

Bedworth North & Bedworth West Community Forum

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

Thursday 13th October 2016 – Keresley Community Library

Notes of the Meeting

The meeting was attended by 24 people - 4 councillors, 2 officers from Warwickshire County Council, members of the Bedworth and Bulkington Neighbourhood Watch, Warwickshire Police and a number of local residents.

Councillors in attendance

Cllr Sara Doughty (CHAIR) -	WCC/NBBC
Cllr Brian Hawkes	WCC
Cllr Seb Gran	NBBC
Cllr Margaret Pomfrett	NBBC

Police in Attendance

PCSO Tony Winter

Officers in Attendance

Mike Slemensek	WCC
Rina Sarna	WCC

Apologies from:

Cllr Danny Aldington	NBBC
PC 1942 Steve Crowshaw	Police
Brent Davis	NBBC

1 Welcome from the Chair

Cllr Sara Doughty welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that there are a number of Borough and County Councillors present today and the Forums are an opportunity for local residents to express concerns and receive feedback on issues raised. Chair also thanked the Library for hosting the Forum today and asked attendees to support their local Community Library as it is run entirely by volunteers who give up a huge amount of their time to keep the Library opened for local people.

2 Minutes of the last meeting – 20 June 2016

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

3 Update on Actions from last Meeting

3.1 Trees at the bottom of Heath Road by Smorral Lane junction by the traffic lights

UPDATE: These have been cut. **ACTION:** Forum asked that this be on a regular cycle as already grown quite a bit since last cut. Cllr Seb Gran alerted that he had a call about litter in that area and was advised there was also a needle found there – Police were informed.

3.2 Slip road of the A444 into Bedworth onto Newtown Road- not well marked, its hard to see especially when its dark and if its raining. **UPDATE:** Forum were advised that this work cannot be completed in this financial year, but will be considered in next year's budget. The aim is to try to get this done by early summer 2017. The M6 Junction 3 road markings re-painting/ maintenance was included in this year's budget and work on the A426 in Rugby too so the majority of this year's budget has been spent. **ACTION: Forum were not happy with this response and the issue to be taken back to Highways as this road is pitch black. Forum also want to see proportion of money spent in North compared to that of other areas.**

3.3 Pedestrian Crossing at Smorral Lane - Due to gradients in that area people in wheelchairs are finding it difficult to get to the shops and lake. **UPDATE:** Forum were advised that a Site visit was undertaken on 12.7.16 with the resident and reported to Highways. Highways advised that there are controlled crossings at junction with Heath Road and Bluebell Drive and therefore will be unsafe to install a crossing approx. half way between these points. Drop kerbs by the central hatched area is not an option as this is for directing traffic and not for pedestrian crossing. With regards to dropped kerbs around the entrance for the shops corner of Heath Road, there is no longer a specific budget for installing pedestrian crossing points, however this will be included in a list of suggested locations for pedestrian crossing points from Members Delegated budgets for this year. Forum were not happy with this response and said that it was about time WCC start looking after their residents with disabilities.

3.4 Traffic Lights at Ambleside, Newdigate and Newtown Road – **UPDATE** – 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.**

3.5 Bus Stops - many of them are unfit for people with disabilities particularly wheelchair users, and also those with pushchairs where the bus stop has a grass verge - **UPDATE:** Advice on this was 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. Nigel 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. Forum reiterated Councils responsibility to check all bus stops are safe and DDA compliant. It is a county wide problem.

3.6 Bus stop opposite Smorrall Lane shops on Heath Road – post was knocked off and bus stop marking has also gone – **UPDATE:** The resurfacing has now happened and markings are all on place. **ACTION: The bus stop post is still missing. It was also mentioned that the pavement in that area is in a bad state**

3.7 Pedestrian School Crossing requested to go outside Ash Green School – At the last meeting the Forum were advised that the criteria for a formalised crossing on Ash Green Lane had not been met and the Forum asked for the criteria. **UPDATE:** Forum were advised that the criteria is complex and takes into account a range of calculations such as the age and ability of pedestrians; any suppressed demand; the different types of vehicles in the flow of traffic; the length of time pedestrians have to wait to cross; the width of the road; the speed of traffic; the pedestrian injury accident record at the site plus more. Forum responded that it would be interesting to see data on where and when (times) they monitored. School leaving time congestion is worth looking at by Royal Oak Lane Bridge. Cllr Hawkes updated that a crossing had been asked for some time ago including the widening of the bridge.

3.8 Forum had 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. At the last Forum they were advised that 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 and said to ask again for attendance at Community Forum. **UPDATE:** 20Sep16 - Again, countywide Forums cannot all be attended by Highways officers, as they do not have the capacity to facilitate this. They are more than happy to provide a written response to any query forwarded to them. Queries can also be forwarded to northernareateam@warwickshire.gov.uk at least 2 weeks prior to the Community Forum and we will try to provide an answer on the night of the CF. Mike advised Forum that they are only a small team and that he is meeting with them face to face. Forum said that Highways do not always understand the issues as they look at maps but they cannot appreciate it unless they visit the areas where there are issues. **ACTIONS: Forum insisted that surely they should be able to make one meeting. Forum were even happy to meet around their availability and capacity. Cllr Sara Doughty to also raise this issue in Council.**

4 Police Update

PCSO Tony Winter provided an update on figures as follows for the previous 3 months and 3 weeks:

	Bedworth West	Bedworth East	Bedworth Town
Robberies	zero	zero	2
Burglaries Dwellings	13	9	1
Burglaries Other	4	1	1
Vehicle Crime	18	21	5
ASB	114	123	38
Criminal Damage	16	25	5
Speed Camera Figures	Vicarage Lane – 2 visits and 4 offences		School Lane - 8 visits and 86 offences

PCSO Tony Winter then went on and described the various operations that have taken place.

Operation Mimus ran early July for 7 days where vehicles were intercepted and resulted in 7 arrests, with vehicle seized and rugs taken off the streets.

Operation Eager – using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (AMPR) resulted in 53 vehicles stopped of which:

- 12 seized for no driving licence
- 17 no tax
- 2 no mot
- 11 drivers were given advice
- 1 arrest for cannabis

Operation Portlex in Town Centre where 1 shoplifter was jailed for 8 months.

2 more operations are planned in the coming weeks - one for Halloween / Bonfire Night – there are some good flyers around for people who do not want Trick or Treaters and for kids to be safer and Operation Xmas Pressie.

5 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 on a number of grant funding regimes that are currently available and the May 2017 Electoral Division Boundary Changes.

- Boundary Changes – Bedworth North and West is not affected by these changes
- 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 Sara Doughty 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.
- 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 enables children (0 to 5 years) to get the best start in life and improves 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 Grant 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.

Applications forms for all three funding opportunities and information on the Boundary changes is available to collect today

6 Issues from the Floor

Speeding

- Bennetts Road – **ACTION: PCSO Tony Winters to investigate**
- New Road - speeding needs to be monitored - **ACTION: PCSO Tony Winters to investigate**
- Somers Road speeding is horrendous where one car actually wrote off another car. Offender is in a black BMW – often in evenings around Tea time. **ACTION: PCSO Tony Winters to investigate**
- Bluebell Drive – there is a park across the road which attracts children and the community. Cars speed along this road and a dog was killed 18 months ago. This has been previously reported and a mini survey was conducted. Survey reported that 85% cars were within the speed limit however this is of major concern to the community. A Solar Panel showing the speed drivers are doing would be helpful along this road. This was also raised as a bigger issue in terms of the developers – Simmons who have a responsibility to

develop safer areas. They have been written to but have not responded. The Developer is noted nationwide for this issue. **ACTION: The Forum said that the Police and Crime Commissioner should be approached to see if he could fund something and the County Highways should be approached as they are the highways authority that is responsible for adopting it.**

Parking

- **Issues on Grove Lane all day** due to School and Children centre staff parking but also at peak times such as the school runs morning and afternoon and lunch time after morning nursery session and before afternoon nursery sessions. Keresley Newlands PTA would like to put up some Polite Notice signs for outside the Schools (forecourt signs style) asking drivers to not park hazardously. The PTA have some funding but would like to apply for a County Councillor Grant so that enough signs and posters can be purchased. An application to be submitted by Iris on behalf of the PTA.
- Wheelwright Lane - parking on pavement – **ACTION: PCSO Tony Winters to investigate.**
- Somers Road/Hill Road/Crescent – cars are parked all the way on corners and double yellow lines too. Hill Road parked on the path too so have to walk on the road. **ACTION: PCSO Tony Winters to investigate**

Flytipping

- **Footpath back of Grove Lane** which comes out by Little Hurst Nurseries. **STOP PRESS:** A site visit was undertaken on Thursday 20th October (Rina and Kelly (local resident)). The flytipping has now been cleared.
- **Parking bays on Exhall Road on S Bend** close to Prologis (opposite Haven Nursing Home - **STOP PRESS:** A site visit was undertaken on Thursday 20th October and this has been reported. Will return and check in a week /10 days to see if cleared.
- **Burrow Hill past the Rugby Club – STOP PRESS:** A site visit was undertaken on Thursday 20th October (Rina and Kelly). This falls under North Warwickshire Borough and has been reported via FixMyStreet app and to the local Community Development Worker Jo Williams

It was suggested that if there are signs up in the hotspot areas to say that CCTV is in operation it may deter people dumping rubbish around the areas.

Other

Obnoxious Bonfires – This has been an ongoing problem for 3 years and as it happens out of office hours i.e. Saturday afternoon, NBBC appear to be powerless and can only send out a letter which the resident has ignored. It happens about 4/5 times a year and appears to be tyres being burnt. The property this happens at is a bungalow virtually opposite the Royal Oak Pub on Royal Oak Lane called The Orchards. **ACTION: Discuss with NBBC**

Dogs Wardens – as there is only one for the whole Borough it is understandable that the Warden cannot be everywhere, but the issue is of dog poo is becoming a problem again. Would it help to put some cameras and signage up. **ACTION: Discuss with NBBC**

Noise Pollution – in Grove Lane often there is a dog barking around 1.00 a.m. – has been reported. At what point is it that a dog is taken into care. Resident advised to contact EHS Noise Pollution.

7 Close and summary

Chair thanked everyone for attending, the Library for hosting and closed the meeting.