

Whitestone & Bulkington Community Forum

Bulkington Working Men's Club

Monday 17 September 2018

Present:

Cllr Jeff Morgan (Chair)

Cllr Richard Smith

Cllr Julian Gutteridge

Cllr John Beaumont

Cllr June Tandy

Mike Slemensek (WCC)

PS Andy Scruton (Warwickshire Police SNT)

PC Esther Kinch (Warwickshire Police SNT)

PC Claire Jones (Warwickshire Police SNT)

PCSO Khane Barlow (Warwickshire Police SNT)

PC Martin Rone-Clarke (Warwickshire Police Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officer)

PCSO Alana Irwin (Warwickshire Police SNT)

30 members of the public signed in to the meeting

Total recorded attendance 42

Apologies:

Cllr Clarke

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Cllr Morgan welcomed everyone to the forum and introduced the panel of speakers.

2. Matters arising from the last forum

2.1 Cllr Morgan referred to the minutes of the previous meeting on 16 January 2018 and updated the meeting on the actions. The following matters arose.

(1) Cllr Beaumont in referring to the issue of speeding vehicles in Bedworth Road, Bulkington said there had been an accident a week ago where a car had come off the road and hit a lamp post. The footpath by the bridge is narrow and one resident has stopped her children walking along there. This underlines the dangers to children using the footpath and asked if the County Council would consider reducing the speed limit along that stretch of road to 30mph. He cited similar circumstances/context in Nuneaton Road – where the speed limit is 30mph. Cllr Beaumont's proposal was supported by a resident who said that the accident had occurred only 200 yards down the road from the spot he had talked about at the last meeting. Another resident said that the broken white lines through the bends should be solid double white lines. The same resident also reported frequent speeding in Coventry Road. Cllr Morgan said that he had visited the site previously and will talk to County Council Highways engineers about this location and also about the issues with the

white lines. He urged residents to pass on the registration numbers of speeding vehicles to the police where possible.

ACTION: Cllr Morgan

2. Safer Neighbourhood Team Report

- 3.1 PC Martin Rone-Clarke spoke about his role and work with Gypsy and Traveller communities. PC Rone-Clarke said he spends 80% of his time dealing with unauthorised encampments and the numbers of such encampments this year are increasing on last year. He said a consistent approach has been developed amongst the Police and other agencies, working to an agreed protocol enabling consistent decision making which ensures community concerns are recognised and health and welfare needs of Gypsy and Traveller families are also properly considered.
- 3.2 PC Rone-Clarke set out the various powers that can be used to move travellers and said that NBBC were now making use of injunctions – which is a quicker process. Travellers who are trespassing can be moved immediately under Section 62 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act but only if there is a transit site to move them onto. Although there is one site in Oldbury Road, this is only large enough for 10 caravans. Because we have large numbers of travellers engaging in unauthorised encampments – Section 62 is an unsuitable power in Warwickshire. The problems have not been too bad in Whitestone and Bulkington but the partnership need information about movements and traveller encampments and he urged people to get in touch with any information. PC Rone-Clarke advised people not to indulge in negative social media commentary about travellers as this only escalates the potential ill feeling and risks of reprisals.
- 3.3 In response to questions PC Rone-Clarke said that the current legislation was adequate in itself but to have effect there needs to be more provision to enable the authorities to direct travellers to alternative lawful sites. The majority of our travellers are Irish Travellers and in Ireland there is plenty of land available where travellers can stay– but here there is not. He said that there is no requirement in law for local authorities to create sites. He said that a proposed transit site at Southam was no longer going ahead. He spoke of a possible option which could be considered – ‘negotiated stopping’ – a provision trialled elsewhere whereby travellers can stay for 28 days with permission of the local authority, who provide temporary toilets and waste skips.
- 3.4 A resident spoke about the serious problem of ant-social behaviour by traveller groups – even children who come into premises who are rude and target male volunteers in particular. She said this was a real nightmare and constant worry. PC Rone-Clarke said that he supports the SNT in dealing with ASB caused by travelling communities and urged people to get in touch with SNT and he will do his best to support.
- 3.5 PC Claire Jones then reported on the crime figures for Bulkington and PC Kinch gave the figures for Whitestone. Please see Appendices A and B.
- 3.6 Sgt Andy Scruton updated the forum about Operation Sceptre – a national knife crime initiative which will be rolled out to schools. He responded to a range of questions from residents about local policing issues. Concern was expressed by some residents about the

low numbers of officers available to respond to incidents. Cllr Morgan said that resources were tight for all agencies and that there was an aim to increase numbers by 100 officers. Cllr Tandy and Lynne Price believed that this increase would be Special Constables and urged for support to SNT staffing and the recruitment of full time constables.

- 3.7 Cllr Morgan thanked the police for their updates and their full responses to questions from the audience.

4. Borough Plan update

- 4.1 Mike Slemensek read out a statement from NBBC advising about a round of further public consultation about the main modifications relating to the Borough Plan and where further information could be found. This was followed by questions and discussion. A resident asked how long would it take for the Plan to be finalised. Cllr Smith said that building would be started in a year's time with a phased approach.
- 4.2 Some residents felt that it was difficult to access the information about the Borough Plan modifications because there were so many different documents to be downloaded. A resident said he had encountered difficulty getting the forms and when he went into the council offices he had difficulty getting the right information. It was noted that there were two drop in sessions being offered at Hawkesbury for people to attend in person. The forum members were reminded that this consultation exercise ends on the 7 November 2018.

5. Council updates

- 5.1 Cllr Morgan provided an update about county councillor delegated Highways budgets – which provide councillors with the ability to fund small scale projects at their discretion. This has been used by Cllr Morgan to install a bus shelter in Bulkington next to the church with plans to utilise his remaining funding this year on a range of improvements including:
- Widening the road in Oakham Crescent
 - Improvements in Arden Road – to relieve on street parking issues
 - Extension of the footpath in Chequer St
 - Traffic-calming in Withybrook Road
 - Whitestone – Keep Clear boxes installation and improvement
 - Golf Drive – Weight restriction sign
 - Road resurfacing – part of Whitestone Road
 - Possible bus shelter by the Corner House pub
 - Improvements in Bedworth Road as discussed

6. Wider discussion of local issues

- 6.1 A resident asked if there could be a litterbin next to the new bus shelter. Cllr Smith to inquire.

ACTION: Cllr Smith

- 6.2 Recent council maintenance – the cutting of roadside verges – has exposed lots of litter. Cllr Smith will look into this and update. Other issues about litter were brought to the attention of councillors.

ACTION: Cllr Smith

6.3 One resident spoke about an unsolicited telephone call he had received from a private company and asked for advice about such cold calls - which he felt, were illegal. Cllr Morgan will discuss this outside of the meeting.

6.4 Cllr Morgan thanked everyone for their attendance closed the meeting.

7. Next meeting date

7.1 This will take place in three months and the date and venue will be advertised in due course.

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17/09/18

POLICE REPORT

Crime Figures BULKINGTON

	28/03/18-12/06/18	13/06/18-14/09/18	+/-
Burglary	9	4	-5
• Nothing Stolen	3	2	-1
• Property Stolen	1	0	-1
• Vehicle Stolen (merc)	3	2	-1
• Attempt	2	0	-2
• Distraction	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	13	7	-6
• Theft of MV	4	3	-1
• Theft From MV	6	2	-4
• Vehicle Interference	3	2	-1
Street Robbery	0	1 Attempt for scooter	+1
Damage	3	5	+2
ASB	14	27	+13

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POLICE REPORT

Crime Figures WHITESTONE

	28/03/18-12/06/18	13/06/18-14/09/18	+/-
Burglary	15	6	-9
• Nothing Stolen	4	0	-4
• Property Stolen	3	3	0
• Vehicle Stolen	5	3 Merc/Kuga/Nissan GTR	-2
• Attempt	3	0	-3
• Distraction	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	11	5	-6
• Theft of MV	2	2 BMW/Transit	0
• Theft From MV	8	3	-5
• Vehicle Interference	1	0	-1
Street Robbery	1	0	-1
Damage	7	3	- 4
ASB	2	19	-17