good Neighbour Scheme is ticking over and progressing with its committee functioning well. (Brian Marsh reported that he had written to the Police raising all the questions raised in the Safer Brickhill section of the Sustainable Communities Plan which required a police response. It was pointed out that the first milestone for the police was to "ensure visible police presence is treated as an important factor in policing plans".)

10 Community Speedwatch in Brickhill: Elaine Wright and Jamie Hall demonstrated the Speedwatch system having brought in the equipment. The only Brickhill volunteer to have used this equipment gave his views. More volunteers are urgently required to get the system working efficiently as a minimum team of three persons operating the system was recommended. It was suggested from the floor that any proposed Speedwatch date be advertised, possibly in the Parish Newsletter or by E-mail, so that possible volunteers can see the whole thing in action.

11 Open Forum

A question from the floor as to whether there were any plans for more play facilities for older children on Waveney Green – unfortunately there are no funds available.

Complaint from one or two people concerning noisy motorbikes – Emma asked that all complaints on whatever subject be made to the Police via the 101 number.

Ray Seymour put a proposal to the meeting concerning the continuation of this Safety Forum considering that we have in the past 18 months lost all neighbourhood policing and therefore the Forum can do very little. He gave detailed reasons for making this proposal but there were a number of those attending the meeting who felt that it was important to continue - at least the Forum can identify problems and make the appropriate agencies aware of them.

Ray agreed in the light of the support from the floor for its continuance to withdraw his proposal for the time being. The Chairman said that the Safety Committee was desperately in need of new members and asked for volunteers from the floor – Stephen Hollins, Clare Watt and Trevor Wall all volunteered and were warmly thanked by the members of the existing Committee. It was suggested that the next meeting of this Safety Forum be held towards the end of October and it was suggested that those people standing for election to be the new Police Crime Commissioner be invited to present their views.

12 Action Priorities: Agreed that these continue as follows

- Community Speedwatch operations be introduced to monitor speeding on main roads;
- Anti-social behaviour in Grenadier Close/Ashmead Road:
- Noise problems of youths' motor bikes and congregating of same at Avon Drive shops.

The meeting closed with a final request that complaints and issues be made to appropriate agencies; that consideration be given to setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme where none existed; and that use is made of Ringmaster for information on crime.