

## **Bedworth North & Bedworth West Community Forum**

*This includes Bedworth Heath, Keresley, Ash Green, Mount Pleasant & Sutherland Drive areas*

### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – Race Leys Junior School**

#### **Notes of the Meeting**

The meeting was attended by 13 members of the public, councillors, and a number of officers from Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police.

#### **1 Councillors in attendance**

Cllr Brian Hawkes (CHAIR) WCC  
Cllr Seb Gran NBBC  
Cllr Georgina Daffern NBBC

#### **Apologies from:**

Cllr Sara Doughty WCC/NBBC  
Cllr Margaret Pomfret NBBC  
Cllr Tony Lloyd NBBC

**Community Forums and Purdah** – Cllr Hawkes announced at the start of the meeting that the EU Referendum is not to be discussed. If any discussion about the referendum does begin, then it will be closed down as being inappropriate.

#### **2 Minutes of the last meeting – 3 March 2016**

It was stated that the minutes of the last meeting have not been sent out and need to be sent in advance of each meeting. STOP PRESS – After the meeting, Rina forwarded the minutes to everyone that were originally sent on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016. For today's meeting the Issues and actions have been circulated and these will be discussed further on in the agenda.

#### **3 Police Update**

PC Steve 1942 Croshaw explained that he and PC 1979 Claire Jones have in post for a couple of months so are here today to give an update on Crime figures and other related work.

	<b>Bedworth West</b>	<b>Bedworth East</b>	<b>Bedworth Town</b>
Robberies	zero	zero	
Burglaries Dwellings	9	7	
Burglaries Other	4	4	
Vehicle Crime	17	22	
ASB	57	54	14
Criminal Damage	9	8	

#### **Operation CONSORT 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

BEDWORTH SNT used plain vehicles until 4 00am to combat vehicle crime in Bedworth West – this will be rolled out to Bedworth East in due course, and repeated in all areas in the near future.

Operation Consort Results:

- 1) Vehicle with drugs marker stopped, and occupant details obtained, with Intelligence Log submitted.
- 2) Assistance with locating male party wanted for a series of incidents, including threats to kill, and theft of motor vehicle. Male arrested by Patrol.
- 3) Two females dealt with by Bedworth SNT for possession of small amount of Class B drugs.
- 4) Vehicle seized for No Tax/Insurance.
- 5) Male driver of vehicle stopped was wanted for Criminal Damage offence and arrested. Male also provided positive breath test for alcohol.
- 6) There were NO reported incidents relating to any Auto Crime across the Bedworth/Bulkington area during the operation, which ran for two nights.
- 7) SNT officers assisted the Cross Border Enforcement Team (CBET) with a vehicle stop where a quantity of Class A drugs and cash was seized. SNT carried out a Section 18 search of the suspects property where further drugs and a police style Baton were seized. The suspect was also arrested for drug driving. The suspect is now on police bail awaiting the results of blood tests.

#### **School Police Presentation:**

PC 1942 Croshaw has produced a School Presentation to be delivered to Primary Schools across Bedworth/Bulkington to highlight issues around ASB and mutual respect from young people towards the wider communities.

### **Operation MARIS – 17/05/2016:**

Multi-Agency Auto Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) based traffic operation on 17<sup>th</sup> May. This was an Operational Order put together by BEDWORTH SNT, and utilised partnership agencies to target illegal usage of vehicles. It ran from a site on Bayton Road. The results were: 26 Suspect vehicles were pulled over by Police. 12 vehicles were seized, and a number of the drivers were of interest to Police for Drugs and Burglary Offences. Traffic Offence Tickets were issued to 4 others, and Driving Licence Offences were dealt with too.

A good Operation!! PC Jones is planning a second operation in the very near future which will be on a much larger scale.....*Watch this space!!!*

### **Vehicle Seizures:**

Margaret Avenue NO tax 10/05/16; Shaftsbury Avenue NO tax – 18/05/16; Colliery Lane NO tax 11/05/16; Stolen vehicle found in EAST Ave – enquiries ongoing.

### **Bulkington**

2 Shoplifters arrested 12/05/16.

### **Operation TRIVIUM:**

Nuneaton and Bedworth SNT have worked with Immigration Officers, with Bedworth SNT officers attending Hand car Wash facilities. One unit in the BEDWORTH area was closed down as a result of Police attendance. Other locations there were persons found to be working illegally, and were dealt with by Immigration.

### **Road Safety Proactive Work:**

BEDWORTH PCSO's used a Speed Gun to conduct a speed awareness mini-operation on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. This took place on Royal Oak Lane, and Church Lane. Registrations were recorded for follow up work by SNT. 9 vehicles were recorded with excess speed.

### **Kissing Gate:**

Bedworth SNT have liaised with the North Warwickshire Public Rights of Way Officer from Warwickshire County Council re: placing a "Kissing Gate" at an entry near to Anderton Road, where the Public have reported nuisance motor bikes.

PC Croshaw highlighted the importance of reporting crime as the Police are intelligence led. ASB has been predominantly linked to motor bikes but will be relying on public to notify the, Auto crime as a rule has been happening overnight so reminded the importance of checking all car doors after locking and not leaving anything in view.

The emergency number for reporting is 999 and not emergency number is 101. If wishing to speak to / leave a message for a particular officer and you know their collar number then put the prefix of 1 before their collar number. STOP PRESS: Rina tried this out to make it accurate for the minutes, rang 101 and went through to a switchboard who were then able to put through to officer / voicemail of officer even if collar number was not known, so long as name of the officer was given.

### **Questions from the floor**

It was raised that at one time the public had mobile numbers of PCSO's but they do not seem to have them available to them. PCSO 6287 Pnaiser gave her number as 07563 739 325 and advised that this will be on when she is on shift.

### **Is it possible to have a breakdown of age where there has been ASB?**

PC Croshaw 1942 advised that they tend to 12 – 18 year olds but will try and a breakdown for next meeting. He added that some young people say there is so much to do they don't know what to do, however they tend not to realise the effects of ASB on neighbours etc. So the Youth engagement work will raise understanding of this.

### **What is the Police view of cyclists on pavements?**

This is difficult to enforce and is down to common courtesy. Our road system is not always good for cyclists. Will feedback to the team to start spreading the word about talking to cyclists.

Neighbourhood Watch representatives highlighted that there have been huge cut backs in the Police from 24 officers down to 7. There were 2 PC's per area and now there are only 2 for the whole of Bedworth. The community and the community Forum needs to support the SNT's and should make the Police Crime Commissioner aware of this. PC Croshaw added that this must not stop people reporting – as then the demand will be clear.

#### **4 WCC Update**

**Charles Barlow updated on the following:**

##### **CYBER CRIME**

Alex Gloster and Kieren Hagan are the recently appointed Cyber Crime Advisors based at Warwickshire County Council.

Their focus is on raising awareness around Cyber Crime - how people can protect themselves, and what a person can do if they are concerned about, or have fallen victim to, a Cyber Crime. The target audience for their work is the residents of Warwickshire. The team are keen to discuss cyber issues with any willing community groups, and are eager to attend any community group meeting, forums, parish council meetings or any other public events in your area to help spread their messages.

It is important to raise awareness for as wide an audience as possible, due to the broad range of issues covered within cybercrime. Scams, fraud, identity theft, phishing, viruses, cyber bullying, stalking and revenge porn are just some of the issues upon which they cover.

Within these issues, the Advisors have found that there are specific groups of residents who may be more vulnerable to specific crimes. These groups of vulnerable residents are the main target audiences with which the Advisors are particularly keen to make contact with, and present to. These groups are the young, the elderly, those with learning difficulties, those who are lonely, and previous victims of a Cyber Crime. If anybody within the forum is aware of any community group who may benefit from having a session from the Advisors, please do not hesitate to contact them:

Alex Gloster - Email: [alexgloster@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:alexgloster@warwickshire.gov.uk) Tel: 07557 166458

Kieren Hagan - Email: [kierenhagan@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:kierenhagan@warwickshire.gov.uk) Tel: 07557 166524

##### **CSW FASTER BROADBAND**

Within the Council there is a superfast rollout programme to get more businesses hooked up and as a consequence more residential properties can come on board too. You have to sign up – see attached for details.

##### **WCC LIVING IN WARWICKSHIRE SURVEY**

This is an opportunity to say what you like / don't like, what needs improving, health and well-being in communities etc and it is used extensively by WCC and its partners for planning services. Complete the survey online at: <http://warwickshire.gov.uk/survey> before 1<sup>st</sup> July

##### **LOCALITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM**

As you are aware that Bill Basra has moved onto work in the Priority Families Team. Charles advised that he now does that role and is responsible for Nuneaton & Bedworth, North Warks and Rugby. The Localities & Communities Officer for Nuneaton and Bedworth is Mike Slemensek and underneath him sit 4 Community Development Workers of which Rina is one who covers Bedworth.

We are in a period of transition at the moment and perhaps at the next meeting we can give more of an update.

#### **5 Open Forum**

5.1 Brian reported that there are discussions taking place that the Fire Service may go under the Police Crime Commissioner but nothing is settled yet.

5.2 Trees at the bottom of Heath Road by Smorral Lane junction by the traffic lights need cutting.

**ACTION: Brent Davies**

5.3 Pedestrian Crossing at Smorrall Lane and because of the gradients in that area people in wheelchairs are finding it difficult to get to the shops and lake. Contact details to be taken of the resident to arrange a site visit to properly understand the issue. **ACTION Charles / Rina**

5.4 An issue was raised on behalf of a neighbour who paid £1000 to have some work done on his drive on recommendations by the Council but he is not happy with it. How does he pursue it. Advised to go back to his contact in the Council and raise the issue with them.

5.5 PC Croshaw advised everyone to be mindful of safety in the community on Thursday during the EU referendum.

5.6 The useful numbers leaflet has been updated (circulated) and also attached. It should be up to date but if you come across any errors please bring to the attention of Rina.

## **6 Issues and actions from last meeting**

**6.1 Road system in Bedworth** – raised how one accident can cause long traffic queues due to only having one road into Bedworth.  
This is to do with infrastructure

**6.2 Slip Road from Junction 3** – was last raised in November 2014. This area is not well marked, its hard to see especially when its dark and if its raining. It was suggested to invite the right people to a Forum meeting to discuss.

16.6.16 - Highways have passed the information to Highways England who deal with the M6 slip roads.

20.6.16 NOTE: wrong location has been noted and it is the slip road of the A444 into Bedworth onto Newtown Road not off Junction3 M6. **ACTION: Correct issue to be raised with Highways.**

**6.3 Traffic Lights at Ambleside, Newdigate and Newtown Road** – cars are parking on the kerb by crossing and causing a danger to pedestrians. To be raised with Highways.be PCSO's will also take a look.

18.5.16 - civil enforcement - The extent of the highway has been checked and does extend right back to the property boundaries, which would mean that technically the No Waiting restriction does apply to where they are parked. To introduce Civil Parking Enforcement effectively the whole street would need to be included, which would displace a large number of vehicles. If parking is obstructive then the Police do have powers to enforce.

20.6.16 Issue noted incorrectly. The issue here is with the cars coming off the kerb making it dangerous for pedestrians. **ACTION: There is a need for Transport & Highways to make this safer i.e. restrict with barriers or bollards.**

**6.4 Bus Stops - many of them are unfit for people with disabilities particularly wheelchair users, where the bus stop has a grass verges.** Dan to raise with Transport.

16.6.16 - Highways have no specific budget for providing hard standings in verges adjacent to bus stops, if there are specific locations that are causing an issue we need to let them know and they will consider should funding become available.

20.6.16 – The Forum felt that this was an unacceptable answer. Bus stops should be DDA and H & S compliant so tarmacked surface and dropped kerbs are necessary. **ACTION: Who is responsible for this – is it the bus companies or is it Transport and Highways – find out and raise issue with them.**

**6.5 Bus stop opposite Smorrall Lane shops on Heath Road** – post was knocked off and bus stop marking has also gone.

16.6.16 - Heath Road is on the Surface Dressing list, all road markings will be replaced following this treatment. Highways are confident that the surface dressing will be carried out this summer. The post will be replaced in due course.

20.6.16 – It was reported that work has started on this and will gradually work its way to this bus stop. **ACTION: Forum asked for temporary markings to put in to show location of bus stop.**

## **6.6 Pedestrian School Crossing requested to go outside Ash Green School**

Traffic and Road Safety Group - In January 2016 as part of the School Safety Zones and Routes Programme an assessment for a crossing on Ash Green Lane was done. The assessment looked at the number of pedestrians (children and adults) and vehicles using Ash Green Lane between Flude Road and just North of Vicarage Lane. On analysing the results it was determined that the criteria for a formalised crossing on Ash Green Lane, had not been met.

20.6.16 – **ACTION: Forum said that it would be helpful to know the criteria**

## **6.7 It was suggested that we should invite people to the meetings on particular issues so that they can be explained and resolved more effectively. Presentation from Highways would be particularly good.**

6/5/16 WCC, Traffic & Road Safety officers do not facilitate attendance at Community Forums as there is not the capacity to do so. Officers would however be happy to provide a written response to any particular query forwarded to them.

20.6.16 – Forum were not happy with this response, they said that large majority of issues are relating to Highways and Road Safety. **ACTION: For next meeting ask again for attendance at Community Forum**

## **6.8 Blackberry Lane - Civil enforcement officers are not present after concerts at night. There is a major issue with cars coming to collect people. The signage is small and on lampposts and not clear to say to say No Parking. Need discussion with Ricoh**

20.6.16 - No discussion had taken place with Ricoh but residents reported that signage is improved. It was also reported that parking Wardens do not work at night and WCC would have to instruct NSL to arrange for patrolling during events. STOP PRESS: Rihanna concert this Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June, civil enforcement have checked with NSL, and the Rihanna concert will be patrolled as normal.

## **6.9 Dog Warden working hours were asked. Irresponsible dog owners should be reported. There was a list of contacts for residents of who to phone depending on issue. To be updated and circulated.**

Monday to Friday 8 am to 6 pm. Updated contact list to be circulated with minutes and also brought o meeting today for attendees.

20.6.16 – It was highlighted that there is only one Dog Warden across the whole of the Borough.

## **6.10 Royal Oak Lane footpath – where it narrows requested to be looked at for widening.**

27.5.16 T&H - This is a footway which forms part of the public highway and is the sole responsibility of County Highways. There are no funds within Rights of Way Team maintenance budget to carry out improvement works. The widening of this particular footway would not be straight forward as there is a bridge parapet wall which prevents it being extended into the verge. The only option would be to create a traffic calming/pinch point feature (in the road) and widen the footway towards the carriageway. Highways have no budget and suggested elected members' delegated budget.

20.6.16 – During the recent heavy rains there was extensive flooding on both sides of the road so drainage also needs sorting in this area. **ACTION: Investigate who or what authority would be responsible for possible dredging the stream/clearing under the bridge**

## **7 Close and summary**

Once the date of the next meeting is arranged it will be notified in the normal manner. There are discussions going on about a Joint Forum for the future. Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.