



BRICKHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Meeting held on Wednesday 25 April 2012

at Anjulita Court, Woodlands Park

39 people attended

1. **The Chairman (Brian Marsh)** welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: These had been received from Rev Charles Royden and Wendy Rider.

2 **MINUTES of meeting held on 9 January 2012:** These were accepted by the meeting as being a correct record.

3 **FEEDBACK ON PRIORITIES:**

Speeding: PcSO Nicholas Attwater reported that 6 tickets had been issued following speed checks in Wentworth Drive.

Anti-Social Behaviour: There had been 14 calls since January, mostly in the Carron Road area.

Test Close: No problems during the winter months but one incident recently of a barbeque being held. **It is important to contact the Police every time youngsters congregate.**

The mini roundabout in Linnet Way has been re-painted.

Woodlands Park bus service – It was reported, on Councillor Royden's behalf, that Stagecoach had been asked to review their parking arrangements and that he had attended on site with the driver. For road traffic safety reasons Stagecoach have, on balance, continued with the current arrangements. Also see Councillor's report below.

Fencing issues in Crispin Drive – Persimmon have been requested to review their pavement issues at this location.

The Chairman spoke about the speeding problems – the Police response to this issue has limitations now with changing priorities arising from reduced funding and re-organisation. However it was hoped to initiate the Community Speed Watch project whereby local volunteers will be trained to use roadside SID devices and provide details to the police of vehicles caught speeding. We have 2 volunteers in Brickhill so far, one who is trained and one who is awaiting training, but more volunteers are required to enable this project to start.

4 AGENCY REPORTS:

Jamie Hall explained the new organisation of Street Rangers; they have been renamed Community Rangers and work as a team for call out within the Borough. He reported that since the last Forum meeting in Brickhill there had been 2 cold call cases, 9 cases of fly tipping, 8 issues of dog fouling (especially on the Green where boys play football), no graffiti problems and 21 visits concerning parking enforcements with 38 tickets issued. He said that they are aware of problems at the New TESCO Express on Brickhill Drive and are patrolling the area following complaints from residents. Jamie also reported on the Speed Watch project and said that volunteers are being co-ordinated by “Pride in Bedford”: all Community Rangers have been trained and are willing to help volunteers.

PcSO Attwater gave the crime statistics of recorded crimes in Brickhill since the last Forum meeting.(previous year’s figures in brackets) – violence against the person **12 (30)**; robbery **0 (0)**; domestic burglary **11 (15)**; burglary other **3 (4)**; vehicle crimes **17 (6)**; theft in shops, etc **12 (15)**; fraud and forgery **0 (1)**; criminal damage **21 (32)**; drug offences **1 (3)**; other notifiable offences **2 (1)**; In the same period last year there had been 108 recordable offences against 80 this year. He said that plain clothes policemen were going out on bicycles and are able to follow offenders in restricted areas ie alleyways. When reporting offences, members of the public are asked to ring 101 (LPT.brickhill@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk); the local Policing Team telephone number is 01234 842433.

The Chairman said that we had gone from a neighbourhood policeman with a local PcSO to no local individual policing the area. In the Police re-organisation, there were now 2 PcSO teams (urban and rural) and each member is informed of all problems and they can be called to any one area. The numbers within each team are 6 to cover the South and 5 to cover the North (Urban area) with possibly 10/11 to cover the Rural area. Point made by one person from the floor saying that we are not getting the policing we expect – we now have reactive policing. **The Chairman** continued by promoting the Ringmaster computer generated system giving details of crimes occurring in the area; he said that literature is available for people who wish to join this system.

He also said that there are numerous Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Brickhill, but that anyone not covered by an existing scheme was invited to help set up a new street group. Leaflets with contact details were available at the back of the hall.

Karen Wilkinson (BPHA) said that she is continuing to work with the young people from the Carron Road/Woodlands Park area and asked that if there are any complaints that these be made to the Police in the first instance (numbers given above).

5. COUNCILLORS' REPORT: in the absence of Councillors Royden and Rider, **Mark Fitzpatrick**, Chairman of the Parish Council, read their report. The Borough is drawing up schemes to alleviate traffic difficulties at Kestrel Way, TESCO Express and outside Thomas More School; still awaiting agreement of Persimmon before roundabout at bottom of Ashmead Road can be built – buses must wait where they are for safety reasons – service to Anjulita Court will continue to run; re-surfacing requested for Avon Drive and junction of Severn Way and Windrush; requested Borough to join the new pathway by the bridge on Browney Path; requested enforcement re dog fouling off Westrope Way; requested 20 mph zone off Tyne Crescent (would like speed humps removed and average speed cameras introduced); the delay with lighting in Plover Way and Curlew Crescent is due to the connections.

Parish Council report – Mark continued – monitoring parking around the TESCO Express site; a local resident litter picker has been appointed to cover Waveney Green and is already making a difference; hoping to provide extra items for the play area on the Green; the Parish Council has written to the Chief Constable about our lack of local policing; day of action being organised for 12 June in Carron Road area when attendees will include the Fire Service, Housing Associations, Anglian Water. The next Parish Council meeting is on 14 May to which all residents are invited. “Pride in Bedford” is the Borough Council’s vehicle for community volunteering; it is hoped to have further tree planting sessions; the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee event will be held on Waveney Green on 5 June and will provide an opportunity for the community to celebrate.

6. GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME.

Vicky Barrett gave details of a “Good Neighbour Scheme” being set up in Brickhill to provide assistance to residents who have difficulty in accessing services and facilities. This is part of the Healthy Brickhill section of the Sustainable Community Plan. A number of volunteers had come forward to participate in the scheme but more would be welcomed.

7. PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF SSAFA (Soldiers’, Sailors’, and Airmen’s Family Association). Gill Duggan, Publicity Officer for this charity, gave an interesting talk on the work undertaken by this, the oldest armed forces charity, in order to help anyone who has served (or their families) in the armed forces – the charity’s mantra is “**One day’s service – a lifetime of support**”.

It is important that SSAFA is publicised as widely as possible and she asked that if any member of the meeting is aware of help being required that they encourage contact.

8. OPEN FORUM. Issues raised 1. Woodlands Park – central post box – Mark Fitzpatrick is dealing with this, and bus parking which was probably covered by Councillor Royden’s earlier comments. 2. The Buntings – parking on verges and restricting access – all instances should be reported to the Parking Office or the Police as appropriate. 3. Cyclists using paths and cycling speeds – possible publicity campaign? to promote safer cycling in schools and elsewhere.

9. ACTION PRIORITIES

It was agreed to continue with:-

1. **Speeding** in Avon Drive, Waverly Avenue, Tyne Crescent, Wansbeck Road and Brickhill Drive and to encourage local volunteers for Community Speedwatch.

2. **Anti-social behaviour** issues particularly around Test Close.

The Chairman closed the meeting with thanks to the staff at Anjulita Court for hosting this meeting and providing refreshments, and Pam Kinselley for taking the minutes.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7.30 pm on 25 JULY at Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive.