

Bede & Poplar Community Forum

Thursday 20th October 2016 – Bedworth Arts Centre

The meeting was attended by 8 residents, councillors, and a number of officers from Warwickshire County Council and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

1 Welcome from the Chair

Richard Chattaway opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2 Introductions & Apologies

Councillors in attendance

Cllr Richard Chattaway (CHAIR)

Cllr Julie Jackson

Officers in attendance

Mike Slemensek

Phil Richardson

Rina Sarna

WCC

WCC

WCC

NBBC

WCC

Apologies from:

Police

Cllr Glass

NBBC

Cllr Bob Copland

NBBC

Local Residents - Manjit Ghattoura, Maureen Brennan,

Paul Kenning, Sandra Skelhon, Daren Lynam and

Kimberley Howe

Mike explained that the Police could not attend the last meeting due to operational reasons and today also it is due to operational reasons. Operation Portlex which was successful in Bedworth, officers are running this in operation in Nuneaton today. Dave Rumble said that there is understanding that these operations have to happen but it highlights that they are understaffed. Lynn Price reiterated this and added that Nuneaton have a bigger SNT Bedworth only has 8 officers (they do a fantastic job but are spread so thin) and have missed 2 forums in a row.

ACTIONS:

- i. Richard Chattaway asked for a meeting to be arranged with the Police Inspector to discuss such issues. Also involve Cllr Julie Jackson, Mike Slemensek and Lynn Price.
- ii. Draft letter to MP to express our concerns – Cllr Richard Chattaway to sign.
- iii. Add Police Crime Commissioner to mailing list

3. Minutes of the last meeting – 21st June 2016

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record of the meeting. Actions will be taken separately later on the agenda.

4. Update on actions from last meeting

Back of the Walls - (issues with overgrowth and the state of the footpath

UPDATE: The vegetation and weeds have been attended to by the community payback team and work is complete. Paths - An inspection has been carried out and 7 patches have been identified. The works will be added to the patching programme and issued shortly. For information, due to insufficient width, the footpath **will require closing during these works**. Notices will be erected in advance to inform members of the public and provide dates etc. An additional issue was raised that there is some flytipping at the entrance of the Path by Saunders Road. **ACTION: Rina to conduct a site visit to check flytipping** STOP PRESS: A site visit was undertaken on Friday 28th October and there was no flytipping at the entrance of the path so this must have been cleared. However 3 Home Bargains trollies were dumped along the side of the path on the Rectory Road side and were reported immediately by phone to the store.

The Corner Pin Pub is looking really tatty and the fence is in bad repair

UPDATE - Can confirm that the work has been ordered, but it is not highest priority at the moment given current work load so will be picked up as soon as possible. Although some spraying will take place at the end of next week (w/c 24th Oct 16). A site visit has been undertaken by NBBC and the site in its current state is not one where a section 215 notice would be appropriate. The owner of the site has been contacted to find out his proposals. He was still undecided but was thinking about an over 60's development which he was told was ideal but no application has been submitted to date.

Forum responded that this land is privately owned and the owner should be made to clean-up. People are using it to advertise on it. **ACTION: Discuss with Extra Care for a site for them.**

Bedworth town centre empty shop (NBBC and private landlord) UPDATE

- On 1st Sept 2016 the void / empty properties within for Bedworth Town Centre is 5.50%. As requested – Bedworth town centre data.
- The properties that we 'count' are within the town centre as per list.
- There are currently 2 empty NBBC properties – 1 in Congreve Walk & 1 in Leicester Street, both are under offer.
- The remainder are privately owned.
- There are some properties empty with no advertising / marketing / for sale or let boards displayed & for that reason NBBC do not 'count' those properties.

Cllr Julie Jackson updated that money has been set aside for Regeneration of Town Centres. **ACTION: Obtain a written update from WCC (Monica Fogarty) and NBBC (Alan Franks) on what is proposed for Town Centres and in particular Bedworth town centre.** The Infrastructure and Regeneration group in WCC are developing support and working in partnership with businesses. The Improvement Plan will come out in the New Year. They want to engage with businesses in the Town centre and part of it is about providing training to retailers.

Issues with Grit Bins - **ACTION: Cllr Chattaway requested that a meeting be set up with Highways, Mike, Rina Julie and Richard to discuss the feedback received and bottom out the issue of grit bins.**

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

UPDATE: Forum were advised that on 24.8.16 a site visit was undertaken with Mike Slemensek, Rina Sarna and Cllr Copland. Next Steps Planned as per this action. **ACTION: Localities and Partnerships team to talk with the Police re talking to residents (on Newtown Road on each side of Newdigate Road) in the first instance from a safety angle in terms of exiting with due care. This to then be monitored and if required further action to be considered in terms of bollards at the crossing but still allowing for wheel chairs to pass through..**

Parking : Saunders Avenue / Tower Road, The Mews/Potlidgate Court

UPDATE: 20Sep16 - Email civilenforcement@warwickshire.gov.uk for enforcement stats.

For Saunders Avenue:

Jul - 10 visits, no PCN's issued
Aug - 9 visits, no PCN's issued
Sep - 8 visits, no PCN's issued
Oct (to date) - 3 visits, no PCN's issued

For The Mews:

Jul - 9 visits, 5 PCN's issued
Aug - 5 visits, no PCN's issued
Sep - 5 visits, no PCN's issued
Oct (to date) - 2 visits, no PCN's issued

Tower Road and Potlidgate Court have no restrictions.

The state of the Bedworth Park and Bailey Park – this issue is now resolved.

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 –

UPDATE: Site visit undertaken by Mike Slemensek & local SNT officers on 18 August. Established on discussion with police that access for vehicles in Sinclair Drive is being maintained & that Edwards Taxis have previously been spoken to by police & were co-operative in ensuring their vehicles do not cause an obstruction. Similarly local vehicle owners have been co-operative & mindful about how they park their vehicles on the highway. Local co-operation by neighbours is key and will ensure that this does not become a problem. The area is being regularly visited by the SNT, who have checked with local authority refuse collectors on 19 August who have confirmed access for them is not a problem. The location will be monitored by local SNT to ensure problems do not re-occur.

Bus Stop Accessibility Issues

UPDATE: Advice on this obtained from WCC Transport and Economy Team. The provisions of the DDA are now incorporated into the Equality Act 2010. The Act does require the Council to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people and reasonableness of this includes where available funding allows and within the physical

constraints of any particular site. There are some bus stops which, even if the Council had funding could not be adjusted to make them fully accessible. Transport and Economy Team further advised that if there are specific bus stops presenting an issue, to get in touch with him so that they can be added to a list of projects to be considered for capital funding if and when this becomes available. The Borough has a contract with JC Decaux to provide shelters for some bus stops. If the shelters themselves are causing problems then this would be an issue for JC Decaux or the Borough Council to investigate.

Cllr Richard Chattaway advised that there is a Capital programme and its costing as much as £20,000 to do 3 bus shelters. Forum responded that they understand it cannot be done all at once but can Highways be nudged from time to time so that the issue is not forgotten.

5 Police Update

Mike Slemensek update the Forum on behalf of the Police who have sent a written update on actions:

Unfortunately, due to operational requirements, there will be no Police attendance at this Forum meeting. We wish to extend our sincere apologies for our non-attendance. The local Police Officers and PCSO's will be involved in a daytime Policing Operation, working in Bedworth and Nuneaton. More information about this will be forthcoming with results of Positive Police Actions after the Operation has concluded.

However, we are fully aware of the need to listen and engage with our Communities wherever possible. To that end, we have closely monitored the three most recent Forum Priorities, with the following to add:

- Wootton Street patrols - There have been a minimum of 78 vehicle and foot patrols in this area. The most recent road related incident was reported on 27/09/2016, which referred to a vehicle obstruction. This was also dealt with through engagement and educational advice. Police recommend removing this as a priority, pending any further calls or complaints from residents, if this course of action is acceptable to the Forum.

Lynn Price (N'hood Watch) highlighted that she has photos of vehicles going the wrong way (inc Police vehicles) and they have been reported and she has incident numbers. Cllr Julie Jackson asked Lynn to bring the photos to the meeting with the Inspector. **ACTION Lynn Price**

- Parking on the corner of Tamar Road, Bulkington - The most recent call to Police for this location was actually a Burglary Offence, in April 2016. There have been no road-related calls logged with Police. The issue with a local residential refurbishment has concluded, due to the refurbishment being completed. Local Police are aware to monitor any subsequent/future calls in relation to parking issues, but currently suggest removing this as a priority at this stage, pending any updates from residents. This action is related to Bulkington Community Forum
- Anti Social Behaviour - Tower Rd/ Ambleside/Croft Pool/Potlidgate - This is recommended as an ongoing priority from the Forum, based on continued work by Local Officers and Partnership Agencies to monitor specific addresses within these areas. Through contact with Forum members, local housing, and other housing agencies, there have been considerations taken towards issuing Closure Notices through the Courts. There have been a number of recent arrests for Damage, Drugs Offences, and other matters, which Police are not at liberty to discuss in this Forum. However, Police would advise residents from these areas to continue to report ongoing issues, to enable Police and other Groups and Agencies to continue positive actions at these locations.

Local Officers would also like to put forward a Policing Priority for local Forum members to consider. This is a task asking for Forum members to be on the look out for suspicious vehicles that may be involved in the sale of illegal items, predominately drugs. Obviously, Police would advise residents not to engage with any drivers or passengers from any suspicious vehicles, and also not to put themselves in any danger. However, if there are any vehicles seen acting suspiciously in your areas, please could you note the registrations, and call Police on 101 at your earliest convenience. This will enable Local Officers to continue to build on the information foundation of local offenders and criminals, and allow us to work together towards reducing associated harm caused in your areas. Thank you.

Forum advised that some suspicious cars are actually turning out to be hired cars.

Forum also asked that the Police put some resource into schools after half term week as one policing priority due to all the parking and obstruction to drives issues. **ACTION POLICE**

6. WCC Update

Mike Slemensek, Localities and Communities Partnership Manager for the Nuneaton and Bedworth team introduced himself and Rina Sarna Community development Worker for Bedworth. Mike advised that on a number of grant funding that is currently available and the May 2017 Electoral Division Boundary Changes.

- Boundary Changes – 1st page of the paper is existing boundary and second page shows the new boundaries from 4th May 2017 and changes will be effective until 2020. Bede will become Bedworth Central and Poplar will become Bedworth East and take in a slightly larger area.
- Smart Start - £250,000 available to small local projects in Warwickshire. The fund aims to support and pilot local creative ideas and grass-roots activity which enable children (0 to 5) to get the best start in life and improve school readiness. This could be anything from small stay and play groups, through to healthy eating programmes or emotional support initiatives. Closing date for applications is 11th November 2106.
- Community Buildings Capital Grants is a one off grant and for Nuneaton and Bedworth we have £12,000. Closing date for applications is 16th December and successful applicants will be notified by the end of January 2017.
Rainbow Sunshine Company – a drama group for people with learning1 disabilities are having have a performance on Thursday 13th November at 2.00 pm at the Bedworth Civic Hall. Tickets £3.00. They are celebrating their 20 years.
- County Councillor Grant – is a round the year grant to which local groups and organisations are welcome to apply to their County Councillor for funding. Each Councillor has £5,000 budget. Cllr Richard Chattaway added that during the summer The Councillor Grant has funded some Cricket Coaching and summer dance camps to keep children occupied over the summer holidays. The Councillors have also funded some Mature Movers classes which will be running until summer 2017. Some photos of these 3 programmes were shared. He added that a further 2 dance camps have been funded for the Autumn half term break.

Cllr Richard Chattaway advised the Forum that WCC had a consultation event in the Library on 10th October regarding the £67million cuts required over the next 4 years to 2020. Cllrs Richard Chattaway and Julie Jackson will be looking at how this will impact the Capital programme. The Fire Service are part of the programme to have a state of the art Training Centre. More details will be out during December 2016. The Forum commented that that the wrong date was publicised for the consultation event.

7. Current Local Issues - Open Forum

Parking

Chamberlaine Street – (Robert Maggs) Issue here is still ongoing with obstruction to drives. Bambini nursery staff are now also parking there. The staff have been told there are three parking spaces in the nursery for them, everyone else needs to make their own parking arrangements Street Permit Parking was turned down. Cllr Richard Chattaway said that he would speak with Robert Maggs on this matter in the new year.

Additionally, St Francis School are having a pelican crossing put in and the layby is being taken away. Some people have been parking there all day so that will also add to further parking issues. Cllr Richard Chattaway advised that this work is being carried out under the Safer Schools Scheme as a request by the MP.

Canons School - Jessica Hall local resident said parking issues were raised at their Governing Body. The school is on the Safer Schools Scheme around November time.

Kings Gardens - people cannot get on and off their drives and so is a policing matter due to obstruction.

ACTION: Police

A comment was made that if parking restriction is made in one place and then the problem is just moved elsewhere

Other

British Queen site (opposite side to corner pin site) - Jennifer Roberts, local resident asked if there are any plans for this site as it is in a bad a state as the Corner Pin site. It was though it has a planning permission request in. **ACTION: Mike Slemensek to inquire.**

Children's Ward from George Eliot - Ann Wilks – resident raised a question regarding the Children's Ward from George Eliot moved to University Hospital Coventry but has now heard that it has moved to Leicester. **ACTION: Find out from health and wellbeing Board about where the Paediatric Wards are and any future plans.**

All Saints Square - large heavy vehicle has been loading and unloading on the Square in the area of the Alehouses and Boots. **ACTION: Visit to assess by Mike Slemensek/Rina Sarna**

Halloween and Bonfire – (David Rumble - N'hood Watch)- advised that there are some good flyers around for people who do not want Trick or Treaters and for kids to be safer. Needs to be publicised through the schools and put some in the Library for people to collect.

Community Forums – (Lynn Price – N'hood Watch) raised that the Forums seem to generally have the same people attend. We need to look at ways to increase attendance. There was talk at one time about a joint forum. Some people want to raise an issue but sit for the whole meeting before they get the opportunity. Other suggestions made were to have a half hour for individuals to raise their issues privately and confidentiality with councillors during the first half hour and then have the main meeting.

8. Summary and Close

Cllr Chattaway thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.