

# **Bede & Poplar Community Forum**

## **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Bedworth Arts Center**

The meeting was attended by 5 residents, 2 members of the Bedworth & Bulkington Neighbourhood Watch, 2 members of staff from St Michaels Academy and a number of councillors and officers from the Police, 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)	WCC
Cllr Bhagwant Pandher	WCC
Cllr John Haynes	NBBC

#### Officers in attendance

Mike Slemensek	WCC
Rina Sarna	WCC

#### Police in Attendance

Sgt Hewitt

#### Apologies

Jean Whitehead	Resident
Cllr John Glass	NBBC
Cllr Bob Copland	NBBC
Cllr Bill Hancox	NBBC
Cllr Bob Copland	NBBC

### **3 Police Update (Sgt Nathan Hewitt reported the following) - Crime Figures:- 17/06/17 – 17/09/17**

ASB	68
Burglary Residential	13
Distraction Burglary	1
Damage	11
Personal Robbery	2
Vehicle Crime	19

#### **Good news stories – Bedworth SNT**

- 3 Males arrested in August in the early hours after being disturbed by a member of the public who saw them inside her car. Excellent description by the informant leading to the arrests of the 3 one of whom was wanted of warrant fta and detained for court.
- Tasking placed on police system for overnight patrols of Bulkington in relation to the increase in vehicle crime. This is then allocated to patrol units at the start of each shift and has resulted in an increased police presence overnight.
- 3 Well known car key burglars from jailed for between 3 and 7 years for breaking into houses and stealing keys to high performance cars. The offences were committed countywide and included Bulkington and Bedworth.
- Operation CONSORT. Operation by Bedworth SNT to tackle overnight vehicle crime. Officers have been patrolling the area using plain cars borrowed from our CID colleagues to disrupt and deter crime.
- Closure order secured on flat in Potlidgate Court Bedworth due to asb, drug taking and intimidation to other residents. Bedworth officers have submitted evidence along with the council and housing association to secure the order at court.
- Class A drugs (Crack Cocaine and Heroin) recovered by SNT after carrying out a warrant under Misuse of Drugs Act. Officers had received intelligence from the public to say that a cannabis grow was at the address and were stunned to find a quantity of Class a Drugs. A file has been submitted to CPS.
- After following a car that went through a red light in Bedworth a male made off on foot and discarded a package and key to an Audi car. He was located and arrested by SNT and the key and package located

along the route the male took. This was found to contain several thousand pounds worth of Class A drugs. The male was charged and will be appearing at Crown Court in late September.

- License revoked at White horse pub Bedworth town centre due to reports of violence, criminals selling goods stolen within the town centre and asb.
- Operation Eager 2. Multi-Agency traffic op on the border of Coventry and Warwickshire targeting criminals who use our roads. Intelligence led operation utilising information supplied by members of the public.
- Several vehicles seized by officers for having no insurance, tax throughout this period. Drivers who fail to have the correct documentation are not only dangerous but also cause **your** insurance premiums to increase.

Please continue to call in as much intelligence as possible. If we don't know about it we can't help!

**For latest information of what we've been up to please see our Twitter page @BedworthCops**

Police are swamped with vehicle crime and would like to give out a clear message to all to not to leave valuables in the car and make sure that their cars are locked.

#### Comments/questions from the floor

- i. Unauthorised encampment at Camp Hill Junior School had to close due to previous issues so a Section 61 was served. They have now set up on Heckley Fields in Bedworth but they should be gone from there by tomorrow.
- ii. Resident raised parking issues on white lines on Ambleside Road - Forum advised to take photo with number plate and send to SNT Inbox . It was reported that a person caused conflict when challenged and the driver was very threatening. It was reported to SNT but resident has not heard back. Sgt Hewitt advised resident to contact him with full details.
- iii. Forum attendee asked Police about parking issues and how many they pick up and were advised that with the current resources parking issues have to be balanced with the welfare of the community therefore safeguarding the community and preventing burglaries takes priority over parking.
- iv. Issue raised that Police Priorities do not appear to be set and Sgt Hewitt explained that Police are currently doing this through Social Media.

#### **4. Minutes of the last meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017**

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

#### **5. Update on actions from last meeting**

- 5.1 Wootton Street patrols Councillor Jackson, Lynne Price and Mike Slemensek met with Sgt Reid (now left) to discuss and although occurrences have reduced it is still an issue. **ACTION: Lynn Price will meet with the new Inspector on 7<sup>th</sup> March so will raise this again.**  
UPDATE at meeting 18.9.17: Lynn Price reported back that she and Julie Jackson did meet with the Inspector. The situation is better but still going on. It's down to people reporting it.
- 5.2 Kings Gardens - people cannot get on and off their drives and so is a policing matter due to obstruction  
Update - Police have asked that residents be encouraged to report such issues at the time of occurrence. Reporting mechanisms in terms of numbers and emails addresses were made available on useful numbers sheet. The importance of reporting helps to build up trends and plan action. Police have asked for reports of obstruction to Highways. Councillor Jackson added that Kings House staff park there and also anecdotal evidence that civil enforcement team also do so while doing their rounds and both of these parking exacerbate the issues. **ACTION: This will be reported back to civil enforcement team.**

UPDATE at meeting 18.9.17: Response from civil enforcement 17.7.17 - The County Council does not have the authority to deal with vehicles parked inappropriately, unless there are parking restrictions in place. They say that the problems referred to are those of obstructive parking, which the police have powers to take action against - Warwickshire County Council does not.

A site visit was undertaken on 8.9.2017 - (PC Steve Crowshaw, Lynne Price, Mike Slemensek & Rina Sarna) - **the following actions were agreed:**

- Police will put out a message through Social media about considerate parking
- PCSO's / Rina to do a door knock exercise for residents in the street providing them with useful numbers to report obstructive parking.

- 5.3 All Saints Square - large heavy vehicle has been loading and unloading on the Square in the area of the Almhouses and Boots. On 31.1.17, Civil Enforcement advised that Warwickshire County Council does not have the authority to deal with vehicles parked inappropriately, unless there are parking restrictions in place. Location has been checked and although it is classed as part of the highway maintainable at public expense, there are no parking restrictions there. If the vehicles loading are considered to be causing an obstruction, we need to contact the local Police Office for assistance. The Police have the powers to deal with vehicles that are parked in a dangerous position or cause an obstruction.

Jean Whitehead added that this happens early morning and late at night and is causing damage to the pavement. Forum said there are already bollards in place - consider raising them as parking is free after 6pm. **ACTION: Site visit to be undertaken to assess. L&P to explore CCTV that can highlight times of concern.**

UPDATE at meeting on 18.9.17: A site visit was undertaken on 8.9.2017 - (PC Steve Crowshaw, Lynne Price, Mike Slemensek & Rina Sarna) - **the following actions were agreed:**

- Town Centre PCSO to contact Boots, Greggs and Savers in particular as it is their lorries mainly but also talk to all the other businesses and give them advice about deliveries as there should be access to receive deliveries from the back of the businesses
- In terms of damage to the pavement, the site visit did not feel the condition is too bad at the moment

- 5.4 Jean Whitehead raised (could be heresay) that there has been an incident in the Bedworth Leisure Centre car park. Concern that the CCTV has been removed in the summer (near the car park by front entrance).

**ACTION: Check if CCTV is removed.**

UPDATE at meeting on 18.9.17: 1An email was received on 4.3.17 to advise that "that refers to camera 225, which has not been removed and hence is still located at the entrance to the Leisure Centre. Occasionally it is necessary to remove the camera, replace it with a loan or spare camera and send the former away for repair"

- 5.5 Two residents from Leicester Road raised concerns regarding Parking on Leicester Road in the area of C hick King. This is happening daily where parking is on double yellow lines, dropped kerbs, at the bus stop and on the pavement. There has been damage to cars and drives have been blocked. Pushchairs have not been able to get through due to pavement parking. When challenged drivers have given abuse to people. Fridays from 4pm is particularly bad. Deliveries to retailers are not being taken from their car park but by illegal parking. There has also been parking to block the hydrant so a risk if fire emergency services need to fill up.

**ACTIONS: Site visit to be undertaken to consider possible options in liaison with civil enforcement and Police(SNT).**

UPDATE at meeting on 18.9.17 - On 17 July Civil enforcement advised:

- i. that where vehicles are parked on double yellow lines, Civil Enforcement Officers can issue a Penalty Charge Notice, however they must first observe the vehicle to check that loading/unloading is not taking place (which is permitted on double yellow lines) and that the vehicle is not displaying a valid disabled persons blue badge (which permits parking on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours).
- ii. Vehicles parked in contravention of parking restrictions can be reported online at <http://warwickshire.gov.uk/contraveningparkingrestrictions> although this is to raise awareness of a particular area – they do not have resources to provide an immediate response. Visits by CEO's to Leicester Road have not shown any vehicles parked in contravention.

- iii. They further added that the problems we refer to of parking at dropped kerbs, bus stops and on the pavement at this location are again cases of obstructive parking, which should be referred to the police.

A site visit was undertaken on 8.9.2017 - (PC Steve Crowshaw, Lynne Price, Mike Slemensek & Rina Sarna and also Leanne one of the residents that had initially raised this issue) - Leanne advised of the ongoing problems that have been taking place in terms of parking in the area. They do seem to happen more around promotions from Chick King. Also the Bedworth Food and Wine Shop deliverers drop their tailgate in front of drives. **The following actions were agreed:**

- contact Civil Enforcement again with a view to them making exceptions for out of hours monitoring at such times as they only tend to work until 5pm and stop at the Gala bingo and not come as far as Chick King. Mike Slemensek updated that he has spoken with Adrian at Civil Enforcement and he is happy to get involved in some action for the evening.
  - PCSO to talk to local residents to report as and when obstruction takes place as the current volume of calls does not warrant any action.
  - PCSO to talk to local shops about parking and guidance on receiving deliveries along the main road.
- 5.6 Area around Salvation Army, betting shop and Spencers – parking causing obstructions. **ACTION: CCTV to be checked** UPDATE at meeting on 18.9.17 A site visit was undertaken on 8.9.2017 - (PC Steve Crowshaw, Lynne Price, Mike Slemensek & Rina Sarna) There are metal markers along the pavement and any parking on the outside of these contravenes parking regulations. **The following actions were agreed:**
- PC Steve Crowshaw to draft a letter for PCSO to promote Retail Link with local businesses giving PCSO's work number
- 5.7 Sleets Yard - there is flytipping mainly from carpet shop in Bedworth Town Centre. **ACTION: Site visit to be undertaken.** UPDATE at meeting on 18.9.17 A site visit was undertaken on 8.9.2017 - (PC Steve Crowshaw, Lynne Price, Mike Slemensek & Rina Sarna) - The offending skip that was over filled has now been removed
- 5.8 Welcome to Nuneaton & Bedworth sign opposite Ricoh was raised by Lynne Price, however Phil Richardson confirmed that he already had this in hand. UPDATE at meeting on 18.9.17 It was reported on 14.3.17 that the sign will be replaced between Thursday 16 and Monday 20th March 2017. The works will include a lane closure out of peak hours. County would not allow the works before the 16th due to other works in the area. A further report was received on 16 March 2017 to advise that the sign has been replaced.

## 6. WCC Update

Mike Slemensek reported on the following:

6.1 County Councillor Grant Funding – pot of £5000 that every Councillor has for small grants was launched in July. 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.

6.2 Community Laptop 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.

6.3 Nuneaton & Bedworth Dementia Action Alliance (N&BDAA) - 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 N&BDAA.

## 7. Current Local Issues - Open Forum

### Parking

- 7.1 Chamberlaine Street Parking Issues – (Robert Maggs) Issue here is still ongoing with obstruction in this street. Cllr Chattaway advised that he will support with this and happy to take a petition.
- 7.2 Outside Bingo Hall - corner of Rye Piece Ringway – parking issues after hours when civil enforcement are finished for the day.
- 7.3 Building at the Corner of Edward Street and King Street - there is an auction every Thursday night and parked cars cause obstruction. Forum was advised that PCSO Tony Winters has already spoken to the auctioneer.
- 7.4 Many Forum attendees were not happy with civil enforcement contract as only focusses on Town centre and not outlying areas. Parking issue are ongoing after 5pm when civil enforcement stop working. It is a contractual issue and needs sorting with Mark Ryder and Geoff Clarke the portfolio holder.
- 7.5 Parking was raised as a responsibility of the council to get the contract right and Cllr Richard Chattaway asked that a Joint Forum with Bedworth North West be arranged to look at parking Issues. Appropriate officers and portfolio holder to be invited to the meeting. **ACTION**

### Overgrown vegetation

- 7.6 Back of Walls – this area is very overgrown again
- 7.7 Town Centre – weeds under all the benches and gutters everywhere in Bedworth
- 7.8 County Councillors and Borough Councillors were asked to do a walkabout in Bedworth and see for themselves the work that Glendale has not been doing.
- 7.9 Resident said that Bailey Park is a disgrace and a formal complaint has been submitted.

### Other

- 7.10 Issue of the benches in the park was raised as many of them are broken. To be raised with NBBC **ACTION**
- 7.11 Corner of Regent Street/Pine Tree Road – the wasteland here is a disgrace. Jill Krusts to email details to Cllr Richard Chattaway **ACTION**
- 7.12 Article in Telegraph about knife crime and police have an amnesty in Nuneaton but nothing in Bedworth.
- 7.13 Also in Telegraph to say that Nuneaton Council House has been sold. Cllr Richard Chattaway advised that nothing is yet confirmed.
- 7.14 There is a Community Fun Day at St Michaels on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October where there will be various stalls, food and lots of fun activities.
- 7.15 Issue rose about new estate being built by Chick King on Leicester Road – roads and pathways have not been finished, drains are higher than the pavement and trees are not cut – where are we on the adoption process with the developer. Resident had heard that Cassidy's subcontracted a company that went bust but then never picked this back up again themselves.

## 8. Summary and Close

Cllr Chattaway advised that prior to the WCC Elections boundaries were changed and these do not align with the Borough. Forums cost to arrange and run and there is currently a review of Forums underway so does not what shape they will take. He added that Bedworth needs two Forums and hoped that residents would support this.

Cllr Chattaway thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.