

Notes of Earl Craven Community Forum – Tuesday 20 March at Binley Woods Village Hall

Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Heather Timms welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no apologies received for the meeting.

Local Policing update and setting priorities for the next three months

PC Mike Stamp gave an update.

Changes to the Safer Neighbourhood Team:

- **Mike** is now the beat manager for both Rugby Rural Central and Rugby Rural North SNTs.
- **PCSO Matt Havelock** has left the team.
- **PCSO Charlie Cawte** remains with the team.
- **Sergeant Sarah Masters** remains the SNT manager

Update on priorities set by online voting in December 2017:

- Increased patrols in and around Ryton. 30 patrols made, 3 youths identified as the main perpetrators of antisocial behaviour. Liaison with Rugby Borough Council to secure the open garages on Sodens Avenue. Letters handed to parents warning them about their children's behaviour and potential consequences. Between December and March only 6 reports of antisocial behaviour were made to police.
- Increased patrols in Binley Woods to prevent/deter offences. Large number of patrols undertaken by SNT and other Police colleagues. Car seized in January for having no insurance and other traffic offences. Suspects arrested following burglary in progress in Wolston in February. Targeted operation in February addressing illegal use of off-road motorcycles around Binley Woods and Brandon. Arrest of suspect in February for burglary, theft and possession of drugs. Reports of burglaries have dropped by 35% and reports of vehicle crime have dropped by 39%.

Priorities for the next quarter:

The following priorities were identified for the next three months:

1. Patrols in and around Binley Woods to detect and deter offences.
2. Patrols in and around Wolston to detect and deter offences.

Questions/comments from forum members:

In response to a request for the SNT to look at the issue of parking around Binley Woods Primary School, **Heather** advised that some of her Safer Routes to School Funding for 2018/19 will be used to look at the issue in respect of both Binley Woods and Wolston Primary Schools.

Regarding speeding on the A46 between Tollbar Island and TGI Island, **Mike** advised that responsibility for enforcing speed limits along the road are split between Warwickshire Police (southbound) and West Midlands Police (northbound), reflecting force boundaries. **Mike** offered to liaise with (Warwickshire) traffic policing colleagues regarding what action can be taken to address the issue along the southbound carriageway, and to look into what arrangements might exist for the northbound carriageway.

Update on A46 Islands

Heather welcomed **Steve Wrenn** and **Michael Aquilina** from/working on behalf of Highways England to the meeting.

Steve gave an update on TGI Island works:

- Further consultation events had taken place on Friday 16 March (Binley Woods Village Hall) and Saturday 17 March (John White Community Centre) regarding proposed upgrades to the island. 259 people had attended the Binley Woods event.
- The statutory process is due to start in summer 2018.
- Start of construction is planned for spring 2020.
- The upgrade should be completed and open for traffic in spring 2022.

The following questions and observations were asked/made by forum members:

- Can the traffic lights on the upgraded island be made “switchable”, i.e. can they be switched off at non peak times?
- Can the proposed lighting be reduced in height to minimise the impact on nearby properties?
- Can acoustic fencing be provided to reduce the noise impact on Binley Woods?

Steve agreed to look into these requests and report back to a future meeting. The request was made by forum members, and agreed to by **Steve**, that he would report back before the statutory process commences in the summer.

In respect of continuing u-turning traffic on TGI Island, caused by traffic taking the incorrect lane approaching Tollbar Island:

- Forum members reiterated their point from previous meetings that the additional temporary signage advising drivers approaching Tollbar from the west and wanting to continue on the A45 was inadequate.
- A suggestion was made to utilise spare space on the gantry signs approaching Tollbar to affix a permanent larger sign advising drivers to take the left hand lane to continue on the A45.
- A suggestion was made to apply repeating directions on the road surface approaching Tollbar to advise drivers to take the left hand lane to continue on the A45.
- A suggestion was made to apply yellow hatching to TGI Island to prevent drivers entering the island when no exit is available.

Steve agreed to look into these suggestions and report back to a future meeting.

In response to a question regarding the upgrading of Walsgrave Island, **Steve** advised that a “preferred route” is likely to be published in 2019.

Have Your Say

Heather gave an update on the planning situations for the Nursery, Stadium and former chicken farm.

A forum member encouraged others to make representations to Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group to support blood tests at Binley Woods Pharmacy.

Heather advised that she had requested Rugby Borough Council planning enforcement and environment health to look into the operation of the car wash in Binley Woods, following complaints from residents about nuisance and pollution.

Charles Barlow from Warwickshire County Council advised that the Rugby Borough Council Rural Development Grant Fund is now open for applications. An application form and guidance notes are available from the Rugby Borough Council website.

Date of the next meeting:

To be confirmed (June 2018, Binley Woods)

