

Whitestone & Bulkington Community Forum
Whitestone Community Centre, Magyar Crescent, Nuneaton, CV11 4SQ

Present:

Cllr John Beaumont (Chair)	Cllr Jeff Morgan	Cllr June Tandy
Cllr Julian Gutteridge	Cllr Kristofer Wilson	Cllr Sam Margrave
Mike Slemensek (WCC)	Asmaa Ahmedabadi (WCC)	Alex Gloster (WCC)
Sergeant Nathan Hewitt	PC Steve Croshaw	PC Matt Craddock
PCSO Julie Green		

There were also 7 members of the public in attendance.

The meeting commenced at 7pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Slemensek opened the meeting and introduced all in attendance.

2. Matters Arising from Last Forum

- ✓ Residents noted that the parking issue where cars were parking on grass verges has been improved with the installation of posts.
- ✓ Cllr Beaumont noted that 9 ramps were installed on Nuneaton Road in order to assist a disabled resident to get to the bus stop at a cost of £9000 using his Delegated budget. Residents were pleased with this project.
- ✓ Cllr Tandy reported that white road markings have now been repainted around the quarry entrance and potholes have been marked for repair. Cllr Tandy also commented that the road does look tidier and cleaner thanks to improvements to their wheel wash service. Cllr Tandy has set up a meeting with the quarry owner to discuss further improvements.

3. Safer Neighbourhood Team

Sergeant Hewitt reported crime statistics for W&B. There was an increase in the reported cases of ASB this last quarter, but this is a trend that is often seen over the summer holidays. In general, there has NOT been an increase in crime and ASB for W&B.

The police would also like to remind all residents to always keep their cars locked and if you do have valuables in your car, they should not be in plain view.

A resident brought up that they have had a bicycle theft outside the library in Bulkington. There was a long delay in getting through to someone on 101. Extension numbers for specific members of the SNT team can be found on the SNT webpage – links to the SNT webpage can be found on <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/whitestonebulkingtonforum>.

A resident has asked for figures in the future on general theft. PS Hewitt to provide figures from this quarter and next quarter **(ACTION)**. This will be presented at the next meeting.

4. Presentation on Cyber Crime Prevention

Alex Gloster, cybercrime adviser, gave an interesting and useful presentation on cybercrime and ways to protect yourself online. The presentation will be circulated with the notes of the meeting.

5. Heritage and Culture Warwickshire

This item has been deferred to the next meeting.

6. The Local Government Boundary Commission Review of County Divisions

Mike Slemensek explained the reasoning behind electoral boundary review – essentially to maintain electoral equality in the County. The review used current data and data on the predicted population up to 2020. There will be no changes to Borough ward boundaries – all Borough councillors will remain the same. Constituency boundaries for MPs will also not change. County divisions are the ones that were reviewed and changes will take effect on the 4th of May 2017, concurrent with County Council elections. There will be fewer County Councillors over the entire county (i.e. only one councillor per division). In Nuneaton & Bedworth, there will be 13 divisions and 13 councillors after the new boundaries take effect. Mike demonstrated maps showing the existing Whitestone division and Bulkington division and the boundaries that will apply to the new Bulkington and Whitestone electoral division.

7. Grants Available

Mike Slemensek briefly outlined all the grants that are currently available, including Councillors' Grants, Smart Start Grant, Capital Grants Fund, and Community Computers Scheme. Application forms were also made available.

Cllr Beaumont mentioned he has received and endorsed an application for the bowling green to have automatic sprinklers for £2500. He has also put £1000 towards the Bulkington carnival, as well as £600 towards the armed forces parade in Bulkington for traffic management. Bulkington library has also received some money towards a boiler and coffee machine.

Cllr Morgan has used funds towards projects at the Whitestone community centre, and he is also currently working on some community development projects in Whitestone. Amongst these is a project to enhance provision of community services to tackle loneliness, isolation and dementia issues affecting older people in the community and who may be struggling to cope. Cllr Morgan is working with the Area Team on this.

Cllr Beaumont also updated on the discussion from the last meeting about setting up a traders association to install CCTV coverage for the town centre. Getting group together has been difficult, and Cllr Beaumont has put together a small charities group, but the overall project has not come to fruition. Fr Messan is leaving and it may be a while before

another vicar is appointed. Cllr Beaumont will provide an update at the next meeting
(ACTION).

8. Wider Discussion on Issues in Local Area

Issue 1– Frequency of Meetings

The last meeting was cancelled by Cllr Beaumont because actions and projects from previous meeting were not complete. And summer months are also a bit quiet for meetings. We will continue with 4 meetings per year. Cllr Tandy mentioned that she is involved in a review at county level with respect to CFs. Budget reduction may mean the end of CFs, but consultation is ongoing.

Issue 2– Borough Plan Update on Current Situation and Next Stage

A resident posed questions about using green belt space for new developments. Cllr Wilson mentioned only green belt area is Martin Heatley farm. The Borough Plan will go out to consultation at start of 2017, then to inspector near end of 2017, and aim for it to be ratified in 2018.

Issue 3– Double mini island at Whitestone

This is a traffic bottleneck and accidents waiting to happen. There does need to be a single island or lights. On some mornings you end up beyond Wentworth drive trying to exit and unless someone presses the pedestrian lights you can wait for ages before risking getting out especially turning right towards town. Too many drivers seem confused and treat it as one island and don't stop for the second. Can this be addressed? Cllr Morgan agreed to conduct a site visit to assess the situation and provide an update at the next meeting
(ACTION).

Issue 4 – Bramcote Bridge (Bridge 6 on Ashby Canal)

Weight restriction currently covered by temporary signs. There were some objections from fire brigade on weight restrictions. Cllr Morgan to update on progress at next meeting
(ACTION).

Issue 5– Entrance to Whitestone Shops

As you turn into the shops the kerb juts out badly by the post box/zebra crossing, thus cars either cross the pavement or struggle to get through or damage their wheels - see the marks on the kerb. What also happens is that cars turn in and stop or form a queue blocking Lutterworth Road. If the projecting kerb were cut back by a metre or so access would be so much easier. Cllr Morgan to meet with Alan Gilbey and will report at the next meeting **(ACTION).**

Issue 6 – Zebra Crossing on Lutterworth Road near Leyland Road

Need to keep the trees cut on cemetery side so flashing light not obscured. Cllr Morgan has already asked officers to do this and will report at next meeting **(ACTION).**

Issue 7– Gipsy Lane ‘Mudbath’

As winter approaches, can we expect the same diabolical situation near the quarry? Cllr Morgan reported that the issue has already been dealt with.

Issue 8 – Coventry and Ashby Canals

Needs to be promoted as a green space for residents. Lack of rubbish bins and dog fouling bins hence the constant litter and fouled shoes concerns. Nothing to attract boaters to shop in town – this should be done at the Bull Ring and 'Cock and Bear'/Queens Road bridges. Need to ensure suitable mooring signs are put up to ensure that the turning point at Cock and Bear is left free for boats to turn. There are continued anti-social behaviour and nuisance motorcycles issues in this area. Naturally you would need to liaise with Canal & River Trust. Cllr Tandy will consider the potential for submitting an application for Councillors' Grant for litter and dog fouling bins on bridges (**ACTION**).

Issue 9– Lack of Meeting Notes from Previous Meeting

Concern was expressed about a lack of meeting notes from the last meeting. Mike Slemensek confirmed the notes were produced and circulated (the notes of the March meeting were originally circulated to the mailing list on 20th May and sent out again on 19th September with the agenda for this meeting). The notes are also available on the Community Forum [website](#). Asmaa Ahmedabadi to ensure the mailing list is up to date with all the relevant email addresses (**ACTION**).

Issue 10 – Promotion of Community Forum

Seems to be known only by word of mouth but greater attendance could bring benefits to the community. They could probably be promoted for free via the various booklets that arrive frequently (Local Rock/The Biz Directory/Your Call/InTouch/N&B Neighbourhood Watch). Reference was made by Cllr Wilson and Cllr Margrave about utilising new community noticeboards. WCC to look into the various avenues of promotion (**ACTION**).

Issue 11– State of the Road Signs Around all of Warwickshire

Many signs are covered in algae and cannot be well seen. Mike Slemensek to liaise with Highways and provide an update at the next meeting (**ACTION**).

Issue 12– Speed Sign at Top of Eastboro Way onto Hinckley Road

Speed is 30mph and there are too many signs there, so the 30 sign is missed. There is a lot of signage 'clutter' around there. Request for repeater sign on next lamp post. Mike Slemensek to liaise with Highways and provide an update at the next meeting (**ACTION**).

9. Date of Next Meeting

8th December 2016

Bulkington Community Library (School Road, Bulkington, CV12 9JB)

The meeting ended at 8:45pm.

Summary of Actions

Action	Who is Responsible
Para.3 – Crime figures on general theft from this quarter and previous quarter.	PS Nathan Hewitt
Para.7 – Update on Traders Association	Cllr Beaumont
Issue 3 – Double mini-island	Cllr Morgan
Issue 4 – Update on Bramcote Bridge	Cllr Morgan
Issue 5 – Update on Entrance to Whitestone Shops	Cllr Morgan
Issue 6 -Zebra Crossing on Lutterworth Road	Cllr Morgan
Issue 8 – Coventry and Ashby canal	Cllr Tandy
Issue 9 – Lack of Previous Meeting Notes	Asmaa Ahmedabadi
Issue 10 – Promotion of Community Forum	Mike Slemensek
Issue 11 – State of Road Signs Around Warwickshire	Mike Slemensek, Highways
Issue 12 – Speed Sign at Top of Eastboro Way	Mike Slemensek, Highways