

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

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

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – St Giles Church, Small Hall**

### **Notes of the Meeting**

The meeting was attended by 63 people – 2 councillors, 4 officers from WCC/ NBBC, 3 members of the Bedworth and Bulkington Neighbourhood Watch, 3 Warwickshire Police and 51 local residents (signed in).

#### **Councillors in attendance:**

Cllr Brian Hawkes (CHAIR)	WCC
Cllr Seb Gran	NBBC

#### **Apologies from:**

Cllr Sara Doughty	WCC
Borough Councillors	

#### **Police in Attendance:**

PCSO Tony Winter	Police
PC 1942 Steve Crowshaw	Police
PCSO Amrit Pnaiser	Police

#### **Officers in Attendance:**

Brent Davis	NBBC
Daniel Perkins(Highways)	WCC
Mike Slemensek	WCC
Rina Sarna	WCC

### **1 Welcome from the Chair**

Cllr Brian Hawkes welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that there are a number of Borough Councillors not present today due to Group meeting so apologies to be recorded for them. Officers and Councillors present introduced themselves. Councillor Hawkes highlighted attendance by Neighbourhood Watch Colleagues (Lynne Price and David Rumble) and thanked them for their attendance and commitment as they attend all Forum meetings across Bedworth and Bulkington.

### **2 Minutes of the last meeting – 13 October 2017**

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**

The Action Sheet was circulated to all present to update on actions since last meeting.

#### **3.1 - Trees at the bottom of Heath Road by Smorrall Lane junction by the traffic lights**

Forum asked that this be on a regular cycle as already grown quite a bit since last cut. Action sheet reported that they cannot go on a regular cycle, however will be monitored and cut as and when required.

**3.2 Slip road of the A444 into Bedworth onto Newtown Road - not well marked, it's hard to see especially when it's dark and if it's raining.** Daniel Perkins reported that there are signs at half mile and at the slope. He agrees the signs are old and not as reflective as they should be. Orders have been submitted to replace these along with the markers for 100/200/300 yards. This will take about 4 to 6 weeks for signs to be prepared and road closures to be put into place. Hedges have also been cut to make signs more visible. Forum asked for signs to be cleaned and were advised that best to flag this up when they get dirty.

**3.3 Traffic Lights at Ambleside, Newdigate and Newtown Road** - Local Police were appraised of this matter (PCSO Tony Winter) at the Bedworth North & West Community forum and a request made to the police to contact all residents living either side of the junction and warn them about driving on the pavement. PCSO Winter agreed to arrange for this to be done. The proviso is that once this has been done, the area will be monitored to see if there are further occurrences of the problem. If so an approach will be made to Traffic and Road Safety about installation of bollards at the junction.

**3.4 Bus stop opposite Smorrall Lane shops on Heath Road –** The bus stop post is still missing and the pavement in that area is in a bad state. Action sheet reported that Daniel Perkins (Highways) has contacted the bus company and offered to fit a sign to the post. The bus company have asked for a specific design. This is being arranged. After work has been done assessment will be carried out on the state of the pavement along this road.

**3.5 Speeding Issues from last meeting** : PCSO Tony Winters reported that from the issues reported that discussions have taken place with Speed Awareness and the one that will be taken is New Road from March 17<sup>th</sup> 2017.

**3.6 Bluebell Drive** - issue of speeding along this road. This has been previously reported and a mini survey was conducted - reported that 85% cars were within the speed limit however this is still of major concern to the community. A Solar Panel showing speed of drivers would be helpful. 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. It was reported on the Action sheet that this matter has been referred to WCC Road Safety Team for their advice. They have advised that 85% of cars are within the speed limit and therefore do not represent high enough figures to require an intervention from the Road Safety Team. They further advised on suitable monitoring by local Police and for members of Public to report specific matters at the time.

**3.7 Parking Issues from last meeting:**

- Wheelwright Lane – PCSO Tony Winters reported that car show room was the offender but this has been taken on by another company and it has been reported that it is better. Forum did not agree. **PCSO Tony Winter to look into again with new company.**
- Somers Road/Hill Road/Crescent – PCSO Tony Winters reported that a local resident with the offending vehicle has said that he will take his hedge down to allow space to move his van onto his drive.

**3.8 Flytipping - Parking Bay in Exhall Road on S Bend close to Prologis (opposite Haven Nursing Home)** – Rina Sarna reported that a site visit was undertaken on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and reported. The site has been checked today before the meeting and there is no fly tipping just wood chippings and a considerably lower amount than usual.

**3.9 Obnoxious Bonfires** - Resident has been advised that next time it happens to call the Police on 101 or 0800 555 111 giving them details of severity i.e. fumes, breathing etc. so that they can assess urgency and respond accordingly. An update from the resident has been received to say that there has been a further incident and Beth Tong from EH is also conducting an assessment.

**3.10 Dog Fouling** – There is only one Dog Warden for the whole Borough so it is understandable that the Warden cannot be everywhere, but the issue of dog fouling is becoming a problem again. Cllr Seb Gran reported that he has met with the Dog Warden and together they visited hotspots which the dog warden will visit regularly. Dog Warden is happy to be advised of other hotspots.

## **4 Police Update**

PC Steve Crowshaw provided the update on the figures for the period from 14/10/2016 to 13/02/2017 (4 months) and include Bulkington (in brackets)

	<b>Bedworth East</b>	<b>Bedworth West</b>	<b>Bedworth Town Centre</b>
Personal Robberies	04(1)	02	01
Burglaries (Dwellings)	13(3)	24	00
Burglaries (Other)	19(4)	07	05
Vehicle Offences	62(3)	84	02
ASB	165(23)	101	50
Criminal Damage	21(5)	11	04
Hate Incident	06	09	06
Drugs	19(2)	22	04

These figures show a rise in Vehicle Crime. However, there is a suggestion that residents have left vehicles unlocked and unattended during the cold weather, allowing opportunists' the chance to commit offences. This may be a reason, but is NO excuse!

Drugs Incidents have been added to highlight that there is a current issue in this area. Hate incidents have also been added, with a view to monitor these offences over coming meetings. There may be a rise in such offences as a result of recent national media commentaries, and with recent political issues.

Burglary Dwelling Incidents have been "itemised" better, to allow residents understand whereabouts offences are/have taken place.

The Anti-Social Behaviour issues are sporadic, at both ends of the day. They also account for the Christmas period, and pubs and clubs, etc., along with potential Neighbour Disputes.

## **Good News Stories:**

12 Days of Christmas: Ongoing initiative throughout December. This targeted 12 specific dates to put aside for Bedworth SNT to carry out Policing activities. These operations include Drink Drive Campaigns, Surgeries in Bedworth and Nuneaton, working with NHW, and using Social Media to promote "Goodwill Messages".

Operation Porterlex: Town Centre Shop Lifting – recent arrests and ongoing operation involving plain clothes Police Officers in the Town. Officers have also sent Crime Reduction Advice and Information to local businesses, to combat thefts. In November 9 offenders were arrested in one shift. In December, one male was detained and recalled to prison for breaching his licence. Others have also recently been detained and / or arrested for shoplifting.

Operation Consort: Ongoing Bedworth SNT Operation, targeting Auto Crime, Burglary Dwellings, etc., using plain clothes and plain vehicles during night shifts. The most recent dates were on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, 3 known suspects were stopped in the area. Potentially as a result of this there were NO offences reported that night. On the 8<sup>th</sup> it was a similar story, with one incident reported for an attempt theft of a moped. Local Officers were on hand to attend this, and took a detailed statement from the victim, rather than just a crime number being passed over the phone. The statement helps officers understand the "M.O." of the suspect. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, Local Officers arrested a known offender for vehicle crime offences across Bedworth over a period of time. This male is still on Police Bail and a Curfew whilst all available evidence is gathered.

January S.A.L.E (Safer And Legal Environment): Continuation of existing SNT Operations, helping keep residents safe. Again, using TWITTER and other Social Media / Internet to promote safety. Local Officers attended various schools for bike security marking.

Hate Crime Surgeries: Carried out in December and January by Bedworth SNT. More are planned. SNT have called on the help of Police Cadets to help run the events, including a Polish-speaking Officer.

ASB Warning Letter: SNT working with Circle Housing to produce a partnership approach towards dealing with ASB at a set of flats in Bedworth. SNT provided guidance to the Housing Officer in relation to the production of the Warning Letter.

Community Protection Notice: Bedworth SNT have produced a report in relation to ASB, Damage and Arson at a set of derelict buildings, which was causing great concern for local residents. This report helped NBBC to issue a Community Protection Notice (CPN) to the site owners, requiring them to make the place safe.

November: Drug Warrant executed in Potlidgate Court, Bedworth. Police report submitted to the Housing Company with a view to the tenant being evicted.

December: Two males detained at Flats in Bedworth for possession of Class A and Class B. The quick thinking and swift actions of Bedworth PCSO's lead to these males being caught.

January: Male sentenced to 28 months for possession of Class A and Class C Drugs, following initial information and work carried out by SNT, working with the Cross Border Team Police Officers. A vehicle was recovered for use in crime, and the male was also charged with driving offences. SNT carried out the Sec.18 House Search in Bedworth, and found important evidence.

December/January: SNT carried out Licensing Checks at various Pubs in Bedworth and Bulkington, based on calls logged with Police. These were followed up with submission of police concerns to Licensing Departments. Intelligence also gathered in relation to sales of stolen goods and drugs.

December: Stall in Bedworth Town Centre, expertly handled by NHW, offering Police Crime Prevention and NHW advice.

December/January/February: Bedworth PCSO's continue to have vehicles seized for various offences. Please check out our TWITTER (@BedworthCops). This will show you how proactive we are, and offer you advice too.

January: PCSO's carrying out patrols and appropriate actions at local schools reference parking and child safety concerns. Cones deployed to ensure motorists abide by parking restrictions, and keep our younger residents safer. Very positive feedback from residents and schools. Again, please keep up to date via our TWITTER.

January 16<sup>th</sup>: Cannabis Factory found in Bedworth by SNT. Further work ongoing through investigation.

January 31<sup>st</sup>: Two known drug dealers from London stop searched in Bedworth Town Centre, and told to move on.

This list is not exhaustive, and there are other positive actions which have taken place, and continue to take place through SNT working as a Team. Our work is made a lot easier based on the good will and information supplied by our residents and partnership agencies – so keep it up!

**Police Priorities taken away are:**

- I. **Wheelwright Lane** - Parking issue, particularly around local schools, and between 0830-0930 and 1500-1545 hours. **Possible actions to follow** - Visible presence where possible. Consider approaching school, and issuing joint letter of advice to parents.
- II. **Hospital Lane** - Parking issue, particularly causing obstructions on pavements and near junctions. **Possible actions to follow** - Tickets if appropriate, words or advice, tracing the owner of a scrap business which leaves cars advertising scrap metal etc. in the area and offer advice or deal proactively.
- III. **Ash Green Lane / Goodyers End Lane** - speeding issues. **Actions to follow** - consider locations appropriate for Speed Awareness Team (ask what times any work is carried out to feed back to the Forum).
- IV. **Litter** - Suggestion that children walking to local schools (senior) are dropping litter in the mornings and afternoons. **Possible actions to follow** - Liaise with Youth Engagement Team to establish if they already have a package in their portfolio which covers the topic. Ask for Youth Engagement to deliver educational package to local schools. Consider similar package for junior schools if possible, to offer education about respect. Consider liaison with NSL Parking Enforcement who also deal with fines for littering if adults are identified as responsible too.

**Above priorities – ACTION: Police**

A resident also raised the issue of a nuisance motorbike which is allegedly doing excess speed in the streets from Holbrooks to Bedworth, regularly reaching between 80-90 mph. Times are allegedly around 4pm, including weekends. However, there is no make/model or vrm known, and no description of the male. All we know is that it is a dark blue coloured motorbike and the biker wears a blue jacket. **ACTION: SNT will pay attention to the location.**

A local resident highlighted that speed checks need to be undertaken at busy times and not times such as mid morning when it is quieter.

## **5 WCC Update**

Mike Slemensek, Localities and Communities Partnership Manager updated on the following:

- Boundary Changes – Mike gave an overview of the boundary changes coming in to force from May 2017 and provided maps of existing and new boundaries. Cllr Brian Hawkes added that Elected Members will go down to 59 from 62 and for residents to be mindful of where they vote in terms of polling stations as there may be some changes.
- Warwickshire Fire & Rescue draft Integrated Risk Management Plan – Mike gave information on how the public can comment on the plan which is open for consultation until 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Can be accessed on [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue)
- County Councillor Grants - Mike informed the Forum that local groups and organisations are welcome to apply to their County Councillor for funding. Each Councillor has £5,000 budget and it's a rolling programme so there are no deadline dates. Cllr Brian Hawkes added that although the final decision on approval lies with the Councillors, the applications are assessed with a small body of residents and County Councillors called the Bedworth Grant Panel. Forms available to take today or contact Rina Sarna on [rinasarna@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:rinasarna@warwickshire.gov.uk)
- Cllr Brian Hawkes updated that previously there was talk that the PCC may take on the Fire Service but this is not happening as the PCC have too much on.

## 6 Update on Borough Plan Consultation

Brent Davies updated on the consultation programme for the Borough Plan and how people can comment. He also informed the meeting that there is a concise 12 page summary of the Plan on the Borough website that residents may find more useful than the full lengthy document. **Consultation closes on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**

**Comments need to be in writing** and forms are available on the website to type into. Hard copies are available on request. Forum was advised that the Council will take comments into account that have been expressed and highlighted the importance of explaining the rationale for the comment and to not make it personal but on planning grounds.

Isobel Jacques, local resident advised the Forum about some of the proposals for housing and industry. Residents were concerned about this in terms of amenities such as shops, doctors, roads structure etc. to support this.

Cllr Seb Gran explained to the forum that these are all options only, sites are only advisory by the Borough and any developer would have to apply for planning permission. Anyone who owns a piece of land can tell the Council to have their land included in the Borough Plan and at any point they can also withdraw the land from the Plan.

## 7 Current local issues - Open Forum

Litter - Concerns were expressed around the amount of litter and it was thought that offenders were not only school children but also adults. Police advised the Forum that the Youth Engagement Team provide education in schools but have found that Primary school children are more receptive than teenagers. NSL has a litter enforcement role and they are handing out fines. Can direct NSL employees to litter hotspots so local intelligence is important.

Sign for Burial Meadow – residents thanked Cllr Hawkes for the sign but were disappointed that it does not also say St Giles on it.

Junction at Wheelwright Lane / Winding House Lane – railings are always broken – Daniel Perkins advised that this junction is already being looked at and work is planned to take place within the next few weeks.

Winding House Lane – potholes is an issue – Daniel Perkins advised that they are already liaising with STWA on this.

Goodyers End Lane was queried as to what was happening there – **ACTION:** Daniel Perkins to check out. **STOP**

**PRESS:** Scheme is being completed on behalf of traffic group (safer routes to school) and involves raising kerbs and footway reconstruction.

## 8 Close and Summary

Cllr Brian Hawkes as Chair of the meeting gave a summary of the discussions and thanked:

- David Rumble and Lynne Price from Neighbourhood Watch
- Brent Davies from the NBBC
- Daniel Perkins from highways
- All the residents for giving up their time to attend this evening and reiterated the importance of expressing their views