



## BRICKHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Quarterly Meeting held on Thursday 25 July 2013

At St Mark's Church

30 people attended

The Chairman (Dean Crofts) welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that although he had invited Olly Martin to attend he had been unable to do so but had asked if we would let him know the date of our next three-monthly meeting when he would hope to come. The Chairman also welcomed Jim Playle (BPHA Community Officer) to this meeting.

- 1 APOLOGIES: These had been received from Councillor Charles Royden.
- 2 MINUTES of LAST MEETING (1 May 2013) and MATTERS ARISING: These had been circulated, where possible, by E-mail and were accepted with no matters arising.
- 3 OPEN FORUM PUBLIC SESSION: The Chairman asked for complaints on any matter from the floor and also for positive comments.
  - (a) It is a long while since any Police activity has been seen in the area.
  - (b) Does the Police Force send out plain clothes officers on patrol?
  - (c) Although the last litter pick-up cleared away a lot, there is still a lot of litter and dog mess around.
  - (d) What measures have been taken to enforce the 20 mph speed restriction in Tyne Crescent? **Suggestion** – contacting Bus Company and Mail vans and also leafleting residents reminding them on these restrictions. Also surely double yellow lines are needed.
  - (e) Taymar Road – many driving instructors are using this road for learner drivers on a frequent basis.
  - (f) Why were Tyne Crescent and other smaller roads given 20 mph restriction? Shouldn't Avon Drive and Waveney Avenue also be restricted?
  - (g) The Bottle Bank at Avon Drive shops is and has been full and overflowing for a number of days; this has been reported; also the telephone number on this bottle bank must be changed.

**Positive comments:** (a) The footpath at the back of Westrope Way is now finished – excellent.

**(b) The defibrillator** unit is now based at St Mark's Church (members of the public are being trained to use it).

The Chairman said that with the reduction in Police budget, there will in future be a call for volunteers to assist with policing; thus Speed Watch, Dog Watch, Road Champions is of great importance in this. He also added that this Safety Forum needs a Treasurer, Secretary and additional members of the Committee.

- 4 **POLICE REPORT:** Although not our local PcSo, Adam gave a very thorough report on all matters. The number of crimes in the area had fallen by 91 (30%) in 2012/2013 over the previous year; the detection rate had increased by two in the same period. On Saturday 6 July, 23 officers (plus volunteers) took part in OPERATION VISION – an all day event when 281 householders were spoken to in their homes asking for views on anti-social behaviour, parking and traffic problems, drug related crimes and environmental issues. There is currently a team of 4 PcSOs dealing with anti social behaviour problems and although the team is not based locally, it can be deployed where and when necessary. Of the people spoken to, 85% wanted to see more Police on the street, more policing on rights of way, improvement in emergency response times, improvement in 101 telephone call handling, and more stop and searches. Adam warned everyone that with the current heat wave, it is essential to keep doors and windows at ground level shut and locked even if you are in the garden; also to keep garden sheds locked and all implements and bikes made secure. Also to close all car windows when leaving your car; don't leave loose change visible in cars (£12000 in total was lost this way last year!). He said that Speed Watch and Dog Watch are important as they can alert the police to problems. Special Constables are going to be the backbone of local policing – we need 500 with just over 100 at present. Adam was asked about our local PcSO who is at present on maternity leave; he reported that 12 new PcSOs are now being trained. **An instance was brought up concerning the poor response time following a gun related incident.** Adam concluded his report by saying that anything suspicious should be reported; **comment from meeting** that it is important to have feedback on any such reports otherwise the public will lose faith in our Policing system. Adam said that he will raise this with his superiors. **Criticism from Chairman** concerning the OPERATION VISION event on 6 July – there had been no prior communication to any of the local bodies until 2/3 days before. With prior warning, more people would

have been available to assist with the door to door. **Criticism from meeting** that because there is no regular Police presence in the neighbourhood, residents feel vulnerable.

- 5 **COMMUNITY RANGER SERVICE:** Jamie Hall reported that there had been 2 abandoned vehicles in the area; it is hoped to organise another community clean up; there have been 10 reports of fly tipping with 2 enforcement notices issued, 3 reports of general litter and 2 of graffiti. Parking enforcements – there had been 4 hours 10 minutes spent on this with 19 visits, 29 tickets issued as a result. He ended by asking everyone to report any problems of any nature including green issues.
  
- 6 **BPHA UPDATE:** Jim Playle (Community Officer) reported by describing his work in the day to day management of BPHA housing stock by a Neighbourhood Officer whom he supports with any community based issues that may arise. The current Neighbourhood Officer is Timi Ayonronmi whose call number is 0330 1000 272. Jim supported OPERATION VISION on 6 July and picked up a few specific neighbourhood issues which are being dealt with. He was asked about the future of the garages in Mallard Hill and said that a Feasibility Study was on-going on all garage sites.
  
- 7 **COUNCILLORS' REPORT:** Wendy Rider reported on the gun related incident(which had occurred around St Mark's Church) – the person responsible has been identified and seen by the Police; although there are some objections to the 20 mph restriction in Tyne Crescent, many residents have said they appreciate it; no loading markings are to be placed in Hawk Drive on the school side of the road, there are also some alterations to be made in Dove Road; there is to be a drop kerb in Crofton Close to enable wheelchair users to access the pavement; the public pathway between Thurne Way and the Woodlands estate has now been tarmaced; Clyde Crescent has been re-surfaced; requests from residents living in roads on the south side of Brickhill Drive, for no parking restrictions – all residents will be consulted soon. She also commented on the up-dating of Greyfriars Multi-storey car park, the forthcoming improvements to the Bus Station, the surfacing of the area which will be a car part where the flats were demolished in Greyfriars, the new river bridge giving access to Borough Hall, the demolishing of the old Town Hall building.
  
- 8 **BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL:** Mark Fitzpatrick thanked residents who helped with the general litter pick-up on 24 June. He commented on the recent Parish Council meeting and on the siteing at St Mark's of the defibrillator, also on the Community Governance Review concerning to which parish Woodlands development should belong – 82% of the replies supported becoming part of Brickhill parish, some

preferred Woodlands having its own parish council. He also commented on the part that Speed Watch can play in helping with safety. The next Parish Newsletter is being printed but we require volunteers for delivering it. He told everyone that

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reports on any matter can be made to the Borough Council web site for Community Volunteering. Finally he reported on a property in Lune Walk with a massive overgrowth of vegetation causing water problems (Wendy said Anglian Water now had this in hand).

- 9 ACTION PRIORITIES: The Chairman said that he would take all items listed under Item 3 above to the next meeting of the Safety Forum committee. He then reported on the cost of installing camera(s) in Brickhill Drive - £7000 for one direction and £10000 for both directions – companies on Brickhill Drive will be contacted to see if they will contribute to the cost and residents will be contacted to gauge their support; there is also the possibility of grants. Although this is a long term installation he is hopeful that cameras will be installed.

**10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2013 – venue to be decided.**

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.