

# **Bede & Poplar Community Forum**

## **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016 – Nicholas Chamberlaine School**

The meeting was attended by 8 members of the public, councillors, and a number of officers from Warwickshire County Council.

### **1 Introductions & Apologies**

#### Councillors in attendance

Cllr Richard Chattaway (CHAIR)

Cllr Julie Jackson

Cllr Bob Copland

WCC

WCC

NBBC

#### Apologies from:

Police

Cllr Glass

Dave Rumble

**Richard Chattaway opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.**

**Community Forums and Purdah** – Cllr Chattaway 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 - 2nd March 2016**

Corrections to minutes are recorded as part of the issues log update

### **3. Safer Neighbourhood Team Update**

The Police are unable to attend today but have sent in a written report which Charles Barlow (Localities and Partnerships Team Manager) read out to Forum as follows;

#### **Crime Statistics between 05/05/2016 – 20/06/2016**

##### **Bedworth East**

Robbery	0
Burglary Dwelling	7
Burglary Other	3
Vehicle Crime	22
ASB	87
Damage	8

##### **Bedworth Town**

Robbery	0
Theft	14
ASB	16

- There is an increase in ASB incidents reported. There is a significant amount of these attributed to motor bikes in fielded areas.
- There are NO robberies reported again, so a suggestion could be to remove this from the list.

### **Good News Stories**

**Operation CONSORT 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June. BEDWORTH SNT used plain vehicles until 0400** hours 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.

&) 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 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.

#### **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.

Cllr Jackson highlighted to not have two community forums day after one another as this may have affected Police resources. Lynne Price advised that some of the PC's are new and not aware of how community forums work. **ACTION: It was agreed to write to Inspector Dean Reid re the importance of presence of Police at Forums.**

## **4. Issues Log Update**

Potlidgate Court – ASRA Residents requested what the situation is if a Resident Social Landlord isn't abiding by the rules. Are there any powers to get them removed as the Landlord? Raised by Bill Hancox (previous minutes incorrectly stated raised by Robert Maggs) - The Communities Team are involved in this case and report that ASRA have changed their management structure and taken out local officers. Tenant issues are now centrally controlled through the ASRA telephone contact centre. If tenants are having difficulties and cannot engage the ASRA management, they must submit formal complaints through the ASRA complaints procedure. Only then will the Housing Ombudsman get involved. Local Councillors can assist complainants in this regard. The advice from the Communities team is to keep stressing the need for ASRA tenants to follow the complaints procedure so that eventually they will be able to get the Ombudsman involved. Formal complaints are also necessary if a Community Trigger is to be considered.

The Communities team are exploring what assistance (if any) the HCA can provide. In addition to this the Chair of NABSCOP was asked to write a letter to the ASRA chief Executive. A response was received on 20th June. It is planned to meet their senior officers in the coming weeks to address the ongoing problems. **ACTION: It was agreed to wait outcome of the meeting.**

Neighbourhood watch reported that they have lost lots of officers. There were 24 officers involved in the safer neighbourhood group. There are now only 7!

21.6.16 - The community and the community Forum needs to support the SNT's and should also make the Police Crime Commissioner aware of this.

The Wootton Street one way system is dangerous.

Highways - 20.6.16 - Wootton Street- Drivers ignoring One Way. There are clearly signs showing "No Entry" facing Drivers entering Wootton Street from the island at Johnson Road/Furnace Road. If drivers are ignoring the signs then it will have to be passed to the Police for Enforcement.

21.6.16 – **This matter needs to be passed to the Police to enforce as Highways cannot make it any clearer that it is one way. ACTION Police**

Parking at Hazel Grove/St Michael's School Concerns raised by local residents.

Highways - 20.6.16 -Meeting held on Friday 17th June with Head Teacher/Cllr Jackson , agreement reached to introduce new lining and bollards to deter motorists parking at the entrance to the school.

The issues with the barrier on the Rye piece Ringway

Highways - 20.6.16 - Rye Piece Ringway .Guard Railing - Meeting between Cllr Chattaway and Carolyn Burrows (WCC), resolved that the existing layout on Rye Piece Ringway should remain as it is, no further guard railing is planned at this location.

21.6.16 – Cllr Chattaway added that we are still waiting to see if they can do anything better.

Back of the Walls

Technically, the back of the Walls is a public highway and the HA needs to serve notice on the adjoining occupiers (or do the works itself). Last time, Graham decided simply to organise the works directly.

21.6.16 – It was reported that someone's private hedge was cut by mistake. **ACTION: Phil Richardson to investigate further with WCC and NBBC to identify what needs doing**

The Corner Pin Pub is looking really tatty and the fence is in bad repair. Has the planning permission lapsed on this project as nothing has been reported for a while and the building just stands empty looking an eyesore.

A meeting was held with NBBC officers and ward members to consider what the process would be to prosecute a CPO for the site. In essence, this boiled down to 2 essential ingredients: a proposed scheme for the site; and the resources to deliver the scheme. For a satisfactory scheme, a planning inspector would need to have evidence of a planning permission for the scheme, together with associated funding to demonstrate that the scheme can be delivered. Without this evidence, the inspector cannot recommend that the CPO be confirmed.

At the end of the meeting, the Council's Head of Development Control said she would try and find out what plans the owners had for the site. In her last discussion with the agent, the owner was looking at a scheme for an over 55 development for the site.

Since then, the Head of Development Control has contacted the agent. The agent confirms that nothing else has happened on the site. In the interim, Planning Enforcement have suggested that the appearance of the site does not yet warrant a notice to have the site tidied up.

21.6.16 – concern was raised that this on the main through fare in and out of Bedworth and how tatty does it have to be before anything will be done. Phil Richardson (NBBC) confirmed that external appearance is an issue. **ACTION: Phil Richardson to investigate.**

Bedworth town centre empty shop (NBBC and private landlord)

21.6.16 – Phil Richardson reported that the issue is with the private sector, there have a number of incentive schemes to increase occupation of business units. Where there is no demand it is difficult. Properties are managed by agents who are in London so they don't see them. Bob Copland added that shops are dying out to other ways of shopping available to people such as the internet but something has to change to make it sustainable and maybe we need to find a different use for the shops..

**ACTION: Localities & Partnerships Team to contact Monica Fogarty to ask her to raise the issue of Bedworth Town centre empty shops at the local Economic Partnership Group (LEP)**

Bus Stop Accessibility Issues - bus stops in Bulkington are not accessible for wheelchairs, can this be looked into. There is also no drop kerbs on the bus stop make it extremely difficult or impossible for people using a wheelchair to access the bus stop.

A local member for Bulkington did ask Highways to look into providing dropped kerbs etc to allow a disabled resident to access the bus stop on Bedworth Road, opposite Seven Road. An estimate has

been requested for the works from Works Delivery team so the Councillor can consider financing from the Members Delegated Budget. 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, however Maxine has witnessed new tarmac bus stops on Bulkington Lane.

21.6.16 – This is not just a Bulkington issue – it is bus stops in WCC as not being DDA compliant. Bus stops should not be at grass verges. This is a County issue. **ACTION: Localities & Partnerships Team to contact relevant WCC staff to check implications of DDA compliance.**

Hawkesbury Village railway barrier - regularly has a fault meaning that the barrier can stay down for hours

21.6.16 – Lynne Price asked for support from the forum regarding barrier failure and the KNUCKLE project, representatives from the residents group and local Councillor Bob Copland are attending a meeting on Thursday 23rd June, with Network Rail.

Reason for the meeting is to make sure the correct information regarding downtime for barriers, Network Rail stated they are down 2½ minutes but the barrier is often down for 5/6 minutes at a time, also the barriers breakdown on a regular basis.

People living in Hawkesbury Village have to often take the long route around and more difficult for pedestrians.

Issues with Several Grit bins. The one at the bottom of Colly Croft is locked and we don't know who has the key can someone find out please if the Residents Association has a key for this grit bin.

No The association does not have a key. and they do not have a lock on it either. They say they should have had a grit bin for the park too but that's never arrived. Would like this looked into.

The person nearest to the bin is Graham Wing. **ACTION: Rina to contact Tina Norris to get contact for Graham.** It was highlighted that Grit Bins were allocated but have not been put in. Cllr Julie Jackson highlighted that we need a suitable location in Poplar Ward for a grit bin too. **ACTION: Contact Mark Ryder re grit bins to be looked into across the Ward**

parking on the corner of Tamar Road in Bulkington

sent an email to Sgt Hewitt to ask for update. This was a matter the Police were looking into and as not here today cannot get an update. **ACTION: Police**

Corner of Newtown Road and Newdigate Road Junction with Ambleside- cars cause an obstruction - risk of accident – Parking is on Newtown Road

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.

21.6.16 - Issue noted incorrectly. The issue here is with the cars coming off the kerb by the traffic lights making it dangerous for pedestrians. Drivers appear more concerned with the sequence of the lights rather than the pedestrians **ACTION: There is a need for Transport & Highways to make this safer i.e. restrict with barriers or bollards.** Cllr Copland happy to meet someone there.

**ACTION: Localities & Partnerships Team to arrange a site visit to understand the issues.**

## **5 Parking in the Priors and Coal Pit Fields Road**

This item was sent for the agenda by a resident via email and said that this is a hot topic at the moment. Resident is not present today to raise the exact issue. It was reported however, that work on road markings is being carried out imminently. Coalpits Road, Mitchell Road and Queen Road are all being addressed.

## **6. Parking : Saunders Avenue / Tower Road, The Mews/Potlidgate Court**

Cllr Bill Hancox who unfortunately cannot be here today sent an email saying

"In regard to the Parking issues at Saunders Avenue/Tower Road these are not able to be dealt with by the CEO's but are a police matter and I was advised by the Police reps at the last Neighbourhood Watch meeting to bring it to the Forum"

**ACTION: Localities & Partnerships Team to advise civil enforcement team and safer neighbourhood team to keep a record of visits to this area and number of enforcements to be reported at the next meeting.**

#### **7. ASB: Motor cycles Tower road/Ambleside Road/Croft Pool/Potlidgate Court.**

To be reported on next meeting when Police are present

#### **8. Open Forum**

8.1 Access issues every morning and evening around Canons school as cars cannot turn round. Cllr Chattaway advised that this is down for plans for Safer Routes so will be addressed there.

8.2 The state of the Bedworth Park was raised. An email was sent to Paul Daly two years ago on this issue and since then the Park has been looked after, but it seems to now be back in a bad state. **To be raised with NBBC and also to ask the question generally on grass verges to find out who is doing what. ACTION: Phil Richardson**

STOP PRESS: 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Ann Wilks reported that she has been in the park this morning and is delighted to inform you that most of the grass has been cut and the park is looking much better.

8.3 Bailey Park was also raised with similar issues as those in 8.2 above. Robert Maggs advised he has contacted Paul Daly but no action has been taken. **ACTION: Phil Richardson to take up with Ian Lloyd, portfolio holder that includes Parks.**

8.4 Robert Maggs (local resident) also reported that D&G ((One of Bedworth's large Town Centre employer) are closing an operation somewhere else and 70 more employees will be working locally locally.

8.5 Charlotte Sutton (local resident) raised issue of Parking in Sinclair Drive, Hawkesbury. Vehicles (taxis, minibus, motorhome and Tom White vehicles) are piling up. Refuse collectors are refusing to collect bins due to the extent of obstruction. She had previously spoken to her MP, and since then devised a questionnaire and has had 5 returned and was advised by MP that she can take further with 5 responses. Lynne Price reported that on behalf of the Hawkesbury Residents Association, she has spoken to Paul at Bedworth Taxis to advise that residents are not happy. She also reported that local SNT have been involved and the motorhome is not breaking any laws and vehicles are all legally on the road. Tom White Operator Vehicle licence regulations do not allow them to park on public highways. **ACTION: Localities & Partnerships Team to arrange a site visit jointly with SNT to look into this issue.** Further actions to be agreed following site visit.

8.6 Manjit Ghattoura (local resident) asked the question about street lights being switched off at night and how long this was continuing. He was advised to speak to Cllr Jackson after the meeting.

#### **9. Summary and Close**

Cllr Chattaway thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.