

Weddington and St Nicolas Community Forum

Monday 10 September 2018

Ambleside Sports Club, Nuneaton

Minutes of the Meeting

Present:

Cllr Jeff Clarke (Chair)
Cllr Rob Tromans
Cllr Hayden Walmesley
Cllr Keith Kondakor
PC Esther Kinch
PCSO Khane Barlow
PCSO Alana Irwin
Members of the public (16)

Apologies:

Cllr 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 Crime and ASB figures were reported by PC Kinch. Please see Appendix A. PC Kinch gave an outline of recent arrests made by police in the area and confirmed in answer to a question that there had not been a recent spate of bicycle thefts at the College. PC Kinch spoke about 'organised crime' and that some burglaries and car crime was caused by this type of criminality and said that the Warwickshire Police Vehicle Crime Team had been successfully deployed in the area. She also advised about the importance of car key pouches to deter keyless car theft and the use of electrical timer switches for the lights when the house is empty – all good crime prevention aids.
- 2.2 Mr David Carr said that in his view the location of Hinckley Road, mentioned at the last meeting and referred to paragraph 2.10 of the minutes – was not a suitable for a community speed watch and had not been risk assessed.

3. Previous minutes and matters arising

- 3.1 A resident referred to para 2.9 and asked for an update on the use of mesh to protect the grass verges in Ambleside, Windermere and outside the Health centre. This prompted a discussion about the various engineering methods

that can be used, in differing circumstances, to protect verges and prevent unlawful and inconsiderate parking. Cllr Kondakor said that some work had been done at that location but not as much as he would have liked, saying that there is an agreed programme of work but there is a 9 month inbuilt wait to get the work done. Cllr Kondakor advised that it is not illegal per se to park on the verge but there was a private members Bill going through Parliament in an attempt to address this. He is looking at dropped kerbs to assist older people and white T-bars have been asked for too – all of which should help pedestrians and householders.

- 3.2 Cllr Clarke explained how a different approach is needed according to the specific problems in a given area.

- 3.3 A resident complained about a PO box outside his house and how the PO vans regularly pulled up on the verge thereby damaging the grass, causing deep ruts in which puddles form. Councillor Clarke said that this could be stopped by looking at installing posts and writing to the Post Office as well to ask them to educate their drivers about not parking on the verges. Cllr Kondakor agreed to pick this up as an action as the location was on his electoral division.

ACTION: Cllr Kondakor

- 3.4 A discussion took place about the use of mesh to protect grass verges and residents made the valid point that deterring people from parking in a given place only serves to move them along to another spot where they will cause another hazard. Therefore – mesh can have its uses in not displacing the parking – but at least helps the grass. This point was noted. Residents also spoke strongly about the school not seeming to want to tackle the problem when they should have a part to play - as much of the congestion is caused by parents dropping off and collecting. Residents felt that there should be some form of liaison with the school about this. Cllr Kondakor said he would take matters up with the school. Cllr Clarke asked Mike Slemensek to arrange the meeting with the school.

ACTION: Mike Slemensek

- 3.5 Mr David Carr – referring to para 4.19 of the minutes – congratulated Cllr Kondakor on the installation of the slim line bus shelter in St Nicholas Park Drive. This was followed by a discussion about the project by the Nuneaton North East Neighbourhood Watch to install public benches and noticeboards in St Nicholas Park Drive, Weddington Road and Horeston Grange. Mike Slemensek said he had been supporting the NNENW with this work including public consultation surveys and updated that a third bench could now be installed at the entrance to Coronation Walk. He said that noticeboards had been priced up and there was now agreement with all relevant parties to have

these installed. It was a matter now for NNENW to consider which of these they now move ahead with, depending upon how much budget they have left to spend.

- 3.6 Cllr Kondakor updated the meeting about changes to the College's development plans. He said that Sport England will not allow the College to get rid of its football pitch – but will allow it to be replaced with a 3G pitch – but this now means they cannot build so many houses and it now remained to wait and see what emerges in terms of a planning application from them. But it seems certain that they will not be going off-site now. Cllr Tromans said he had stayed in touch with the planning team about this and would continue to do so. He expressed his grave misgivings about the plans to build on the site especially with the emerging requirements for more adult and post 16 education in the area. He said that there was no public mood or desire for the College to have this development on their site.
- 3.7 A resident asked if they would retain both of their football pitches now. Cllr Kondakor said that Sport England does not want to allow the loss of pitches at all – but we need to wait and see what the plans are from the College.
- 3.8 A resident referred to paragraph 3.27 and asked about the development on the A47 and what is being done about the problems with being unable to turn right out of St Nicholas Park due to traffic congestion. Residents instead have to turn left and go all the way around the island. Cllr Clarke said that no immediate plans were in place but there would be a further phase of development next year – which would raise an opportunity to address the congestion longer term.

4. Current local issues

- 4.1 A resident asked if the current work on the traffic lights at Longshoot will overlap with the resurfacing of Higham Lane – resulting in a double-whammy for motorists. Cllr Clarke said this will not happen and the Highways Authorities job is to oversee and manage this. Cllr Clarke also confirmed that the old railway bridge would not be dismantled until next year.
- 4.2 A resident said that Horeston Grange has been targeted by travellers and discussion followed about the recent unauthorised encampment at Donnithorne Avenue and its unacceptable problems for people living locally. Cllr Tromans said that Marcus Jones MP had sought an injunction to move the travellers and referred to an extraordinary meeting of the council later in the week to discuss the problem. Cllr Tromans also talked about Public Space Protection Orders and suggested in his view these could also be applied for traveller incursions onto land in the public domain. He also spoke of target-

hardening measures taking place to protect public spaces against unlawful incursion. Cllr Walmesley said that other authorities have hardened-up, using injunctions and moving travellers off land more quickly, which has forced them to look elsewhere and this could be impacting on Warwickshire. He said that measures can be put in place to stop trespassers that look aesthetically acceptable such as moats – but suitably decorated with flowers so they are not an eyesore.

4.3 Cllr Kondakor stressed the importance of reporting arrivals as soon as possible to the Police. This was repeated by Cllr Tromans who said that the Police have a power under Section 61 of the Act to remove trespassers. In answer to a question about why Travellers were not charged for causing criminal damage, Cllr Tromans said that the Police have to gather all relevant information to meet evidential thresholds for prosecution.

4.4 Further discussion took place about methods to prevent trespass onto land and about the use of injunctions. Questions were also raised about the use of the emergency stopping place at Hartshill. One resident felt that there will be a serious escalation soon because local people are becoming frustrated. Cllr Clarke and Cllr Tromans advised that there would be a council meeting on Wednesday and that if a member of the public wished to say something at the meeting, they will need to lodge a request by noon tomorrow. One resident said he did not wish to go by himself and Cllr Clarke said that a group could attend to put forward an argument and they could be given more than 3 minutes and up to 20 minutes.

5. Wider discussion

5.1 A resident asked about the bus stop at the Higham Lane end of St Nicholas Park Drive, saying there was another bus stop on the opposite side which was never used. Cllr Kondakor will look into this with the County Council officers responsible for bus transport arrangements.

ACTION: Cllr Kondakor

5.2 A resident asked for more rubbish bins in Weddington- especially at Weddington Fields and at the end of Church lane. Cllr Walmesley replied that there is no movement on this because the Borough council have not allocated any revenue or capital budget for more bins – even though people want more bins to be available. Cllr Kondakor said that he had been successful in getting one installed however. Cllr Clarke said there was a problem with existing bins overflowing and Cllr Tromans advised the public where required to raise a complaint with the Borough Council via the contact centre using the online form or contact number.

- 5.3 Cllr Kondakor reported that the new school that is proposed for Weddington Road will take a reception class in one years' time. Thereafter a further class will added each year. Cllr Kondakor also said that a business case for a new surgery had been signed off by the CCG. This could be completed in around 2 years' time and would be funded from Section 106 money. He agreed with a questioner that it would be preferable if these infrastructure items were put in place before the houses were built.
- 5.4 Cllr Kondakor informed the meeting that an 8 week period of further consultation of the main modifications in the Borough Plan was starting in September.
- 5.5 Councillor Clarke thanked everyone for their contribution and brought the meeting to a close.
- 6. Next meeting date.**
- 6.1 This will be advised as soon as possible.

Appendix A – Crime figures

WEDDINGTON – June – Sept 2018

Crime type	Current figures	Figures for same period last year
Burglary	10	8
Vehicles	17	22
Violence	8	9
Damage	11	5
Arson	2	0
Antisocial behaviour	38	18
Total crimes	86	62

ST NICOLAS – June – Sept 2018

Crime type	Current figures	Figures for same period last year
Burglary	17	11
Vehicles	27	26
Violence	18	10
Damage	15	4
Arson	0	1
Antisocial behaviour	38	28
Total crimes	115	80