

## **Notes of Earl Craven Community Forum – Tuesday 25 September 2018 at Wolston Leisure Centre**

### **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 Andy Crouch** gave an update.

#### **Changes to the Safer Neighbourhood Team:**

- **Andy** is now beat manager for both the Rugby Rural Central and Rugby Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Teams.
- The Rugby Rural Central SNT currently comprises **Andy** and **PCSO David Banks**.
- As reported at the last meeting, a new wave of PCSOs is undergoing training, although it's uncertain which SNTs these will be assigned to.

#### **Update on priorities set by online voting in June 2018:**

- High visibility foot patrols in Binley Woods. 26 foot patrols undertaken.
- High visibility foot patrols in Wolston. 26 foot patrols undertaken.

#### **The following crime statistics have been recorded for the Rugby Rural Central area since June 2018:**

Antisocial behaviour. 12 incidents recorded, including antisocial driving offences and 4 incidents of antisocial behaviour relating to off road motorcycles in Brandon Woods. Andy commented that all antisocial behaviour figures are likely to underrepresent the situation to some extent.

Burglary residential. 3 incidents of burglary recorded up to 20 September. However, since 20 September 4 further incidents recorded:

- Heather Road, Binley Woods (burglary)
- St. Margaret's Avenue, Wolston (burglary)
- Long Lawford (attempted burglary)
- Ryton (attempted burglary)

Car crime. 1 incident recorded.

Criminal damage. 1 incident recorded.

#### **Priorities for the next quarter:**

**Andy** advised that online voting for priorities was live on the Warwickshire Police website:

1. Increased foot patrols in Binley Woods and Ryton to help reduce incidents of burglary.
2. Targeted patrols of isolated rural farms to help reduce incidents of theft.
3. High visibility patrols of Wolston due to incidents of antisocial behaviour.
4. Patrols of Brandon Woods to deter and reduce incidents of off road motorcycles.

#### **Questions/comments from forum members:**

In response to a question about the Police use of Facebook and Twitter, **Andy** reiterated messages from previous meetings that any issues/incidents should be reported through 101 (or 999 in an emergency). The Rugby Police Facebook account has 42,000 follows, the Twitter

account 3,000 followers and is a useful way for the SNTs to push out information to communities and residents. To ensure issues/incidents are actioned and recorded properly these must come through 101 (or 999).

**Andy** brought to the forum's attention the campaign around the use of Laughing Gas / Nitrous Oxide amongst younger people, circulating copies of campaign posters. Andy clarified that use of Nitrous Oxide is not an offence, nor is supplying it for legitimate purposes, however supplying it in the knowledge that it will be used for the purpose of human consumption, except by a suitably qualified medical professional, is an offence.

### **WCC Switch and Save Scheme**

**Angeline Murungu**, Strategic Energy Advisor for Warwickshire County Council gave a presentation on the Switch and Save Scheme:

- Switch and Save is a scheme for residents to get cheaper electricity and gas bills.
- It's a scheme for wholesale switching to new electricity and gas suppliers, based on suppliers "bidding" for residents' collective custom through an auction process.
- The desired outcome is to tackle fuel poverty amongst Warwickshire residents and to promote the Warm and Well agenda.
- Auctions will take place 3 times each year, the next one being 9 October.
- A face-to-face event to promote the scheme and next auction is happening on 3 October, 0930 to 1430 at Rugby Town Hall.
- Residents can switch either or both of their electricity and gas suppliers.
- WCC is working closely with Act on Energy to promote and run the scheme.
- Residents are encouraged to go to [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/switchandsave](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/switchandsave) for more details and to sign up.

### **WRCC Rugby Dial-A-Ride Service**

**Kim Slater**, Chief Executive for Warwickshire Rural Community Council gave an overview of the charity's Back and 4<sup>th</sup> community transport service and plans for the new Rugby Dial-A-Ride Service:

- Back and 4<sup>th</sup> has been in operation since 2002 and now has a fleet of 15 vehicles, 12 based at Wellesbourne, 3 at Rugby (Frank Whittle Business Centre).
- Three broad services are offered: "shoppa hoppa", community group hire and Local Authority school contract work.
- There have previously been community transport services in Rugby Borough, most recently funded through the WCC Transformation Fund in 2015.
- The new Dial-A-Ride Service is part funded by National Lottery and WCC and part funded through client journey fees.
- The service is a door-to-door service operating across Rugby Borough, although the Borough is divided up into 5 parts with each part receiving the service one day (weekday) per week.
- Clients will need to pre-book giving two days' notice.
- Additional support can be provided in the form of a Passenger Assistant.
- The service will operate from 0930 to 1430, fitting around the schools contract work for which the 3 vehicles are utilised.
- There is a set £3.50 journey fee for return journeys.
- WRCC aims to start the service in December once all statutory permissions have been secured.
- There is the potential for parish councils to make contributions towards the service for isolated and vulnerable residents, which would remove the need for these residents to pay the full, or any, journey fees.
- There are strong, evidenced links between dial-a-ride services and reductions in loneliness and isolation.
- For more information please contact Kim by email [kims@wrccrural.org.uk](mailto:kims@wrccrural.org.uk) , or telephone 01789 472612.

**Kim** brought the forum's attention to WRCC's energy buying syndicate for homes reliant on fuel oil. More information can be found at [www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/energy](http://www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/energy)

### **Have Your Say**

**Heather** gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plans for Wolston and Brandon and Bretford.

In response to a request from Binley Woods Parish Council, **Heather** agreed to draft a letter to the Chief Executive of Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group requesting that the chemist in Binley Woods be encouraged and financially resourced to carry out blood tests.

**Charles Barlow** from Warwickshire County Council advised that he will invite Highways England to give a verbal update on the A46 Binley Woods Island works at the next Community Forum meeting.

### **Date of the next meeting:**

To be confirmed - March 2019, Binley Woods or Wolston.