

Weddington and Whitestone Community Forum

Monday 31 July 2017

Ambleside Sports Club, Nuneaton

Minutes of the Meeting

Present:

Cllr Jeff Clarke (Chair)

Cllr Rob Tromans

Cllr Keith Kondakor

Cllr Gutteridge

PCSO Julie Greene

PCSO Susan Laing

Jill Davis (NBCC – Customer Services)

Mike Slemensek (WCC Localities Team)

Sarah Fell (Hinckley and North Warwickshire College)

Members of the public (eleven members)

Apologies:

No apologies received.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 Cllr Clarkes welcomed all to the meeting and introduced all of the elected officers, council and other representatives.

2. Safer Neighbourhood Team report

- 2.1 PCSO Julie Greene provided a verbal report to the meeting on local crime and antisocial behaviour figures based on a paper which was given to everyone present. The figures provided covered the period April – July 2017 with a comparison to the same period in 2016. IN overview – these were good figures showing in many categories a fall in crime this year in both Weddington and St Nicholas. Crimes of violence provided the exception where these were up slightly in both areas. There had been some instances of distraction type burglaries and robberies (See Appendix A for the figures provided by PCSO Greene).
- 2.2 PCSO Greene addressed the issues and priorities that came up at the previous meeting.
 - (1) Support is being given to Speed Watch and in fact a course was being provided today (being attended by Neil Cavanagh).

- (2) The issue of anti-social use of vehicles which are frequently turning and reversing into people's drives in the area – PCSO Greene explained that the police do not have powers to do much about this when the issue is merely a lack of courtesy or thoughtfulness – although the police can act when there is an actual obstruction being caused e.g. driveway giving access to the road is being blocked).
- 2.3 PCSO Greene spoke about what the police can do in response to concerns about road safety outside Weddington School). In a very distressing incident a local resident taking her children to school had witnessed a cat that was run over by a car that was going too fast and the car did not even stop. PCSO Greene said that maintaining road safety outside schools was a priority for her and she regularly patrols the three schools in her area which includes Weddington School. PCSO Greene believes the main problem, at all three sites, is that many parents try to get as close to the school as possible in their vehicles. To address this she routinely speaks to motorists and where necessary issues fixed penalty notices.
- 2.4 A thorough discussion followed about how best to improve the safety outside the school to prevent an accident involving a child and a range of suggestions were considered including the installation of speed humps, mobile CCTV, installing images of children at the roadside (an initiative trialled by other councils) and possible new means of collection evidence. Cllr Kondakor drew attention to the Safer Routes to School Programme. Cllr Clarke said that nothing should be ruled out in pursuit of increased safety and that the Safer Routes to School programme offered the most practical way forward and that Weddington School can be included in this Scheme this year. Cllr Tromans asked that Weddington School also be included in the Speed Watch Risk Assessments.
- 2.5 Mr David Carr said that new sites were being risk assessed by Speed Watch team but operations were being held up while the laser equipment is being calibrated. The police are aware and addressing this but Mr Carr asked if this could be expedited as soon as possible.

ACTION (1) Police to continue with local patrolling of the school areas to deter illegal and inconsiderate use of vehicles which presents a risk to road safety.

ACTION (2) Police to include Weddington School in the Speed Watch Risk Assessment programme.

ACTION (3) Cllr Clarke to follow up with regard to the Safer Routes to Schools programme, ensuring Weddington School is included in this as soon as possible and report back.

ACTION (4) PCSO Greene and Mike Slemensek to liaise with police senior management to have the laser gun calibrated as soon as possible.

- 2.6 Cllr Clarke thanked PCSO Greene and PCSO Laing for their work and for the update to the meeting.

3. Update on issues raised at previous meeting

Hinckley and North Warwickshire College car parking policy

- 3.1 Sarah Fell gave an update on the position with regard to the College's stance on parking charges. The policy has not been changed in response to the concerns voiced by members of the forum. Sarah acknowledged that parking issues were not purely down to students but that College staff were also parking outside of the college grounds. Sarah said that there was a scheme in place to deduct the parking fees at a slightly discounted rate – from staff salaries. There has been about a 50% take up on this so far.
- 3.2 One forum member expressed gratitude that white 'H' bars had now been installed across the driveways and in turning areas of Hinckley Road between Nos 60-76. There are however still some more that remain to be completed. Cllr Clarke said he would look into this and have the work completed.
ACTION (5) Cllr Clarke to inquire about installation of remaining H bars
- 3.3 Mr David Carr expressed a vote of thanks to the Ambleside Club management committee for their recent move to erect a sign which offers free overflow parking on the grounds of Ambleside to parents at St Nicholas School.
- 3.4 Cllr Clarke thanked Sarah for her attendance at the meeting.

No 65 Bus

- 3.5 Cllr Kondakor reminded everyone that the No 65 bus now runs to the George Eliot Hospital – across the A5 and down Higham Lane. This is a trial and he urged everyone to use the new service or otherwise it would not be continued.

Installation of public benches

- 3.6 Mike Slemensek updated the meeting that two benches had been installed but one had been recently damaged when a car being followed by the police crashed into it. Mike believed that the damaged bench was repairable but has

been advised that the repairs cannot not be claimed on insurance as the identity of the driver is not known. Mike is arranging for the damaged bench to be repaired and put back in place. Mike is working to address the concerns of some shopkeepers about anti-social behaviour before the third bench can be installed at St Nicholas Park shops.

- 3.7 Members of the forum were unhappy with the length of time being taken to install the benches since the original request. Cllr Tromans asked for consideration to be given to having a litter bin sited next to the bench at Briars Close.

ACTION (6) Mike Slemensek to report back to the next meeting and liaise with Paul Daly (NBBC) regarding the litter bin.

Traffic/development issues

- 3.8 Cllr Kondakor spoke about road closures affecting Weddington from 23rd August onwards and that information about these can be found on the national roadworks website Roadworks.org.uk.
- 3.9 Discussion focused on what plans were there in place to address a range of issues, including installing traffic lights at the Higham Lane/ Hinckley Road junction; plans for an island at the end of the Longshoot; the impact upon residents when the new LIDL opens and the future of the railway bridge. Cllr Kondakor and Cllr Tromans said there was no overview of these developments in the Borough Plan. Cllr Clarke said that there was a bid for funding as part of a £3.7million plan. As far as he was aware there were no plans to install traffic lights at the Higham Lane junction.
- 3.10 In response to a question from Mr Roy Taylor about whether cycle routes would be included in the bid, Cllr Clarke responded that hopefully these would be part of it. Cllr Kondakor said that some funding was set aside for this as part of the highways scheme for Eastborough relief Road and the Longshoot. It will be possible to turn footpaths on the Eastborough Relief into cycle paths too.
- 3.11 Questions were asked about the no right turn outside the Yeoman pub and the traffic problems caused by this. Cllr Clarke said there were some plans in place regarding the island – but he will look into this.
ACTION (7) Cllr Clarke to find out what plans are in place for this junction and report back
- 3.12 With regard to Buttermere Park Cllr Tromans updated that the bollards had not been replaced but since he spoke to the site manager – these have now been done. When the entrances and exits have been finished – then replanting will be done.

- 3.13 Members of the public asked about provision for more schools and a doctor's surgery to accompany the new housing developments. Cllr Clarke said there were plans for a new secondary school and two primary schools – hoping to open these in September 2019. A doctor's surgery is being negotiated but the go-ahead for this has not yet been given – this issue is currently with the CCG and NHS England.
- 3.14 Cllr Kondakor said that with regard to the Borough Plan – the public inquiry aspect starts soon and there will be a hearing to which members of the public can come along and speak. Cllr Kondakor urged people to do this. The date is not yet known but will be advertised late in August. The venue will be at the Town Hall in Nuneaton.

4. Current local issues

- 4.1 An observation was made that the trees at the end of Ambleside way need watering.
- 4.2 Can anything further be done to deter cars being displayed for sale on the side of the road in Eastborough Way? Cllr Clarke said this has been fully explored with advice from the police and NBBC Philip Richardson. At the moment there does not appear to be an answer. The local MP Marcus Jones is looking into the possibility of creating a local by-law to cover this.
- 4.3 There was a 'World Record' event recently at the Ambleside Club where the loudness of the music appeared to show no consideration for local residents. If further events are to take place, it was asked if a letter could be sent from the forum to the Ambleside management Committee asking them to take more care over music/sound levels when setting up and using sound equipment.
ACTION (8) Mike Slemensek to follow this matter up accordingly.
- 4.4 Speeding motorists are an issue in Higham Lane – it is a consistent problem and the automated flashing sign is being ignored. Mr David Carr said that Speed Watch has been giving attention to this area and one motorist was clocked at 62mph. He said the Speed watch team will spend further time doing checks at this location.
ACTION (9) Speed watch will undertake further checks in Higham Lane.
- 4.5 The No7 bus – still problems with erratic timetabling. Mike Slemensek said that Arriva can check if we provide them with specific dates and times and that there is a facility on their website to raise such questions. They normally

respond very quickly. It was suggested that the Arriva contact details be placed on the generic information/contact sheet.

ACTION (10) Mike Slemensek to update the sheet and circulate this via email.

- 4.6 Cllr Kondakor announced for information that there is a planning application for Top Farm which will be submitted in early September.

5. Next meeting date

- 5.1 Cllr Clarke said there was no date set for the next meeting – this has not been planned in yet due to the ongoing review of arrangements for community forums going forward. Information will be circulated as soon as more is known. The next meeting when held will start at 7.30pm.

Appendix A – Crime figures