

# **Weddington and St Nicolas Community Forum**

**Monday 19 February 2018**

**Horeston Grange Ecumenical Church,**

**Camborne Drive, Nuneaton CV11 6GU**

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

### **Present:**

Cllr Jeff Clarke (Chair)  
Cllr Rob Tromans (Deputy PCC)  
Cllr Keith Kondakor  
Cllr Gutteridge  
Cllr Kris Wilson  
Cllr Ian Bonner  
Cllr Jeff Morgan  
Sgt Nev Hewitt (Warks Police)  
Mike Slemensek (WCC Localities Team)  
Tricia Morrison (WCC)  
Gavin Orton (NBBC)  
Raj Joshi – Executive Director Corporate Services (Hinckley and North Warwickshire College)  
Steve Nunwick (Hinckley and North Warwickshire College)  
Members of the public (twenty members)

### **Apologies:**

Cllr Kathryn Brindley Edwards

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

### **2. Safer Neighbourhood Team report**

- 2.1 Sgt Nev Hewitt provided a verbal report to the meeting on local crime and antisocial behaviour figures. The figures are attached at Appendix A. The figures covered the period August 2017 – February 2018 and contained comparative data for the period August 2016 – Feb 2017.
- 2.2 Sgt Hewitt commented that parking was a huge issue but police need to prioritise their resources according to levels of threat, risk and harm. He asked that if there is a persistent car parking problem caused by the same vehicles for members of the public to photograph it (without putting

themselves in danger), in the location where it is causing an obstruction, ensuring the registration plate is included, and send it to the local SNT email address. ([ne.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ne.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk))

- 2.3 Cllr Tromans advised that anyone can find information and contact details about their local SNT team by visiting the Warwickshire Police website and entering their postcode. This will bring up information about their local team.
- 2.4 The SNT address was also on the 'useful numbers' sheet that is circulated out to forum members and copies were also available in the room for people to take with them.
- 2.5 Sgt Hewitt answered questions from the floor. On antisocial behaviour at KFC Sgt Hewitt confirmed the CCTV cameras at the premises there was being used successfully and cooperation from the manager was good. With regard to Weddington shops he confirmed this location is earmarked for a Domehawk camera.
- 2.6 In response to local comments on facebook about alleged drug dealing in the Cricket Club car park Sgt Hewitt confirmed that officers had been there and carried out stop and searches upon vehicles and occupants although nothing was found upon searching. The SNT will continue to visit this location.
- 2.7 A resident raised the issue of speeding in Weddington Road out of town to Church Lane. Shy Hewitt said that local people knew about the fixed cameras – he has asked for a mobile speed camera van but has not been provided.
- 2.8 A resident said there was a homeless person living in Weddington Fields and there was evidence of an increased use of drugs judging by the needles being found. Sgt Hewitt said the police were aware of the person and that discarded syringes should be reported to the Council.
- 2.9 Residents raised the issue of the grass verges in Shanklin Drive being badly churned up by parking vehicles. Sgt Hewitt said that bollards should be considered. He said that the schools had put information out to the students about this. Discussion took place around the use of mesh to protect the verges and whether councillor delegated budgets could be used for this purpose.
- 2.10 Speeding in the early hours was on Hinckley Road was reported as a concern by a resident. Sgt Hewitt said this location has been identified as a location to Community Speedwatch.

- 2.11 Cllr Wilson suggested that the Domehawk camera in Edward St surveilling the Bail Hostel, which has never moved from there, should be replaced by a permanent camera so that the Domehawk can be freed up. Discussion took place around the potential cost and maintenance issues of doing this. Cllr Tromans suggested it was best to leave it in situ and simply acquire a further Domehawk camera. He would look into this.
- 2.12 Cllr Clarke inquired about crime involving theft of keyless vehicles. Sgt Hewitt confirmed that there has been an increase in this type of crime due to the use of technology by criminals to unlock the vehicles. He advised strongly against owners taking car keys upstairs as some criminal gangs will break into the house to take them by force. He advised crime prevention measures to include CCTV, burglar alarms and car alarms. Ford Focus and A Class Mercedes are the vehicle types being most targeted by criminals. Key wallets are useful which block signals going from the keys to the car. These can be obtained from Neighbourhood Watch. Steering locks are an additional deterrent.
- 3. Previous meeting minutes and progress made on issues raised**
- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2017 were reviewed and agreed. Under matters arising Cllr Kondakor highlighted that the Borough Plan hearings would start tomorrow. He also mentioned a live planning application for building development which will affect Top Farm, Higham Lane to the back of Weddington School. The plans are viewable online and people can still comment.
- 3.2 Action updates:
- (1) Police have carried out patrols to deter illegal and inconsiderate use of vehicles in the area.
  - (2) Weddington School is being included in the Speed Watch risk assessment programme.
  - (3) Cllr Clarke has followed up about Weddington School being included in the Safer Schools Programme – actions were identified and undertaken.
  - (4) Speedwatch laser gun has been calibrated by the police and can be used.
  - (5) Installation of remaining H bars has been completed and Cllr Clarke is now looking at proposals for double yellow lines on the entrances.
  - (6) Briars Close/Hinckley Road litterbin request – Mike has lodged the request with NBBC – it is on the list.
  - (7) Cllr Clarke will give an update on progression of the No right turn junction outside the Yeoman Pub over the next 12 – 18 months.
  - (8) Ambleside Club have been approached about loudness of music and have responded that they will take all necessary care when setting up and using sound equipment with a view to minimising disturbance to residents.
  - (9) Speed Watch in Higham lane – these will be commenced in the spring.

(10) The generic information/contact sheets have been updated with the contact details for Arriva – should residents wish to register a complaint.

#### **4. Current local issues**

- 4.1 Residents inquired about progress towards installing the crossing in Weddington Road by Aldi. Cllr Clarke said that it was going through the planning enforcement processes in the Borough and would be in place as soon as possible. Councillor Kondakor said the work had gone out to tender. Cllr Clarke said he would arrange for this to be looked into and report back.
- 4.2 A resident complained about the state of the grass verges on Weddington Road by the one-stop shop. Because of people driving on there it was 'like a ploughed field'. Shaw Avenue was stated to be as bad and Glenfield Avenue was mentioned. A request was made for the County Highways to inspect the area. Cllr Tromans said he would also take up an issue with Paul Daly and Glendale about a local issue of bushes growing over the footpath.
- 4.3 A resident spoke about a recent public meeting about the development of Hinckley and North Warwickshire College and that he had not received any information about it. He also said that people living nearest to the College viz. Ennerdale who were most likely to be affected by the changes had received no letter at all. Some residents had received letters only a few days before the planned meeting. A spokesperson for the College – Mr Raj Joshi said that the event was advertised in the local press and there was a letter drop. He said this is an informal public consultation and people can still respond up until 5pm on the 26 February.
- 4.4 In response to this Cllr Clarke said the College had apparently not learnt from previous experiences and needed to be aware of the wider impact of the proposed development plans.
- 4.5 In response to a question about how much the College will raise, Mr Steve Nunwick from the College stated he was not able to say and it would be contingent upon market conditions at the time.
- 4.6 Cllr Wilson inquired what Section 106 contributions the College would consider. Mr Nunwick replied that the College is consulting and that Section 106 contributions have not yet been considered.
- 4.7 A resident said she had an issue with the College selling the land and then buying more land in Nuneaton. The College plans to keep the gym and dance area but sell off the play area. Where will the students do outside activities

and was this expected to be Ambleside? The questioner stated that in her view no good would come out of this for the local community.

- 4.8 Cllr Tromans said that the College is in a strong financial position – so why are they selling the land off? Do they need the money? The College is able to make a choice here.
- 4.9 Cllr Clarke said that the consultation that has been carried out by the College leaves something to be desired.
- 4.10 Residents also questioned how students would be expected to travel to the Magna Park site.
- 4.11 Cllr Kondakor said that we do not really know what financial position the College is in. In his view someone should be asking about the finances and he stressed the need to maintain a viable college in the locality.
- 4.12 Cllr Clarke observed that in his view the College was ‘asset stripping’ and a resident said that the consultation had ‘failed’.
- 4.13 In response to this Mr Raj Joshi said that the College wants to re-invest in the existing campus and plans future growth and that elsewhere the College will lease and not buy. The College authorities will try to keep provision on site and is working with Sport England.
- 4.14 Cllr Clarke concluded the topic by saying that he hoped the College recognises the serious concerns expressed at the meeting and that he personally had grave concerns about the proposals.
- 4.15 A resident asked about who is responsible for repairing potholes in the road. Cllr Clarke said that due to the bad winter the Council is trying to effect repairs and aims to deal with them within an hour of being notified. Where the depth of the hole is more than 33 millimetres the Council will come out to repair. The aim is get the repairs done as soon as possible and asked to be notified of specific cases. Problems are often caused by HGVs doing road works.
- 4.16 A resident asked about a dog waste bin for Ryde Avenue. The resident was advised that there are no longer dog waste bins but local councillors will pick up the issue of no waste bin being near to the One-Stop shop.
- 4.17 Notification was given that there will be a litter pick event by the shops at Horeston Grange with flyers giving information on the table.

4.18 In Higham Lane some of the trees have dead branches. Cllr Clarke will notify officers about this.

4.19 Cllr Kondakor updated that the bus stops were successfully installed – one at Ryde Avenue and one opposite the shops. He would like to have more put in using councillor delegated budgets. He would like to get more bus shelters and drop kerbs in place ready for next winter.

## **5. Summary and close**

5.1 Cllr Clarke thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the forum discussions. He declared the meeting closed.

5.2 The date of the next meeting will be advised in due course.

# APPENDIX A

## COMMUNITY FORUM 19<sup>TH</sup> February 2018

### BEAT REPORT AUG 2017 – FEBRUARY 2018 for Weddington, St Nicolas & Horeston Grange

WEDDINGTON			ST NICOLAS	
	2017 – 18	2016 -17	2017 -18	2016 -17
BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL	32	13	32	19
VEHICLE CRIME	29	20	26	45
VIOLENCE	3	4	11	12
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	18	9	11	21
ARSON	0	0	0	0
ASB	42	44	41	63