



**BRICKHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 9 January 2012
At St. Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford.**

37 people attended

The Chairman (Brian Marsh) welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular the following guests – Inspector Mark Everett (Bedfordshire Police), PcSO Rob Bonforte, Charles Royden and Wendy Rider (Borough and Parish Councillors), Peter Blakeman (Parish Councillor), Mark Fitzpatrick (Chairman of Parish Council), Jamie Hall (Street Ranger), Karen Wilkinson (BPHA) and members of the Committee.

Minutes of AGM held on 13 January 2011. These had been circulated and were accepted as being a correct record. There were no matters arising therefrom.

Chairman's Annual Report: This was printed, in full, on the reverse of the Agenda; there were no questions and the Report was accepted by the meeting.

Retirement by rotation of 2011 Committee: Two members of the Committee (Tim Gannon and John Wiggington) have resigned during the year; Brian Marsh, Neil Kinselley and Ray Seymour have agreed to continue in office. The meeting approved their re-election; The Chairman asked if any attendees wished to join the Committee and Anjani Singhal submitted his name for election, and this offer was gratefully approved.

The Chairman thanked Tim Gannon and John Wiggington for their contribution to the work of the Committee while they had been members.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting closed.

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BRICKHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Meeting held on Monday 9 January 2012 at St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford.

37 people attended.

The Chairman had already welcomed everyone at the preceeding Annual General Meeting.

APOLOGIES: These had been received from Ray Seymour, Mr Thompson and B Mayoh.

1 **MINUTES of meeting held on 10 October 2011:** These were accepted by the meeting as being a correct record.

2 **MATTERS ARISING:** None

3 **FEEDBACK ON PRIORITIES:**

Speeding in Avon Drive, Waveney Avenue, Tyne Crescent, Wansbeck Road and Brickhill Drive.

Pcso Roberto Bonforte reported that speed checks have been carried out on Brickhill Drive, Waveney Avenue, Tyne Crescent and Avon Drive – 4 people have been cautioned (1 on Brickhill Drive, 2 on Tyne Crescent, 1 on Waveney Avenue); he had also distributed bin stickers to act as speed warnings. There were questions regarding the small number of cautions particularly when compared with the Speed Enforcement threshold measurements carried out in February 2011, but Inspector Mark Everett explained the difficulties of policing the area with regard to speeding and that these checks were at various times of the day and only for short periods of time as it was impossible to deploy police personnel on this full-time. The Chairman reported that it was hoped to get the Community Speed Watch scheme to start soon.

Anti-Social Behaviour issues – Test Close Residents have thanked the Ranger for his help in dealing with the situation in their area; following the initial intervention, a lull ensued but there was a resurgence in late November. It would appear to be a weather dependent problem but Pcso Bonforte and Karen Wilkinson of BPHA are liaising and hope to keep on top of the issue. With regard to the reported ASB problems in Mersey Way, the Borough Anti- Social Behaviour Liaison Officer has visited the area and discussed the issues but these do not fall within their jurisdiction and a similar position existed with regard to the police. Residents have nevertheless been advised to continue to report incidents.

4 **AGENCY REPORTS:**

Karen Wilkinson (BPHA) who is working with young people in the area reported that the number of reports of problems have dropped; most of the youngsters with whom she is working attend Thomas More School and the School itself reports an improvement in their attitude and behaviour. The young people organised and ran a very successful Christmas social event and are still enthusiastic to continue with Karen.

Garage Sites; It was hoped that there may be funds available from the current budget round to commence the refurbishment of garages in the area.

Jamie Hall (Street Ranger): Jamie introduced himself and gave a brief resume of his duties and also an outline of the new organisation for Street Rangers. He said 45 street lights had been reported broken; there had been 7 instances of fly tipping; 4 complaints of general litter; 3 reports of graffiti; no reports of dog fouling; 14 pot holes had been reported and repaired; there were no figures available for parking enforcements.

A question from the floor as to whose responsibility it is to report broken street lights (**these should be reported to Councillors by any member of the public or ring the Highway's helpline –Bedford 718003**). Another comment from the floor asked for additional bark to be laid on bridle way in Falcon Avenue. In answer to a suggestion from the floor about producing a listing of useful telephone numbers which can be used to report problems, **Mark Fitzpatrick** said these would be printed in the Parish Newsletter.

Pcso Rob Bonforte: Rob gave the following crime figures for the previous 3 months – Violence against the person (numbers remain the same): Robberies reduced from 6 to none: Domestic burglaries reduced by one: Other burglaries (11): Vehicle crime (4 vehicles broken into): Theft and Handling stolen property increased three-fold: Criminal damage reduced: Drug offences reduced: Anti-social behaviour offences reduced dramatically. Inspector Mark Everett then continued by saying these figures were in comparison to the similar period in 2010/11 and for the year as a whole there had been a 25% reduction overall in crime figures and there had been 21% fewer reported instances of anti-social behaviour.

- 5 **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: Charles Royden** said that he and Councillor **Wendy Rider** welcomed all reports of problems from the general public; he recommended the Borough web site for people to use to get information as needed. He said that parking on verges can only be enforced if there is a fixed notice on the site – Tyne Crescent already has this enforcement notice and one will be shortly displayed in Linnet Way. Additionally the Borough is enforcing litter dropping. He gave the telephone number – **718003** – for the reporting of all pot holes to avoid hold up by busy operator controlled telephone lines. The report from Thomas More School concerning the expected additional parking expected from School expansion is still awaited.

Mark Fitzpatrick reported that it had been a busy year; the budget has been set and the parish tax for Brickhill remains unchanged. The Parish Council is hoping for funding for a youth initiative; a budget of £5000 for the Gathering on the Green event has been set and it is likely that this will be held during the summer and not as part of the Jubilee celebrations; £1000 has been set for items within the Brickhill Community Plan. The Parish Council Office is now based at the Avon Drive Community Centre. There have been recent discussions about the bus service to Woodlands Park. The Borough Council has said that it is unable to enforce the covenant concerning the Bird in Hand and TESCO. The pond in Hawk Drive has been cleaned. The Parish Council is establishing a presence on Twitter and Facebook to enable wider involvement. The Brickhill Community Plan is continuing; the Good Neighbours team is working well with monthly meetings but volunteers are always needed. The Brickhill Parish Directory is now being compiled. The last edition of the Parish Newsletter was bigger, brighter and better and will be used for publicising events within the Parish.

- 6 **SAFER BRICKHILL** – update by Brian Marsh. Brian said that section “Increase resident’s input into the Community Safety Forum” had been largely implemented. Meetings were advertised by notices on Parish Council noticeboards and magazine, flyers distributed to every household in Brickhill and information available on the Parish website encouraging people to attend with any suggestions and/or problems. It was also intended to hold meetings in various locations around the area and on different evenings, subject to hall availability. A straw poll was taken whether those present would welcome the possibility of a Saturday meeting, but this received no support. He then introduced Inspector Mark Everett who was the guest speaker at this meeting.

- 7 **PRESENTATION by Inspector Everett** – “How the new local policing is working”. Inspector Everett started by saying that when the new Chief Constable joined the Force a year ago (and with the restrictions imposed on the Force by its reduced budget amounting to £20m over the next four years) it had been agreed that big changes to the police organisation had to be made to provide the people of Bedfordshire with a better than average Police Force; the main aims were to fight crime and protect the public. In the past 12 months a great improvement has been made; it had been essential to look at the maximum number of officers available to provide policing at specific dates and times; it was also necessary to provide a flexible police force which, in turn, provided improved detection. This had resulted in Neighbourhood Police Officers being withdrawn from their neighbourhoods to be part

of this brigaded central team, and local policing issues devolved to PCSOs. There were a number of questions and criticisms posed to Inspector Everett regarding the effect of these changes on the reduction of visible policing in Brickhill and reacting with the public, (it was stated that PcsO Bonforte would be spending 80% of his time patrolling in Brickhill) , and on the effectiveness of the Forum. The Chairman thanked Inspector Everett for his presentation and responses to the concerns raised.

8 **OPEN FORUM:** (a) Stan Jones (a resident in Woodlands Park) asked if the bus company could look at the safety of pedestrians leaving the first roundabout bus stop; he also questioned the safety involved in fencing show houses in Crispin Drive which reduced the footpath; as a member of RoSPA he offered training in better driving if this was felt to be a worthwhile opportunity. The first 2 points would be taken up with Stagecoach and the builders. Mark Fitzpatrick welcomed the possibility of better driver training and would liaise with Stan Jones.

(b) Linnet Way: The mini-roundabout at the junction with Brickhill Drive needs re-white painting for road safety reasons .Councillor Royden will report the issue.

(c) More volunteers are needed to man the Speed Watch system – contact Brian Marsh.

(d) Question posed concerning the left hand filter sign at Manton Lane traffic lights – Councillor Charles Royden said this will be done but is awaiting other work at the junction.

9 **ACTION PRIORITIES:** It was agreed to continue the previous priorities of:-

Speeding issues in Avon Drive, Waveney Avenue, Tyne Crescent, Wansbeck Road and Brickhill Drive, and

Anti-social behaviour issues.

Also the pedestrian safety issues in Woodlands Park and the traffic safety issues at the mini roundabout junction in Linnet Way/Brickhill Drive would be pursued.

10. The Chairman closed the meeting with thanks to St Mark's Church for providing facilities for the Meeting and to Pam Kinsley for taking the minutes.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** This will be held at 7.30 pm on WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2012 at ANJULITA COURT, Bramley Way, North Brickhill.