

## Bedworth North & Bedworth West Community Forum

(Includes the areas of Ash Green, Bedworth Heath, Keresley, Mount Pleasant, West of Collycroft & Woodlands)

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 – Race Leys School

### Notes of the Meeting

The meeting was attended by 26 people – 3 Councillors, 3 officers from WCC/ NBBC, 2 members of the Bedworth and Bulkington Neighbourhood Watch, 3 Warwickshire Police and 15 local residents (signed in).

#### Councillors in attendance:

Cllr Seb Gran (CHAIR)	WCC
Cllr Pete Gilbert	WCC
Cllr Danny Aldington	NBBC

#### Police in Attendance:

PCSO 6183 Tony Winter	Police
PC 1942 Steve Crowshaw	Police
Sgt Nathan Hewitt	Police

#### Apologies from:

Cllr Margaret Pomfrett	NBBC
Cllr Sara Doughty	NBBC
Cllr Georgina Daffern	NBBC

#### Officers in Attendance:

Brent Davis	NBBC
Mike Slemensek	WCC
Rina Sarna	WCC

Mike Slemensek opened the meeting with thanks to previous County Councillors – Sara Doughty, Brian Hawkes and Julie Jackson in recognition of their of their excellent work in serving Bedworth over the previous years. He went on to welcome the new Councillors - Pete Gilbert, Seb Gran and Bhagwant Pandher.

#### **1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Forum**

Mike Slemensek advised that there is only one nomination (Cllr Seb Gran) for the position of Chair and no opposition therefore Cllr Seb Gran will be the Chair of the Bedworth North and West Community Forum. Chair can nominate a person in the event of his absence at any future meeting.

#### **2 Welcome from the Chair**

Cllr Seb Gran welcomed everyone to the Forum, nominated Cllr Pete Gilbert as Vice Chair and thanked Mike for opening the meeting.

#### **3 Introductions and Apologies**

Shown above

#### **4 Minutes of the last meeting – 13 February 2016**

There was a correction required at 3.8 the year was shown as 2017 and should read 2016. **ACTION:** Rina to amend previous minutes to reflect this. Other than this the minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting. Actions will be taken up separately later on the agenda.

#### **5 Update on Actions from last Meeting**

Previous actions were all Police actions and PC Steve Crowshaw updated the Forum on them as follows:

**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.** PCSO's put out cones during the mornings (which were removed at the holiday period), and monitored parking issues. Local School Staff and residents/parents were spoken to and engaged with. No problems reported since.

**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.** There has been one incident logged with Police on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. However, this was a Council Employee asking to trace a vehicle keeper/owner so a vehicle could be moved to allow for some work to take place. There have been no further reports relating to vehicles at all. The area has been monitored by mobile SNT patrols.

**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).**

There has been a mixture of results for this priority. Officers ensured that there would be a Police Speed Enforcement Van in some areas where practicable. However, on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of JULY a female Camera Operator was abused then threatened by a local male resident. The more serious of the two incidents happened in the area of SCHOOL LANE. Ultimately, this male was abusive to Local Police who attended to support the Camera Enforcement Officer, and the male was arrested for a public order offence. The Speed Camera Van has had a new

location added, which is NEW ROAD, opposite the nursing home. PCSO's for West Bedworth also conducted Speed Enforcement and Awareness Operations at various stages. SNT have also liaised with Local Authority (Adrian Dawson) and it is believed the flashing Speed Awareness Cameras will be fitted within the next couple of weeks in Goodyers End Lane.

**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.**

SNT and Police Cadets were involved in litter picks in the area, including RACE LEYS Community Clean and SMARTS ROAD Community Clean. School PCSO Leigh Chapman, who works with the Youth Engagement Team arranged for an input at local schools.

As a side issue, one resident complained about a **nuisance motorbike** which is allegedly doing excess speed in the streets from Holbrooks to Bedworth, regularly reaching between 80-90 mph. Times were 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. Passing attention to the area was taken where possible. PCSO Winter has attended the area at key times, although no direct contact was made with any alleged suspect. It is suspected that the possible culprit has moved areas.

## 6 Police Update

PC Steve Crowshaw provided the update on the figures for the period from 14/02/2017 to 17/07/2017 (5 months) and includes Bulkington (in brackets)

**These figures are from 14/02/2017 to 17/07/2017.**

**Bedworth East:** These figures include Bulkington

Personal Robbery:	<b>01 -3</b> (Rail Station – Alleged victim withdrew any complaint)
Burglary Business:	<b>12 -7</b> (04 in Bulkington – Mainly closed premises attacked)
Burglary Residential:	<b>29 +16</b> (14 in Bulkington)
Vehicle Offences:	<b>75 +13</b> (18 in Bulkington)
ASB:	<b>193 +28</b> (22 in Bulkington)
Damage:	<b>39 +18</b> (04 in Bulkington)
Hate Incident:	<b>08 +2</b> (03 in Bulkington)
Drugs:	<b>46 +27</b> (02 in Bulkington – 14 reported for one address)

### **Bedworth West:**

### **Bedworth Town Centre:**

Personal Robbery:	<b>00 -2</b>	<b>00 -1</b>
Burglary Business:	<b>05 -2</b>	<b>02 -3</b>
Burglary Residential:	<b>16 -8</b>	<b>01 +1</b>
Vehicle Offences:	<b>51 -33</b>	<b>01 -1</b>
ASB:	<b>129 +28</b>	<b>98 +48</b> (35 from TESCO)
Damage:	<b>28 +17</b>	<b>01 -3</b>
Hate Incident:	<b>07 -2</b>	<b>02 -4</b>
Drugs:	<b>09 -13</b>	<b>09 +5</b>

These figures show a rise in the majority of offences in EAST BEDWORTH. However, there have been a number of Operations and Actions taken by PC 1979 Claire Jones and other Bedworth SNT to combat relevant issues. This has included a Drug Warrant where a male and female have since been charged, and a vehicle Crime Operation where a male has been charged with Burglary, TWOC and other matters.

The Anti-Social Behaviour issues are still sporadic, at both ends of the day. They also include the recent warm weather periods, and pubs and clubs, etc., along with a large quantity of Neighbour Disputes. This has also lead to more Licensing Checks taking place at local pubs and clubs.

**Question from the Floor: What is hate crime/incidents?** PC Croshaw explained that hate incidents and hate crime are acts of violence or hostility directed at people because of who they are or who someone thinks they are i.e. perception. For example, you may have been verbally abused by someone in the street because you're disabled or someone thought you were gay. It is based on a common definition for hate incidents and if the victim or anyone else thinks it was motivated by hostility or prejudice based on disability, race, religion, transgender identity, sexual orientation.

A resident raised an article from the press about Keresley Village being a dangerous place to live and asked if this is based on hate. It was explained that for it fall under the hate incident/crime heading there would have to be a victim as the whole village cannot be categorised as such. The Forum felt that the article and heading are phrased badly.

### **Good News Stories:**

**Operation Porterlex:** Shop Lifting in the Town Centre and Surrounding locations. Still an ongoing operation involving plain clothes Police Officers in the Town. Officers also send Crime Reduction Advice and Information to local businesses, to combat thefts.

**Operation Consort:** Ongoing Bedworth SNT Operation, targeting Auto Crime, Burglary Dwellings, etc., using plain clothes and plain vehicles during night shifts.

**February Onwards** – 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.

**February Onwards** – 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. Again, please keep up to date via our TWITTER.

**Breach of Community Behaviour Order (CBO)** – 15/02/2017 – Male who breached a CBO and committed Thefts, and Racially Aggravated Public Order. Male has numerous dangerous Warning Markers. SNT obtained vital evidence, witness statements and victim statements. Community Impact Statement also submitted to assist with potential eviction of this male. Male issued Charge for a number of Offences, and prison sentence.

**Immigration Operation: 20/02/2017** – organised by local SNT working in partnership with Immigration. 4 local car wash facilities visited. One business closed down for a period of time. Due to further work at each location, some employees prevented from working again, and £100,000 of fines to be issued between 3 premises. Further Operations planned.

**Drug Warrant: 24/02/2017** – Bedworth SNT previously obtained a warrant from Magistrates for Drug Raid at address on Bulkington Road. Two suspects detained inside the address and arrested for cultivation and possession with intent to supply Class B, and further arrested for Class A with intent to supply. Two firearms also seized from the address.

**Good Arrest: 26/02/2017** – Bedworth SNT spotted suspect vehicle in Bedworth Town Centre. Driver attempted to lose officers, but located nearby. Suspect made off on foot but found hiding in bushes. Quantity of Class A drugs seized. Car seized for use in crime. Suspect on bail to CID, then Charged with possession with intent to supply.

**Off Road Police Bikes** - Since previous forum meeting, Police Off Road Bike Team has been requested to travel throughout local areas to combat reports from residents relating to nuisance motor bikes. Updates are on our Twitter.

**ASB – KERESLEY – Egging – March 2017** – Local youngsters identified, including which schools they attend. Officers have spoken with the various people involved, both at schools and home addresses. Local shops advised not to sell eggs to groups of young people if displaying signs of ASB. Housing Associations also contacted.

**Licence Hearing – 16/05/17 – Re: Bedworth Pub – The White Horse.** Attended by SNT who gave evidence causing licence to be revoked. Evidence provided by SNT included an arrest of a female for child neglect and other offences. Evidence was not contested, and the pub ceased trading 3 weeks later. Pub known for ASB issues, suspected of drug issues, and other crimes committed by patrons.

**Travellers – May – KERESLEY** – Stolen caravan located by SNT, recovered and occupant interviewed. Caravan reunited with keeper back in IRELAND, with details of suspects passed on to The GARDA Police. Also, male Travellers identified for Criminal Damage when entering to trespass. Suspect directed to pay for the full cost of damages.

**Operation EAGER 2 – May** - Vehicles were seized and court orders are pending following a police sting to stop on-the-move criminals and cross border crime in Bedworth. Officers from Bedworth SNT joined forces with HMRC, VOSA, West Midlands Police and the taxi licensing team from NBBC during the day long operation. Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology and police interceptors were used to stop vehicles and brought them into the Christ the King Football Club car park.

As a result, they brought in 44 vehicles, seized ten of them and gave out nine Traffic Order Reports (TOR) for a range of offences such as driving with mobile phones and not having children properly restrained in cars. There was also a police chase after officers from West Midlands Police Force spotted a car they wanted – a silver Vauxhall Vectra. The pursuit went into Coventry.

**Burglars Caught – Bedworth – July** – After plain clothes Officers spotted a suspicious vehicle with 4 males attempting to commit a burglary in Nuneaton, there was a pursuit in to Bedworth where the vehicle was involved in an RTC. The 4 males made off on foot. Available units attended the area, and all 4 were caught. SNT PCSO's caught one male, another was detained by SNT Police, and one male broke his leg trying to get away. The vehicle was stolen, and evidence has linked these offenders to around 38 burglary offences across the country, plus numerous other offences. 3 burglaries in the Bedworth area were linked to these males.

**July** – After linking in with Bedworth SNT the Warwickshire Police Youth Engagement Team has delivered a day of workshops at Race Leys School with inputs in to ASB and Peer Pressure.

**Community Events** – Since the previous Forum, Bedworth SNT has attended a number of local events to engage with our residents. This has included attending Nuneaton Carnival, Bulkington Carnival, Bedworth Party in The Park, St, Giles Fete and Bedworth Get Together in The Park.

As usual, this list is not exhaustive, and there are many other positive actions which have taken place, and continue to take place through SNT working as a Team.

Our work is not only made a lot easier, but arguably could not function at all without the good will and information supplied by our residents and partnership agencies – so please let this continue!

**A discussion took place about travellers** and what constitutes a serious problem where a Section 61 can be taken and the following points were made:

- Police only tend to become aware once travellers have moved on or about to move on.
- Transient sites are Councils responsibility.
- Police can enforce Section 77 on Breach of Peace on a transient site.
- Section 61 can be used if there is criminal damage being caused but we have to respect the travellers and their rights and their lifestyle.
- If damage being caused to gain entry, this constitutes an emergency to which Police can be called.
- Travellers on Blackberry Lane site – Police have a travellers Liaison officer who walks on to site (in plain clothes) and talks to people
- Police now have their body worn cameras

It was agreed that there should be a National Policy on Travellers. **ACTION: Councillors to take this as a priority to the MP to have this discussed in Parliament.**

## **7 WCC Update**

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

**7.1 County Councillor Grant Funding** pot of £5000 that every Councillor has for small grants is being launched this week. The process for applications is now on line and applications will need to be submitted by 9<sup>th</sup> October. Further information including guidance notes and access to the application form can be found by clicking on the following link: <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants>. There will then be a 3 week assessment process to look at all applications. If there are any funds left then a second round will be opened.

**7.2 Community Laptops Scheme** is Councils old laptops that are still in good condition that communities can apply for. This scheme runs each year and will be launched in September 2017.

**7.3 Nuneaton and Bedworth Dementia Action Alliance (DAA)**– A Dementia Conference was held in May 2017 by WCC, and Public Health Team. Purpose of the conference was to get a local action plan to work towards getting Nuneaton and Bedworth more dementia friendly. Organisations will be encouraged to become dementia friendly and will be able to join the DAA.

**7.4 CSW Broadband** – This is a project to roll Broadband out to communities and the team will be organising an event in Autumn. Find out more on [www.cswbroadband.org.uk](http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk)

**7.5 Useful Numbers for reporting issues** – this has been updated and laminated and paper copies are available to take away today.

## **8 County Councillor Update**

- 8.1 Cllr Seb Gran (Chair) updated the Forum on some of the issues that Councillors have been working on:
- Overgrown hedges are on the Griff side of Coventry Road by the Griff  
**STOP PRESS:** Seb has chased up twice due to urgency of poor visibility
  - State of the road on and in the area of Heather Drive and Heath Road
  - Children's Services Consultation –Cllr Seb Gran is collating views and opinions and happy to take any to include in his feedback
- 8.2 Cllr Pete Gilbert updated on some other areas that Councillors have been working on:
- Lots of issues relating to litter – will be setting up some more litter picks and asked Forum to get in touch about any hotspots
  - Planning application for Cross keys – there was a concern that this was being developed for Co-op – Confirmed that it is not happening.

He added that if anyone has any issues or concerns then they need to get in touch – by phone or email

## **9 Current local issues - Open Forum**

- 9.1 Congestion on Newtown Road – two issues were raised
- 9.1.1 something needs to be done to reduce the congestion.
- 9.1.2 concerns about regular dangerous driving on the pavement by a driver in a grey vehicle about 5pm time. **ACTION: Police to check if they can see anything on CCTV and ANPR .**
- 9.1.2 STOP PRESS: Police have posted a request on twitter** "Around 5pm on Monday the 17th of July a grey-coloured Hatchback car mounted the pavement in the Newtown Road area near to the Gallagher Rd junction. This area was having road work or similar done in the road, and temporary work traffic lights were being used, causing tailbacks. One inconsiderate, impatient driver took it upon themselves to mount the pavement to negotiate other vehicles, potentially putting lives at risk. If there are any residents with any helpful information, please come forward to Bedworth Safer Neighbourhood Officers. Officers can be contacted on 101, Twitter and through Neighbourhood Watch or our local Residents' Association. Please ask that this information be passed to Bedworth SNT Officers. Residents may have captured this act on mobile phone, dash cam or perhaps recorded the registration number of the suspect's vehicle. Thank you for your time."
- 9.2 Spitalfields Car Park – bushes by the side are very overgrown. **ACTION: Seb said that he will investigate**  
**STOP PRESS:** Seb investigated Spitalfields and the hedges were cut back
- 9.3 Ash Green safe house was raised as residents wanting to know where they stand if anything violent happened. Police advised that there are a number of safe houses in the Borough and throughout the Country and there is a reason that they are safe houses as used for those who may for example be fleeing a violent partner. |If there is an incident that happens, residents need to report it in the normal manner. It was added that MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) do take care where people are located.
- 9.4 Goodyers End Lane – Speeding and Parking issues were raised - **ACTION: PCSO Tony Winter to take as a policing priority**
- 9.5 Smorrall Lane – issues with reeds by the Lake – **ACTION: Seb Gran said that he will take this up with the Parks department and arrange a site visit.**  
**STOP PRESS:** Council deems that there doesn't need to be any removal of reeds as the water levels are low due to the summer in their view. Seb did get council to agree to replace damaged wooden knee rails around the lake.

- 9.6 Ricoh Area Event and Parking issues - It was raised that civil enforcement are only there until 6pm and problems occur after then. **ACTION: Pete Gilbert said that he and PCSO Tony Winters will work together on this with Ricoh.**
- 9.7 Speeding motorbike on New Road, Ash Green on the pavement on Sundays. **ACTION: Seb Gran advised that he will speak with the Police about this issue**
- 9.8 No water at Coventry Road Cemetery – Cllr Danny Aldington advised that Cllr Copland is dealing with this issue. **ACTION: Seb Gran to get an update from Parks Department.**
- 9.9 Bedworth Town Centre (BTC)
- I. Store 21 and HSBC have closed down. Issue raised about upgrading of the BTC. Seb Gran advised that a Town Centre manager has been appointed and it will be worth contacting him with concerns on [jonathan.white@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.white@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk) It was said that people need to be encouraged to come back into the town centre to spend in the shops rather than online.
  - II. One suggestion was to put the market back in the town centre but market stall holders were not keen. This needs to be discussed with them and if it means more earnings then they may feel different.
  - III. Lyn Price highlighted that this is not just a Council issue as many of the properties are rented out by private landlords. Cllr Adlington advised that the Council has asked the landlords to drop their rent.
  - IV. Block paving in BTC is in bad condition. **ACTION Seb Grant to liaise with highways on this issue**
  - V. Other points were made that the footfall in Bedworth is good but the shops need to sell what residents want and that some years ago it was said that Bedworth is only a District Shopping Centre
- 9.10 Grass and hedge cutting – Issue was raised that Glendale are not cutting regularly (often not for 9 weeks) and when they do the cuttings are not picked up. The Council does not keep the public informed of the terms of the contract in terms of areas to cut etc. There is a general drop in standards and Forum gave this as a priority to be looked at. **ACTION: Seb Gran to take forward. He also invited views on what should be in the contracts.**
- 9.11 Sutherland Drive Traffic Calming - It was felt that just the road narrowing will not be enough to resolve the issue.
- 9.12 Tree cut in the park of St Giles Road Vicarage Lane was question to the reasons why it was cut– Brent Davies reported that the tree was not diseased but trimming was not an option. After clearing the ivy from around it , there were two trees and they were too close to a property.

**STOP PRESS:** After the meeting further information on this issue was passed through by Brent Davies as follows: “The trees were very close to the buildings and the root systems were affecting the property. Due to their age, position and condition the pragmatic approach was to remove and replace with new trees in a more suitable location that will not compromise property and people. Situations where the Borough Council has to remove perfectly healthy trees due to their location and affect properties are not uncommon as insurance companies always go in favour of the property never the tree. In addition, as trees do not take particularly well to being heavily pruned and have a habit of dropping large branches at anytime after such pruning leaving a potential public safety issue.”

## 10 Summary and Close by Chair

Cllr Seb Gran (Chair) thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.41