

BRICKHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Minutes of meetings held on Thursday 15 July 2010 at Brickhill Baptist Church

1. Chair opening remarks

The chairman Ray Seymour welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was noted that the guest speaker tonight was Dave Hodgson the Mayor of Bedford.

2. Introductions

In addition to the Mayor, other agencies were represented including Angela Williamson from the Community Safety Team at Bedford Borough Council, Brian Marsh from Neighbourhood Watch Team, Tim Gannon at Brickhill Baptist Church and Penny Fisher from Bedfordshire Police Authority.

3. Approval of minutes from 15 April 2010

The minutes were received and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Apologies

Received from Cllr Wendy Rider, Neil Kinselly and Cllr Peter Blakeman – the apologies were accepted. In addition the Mayoress was unable to attend the meeting to to a prior engagement.

5. Feedback on Priorities

PC Reported back on the three priority areas (School Parking, Criminal Damage and ASB Goldcrest Way)

School Parking

This is a Borough led initiative, and Cllr Royden later updated the meeting. However, the Brickhill SNT had spent considerable time over the last 3 months patrolling this issue, there did not appear to be a problem when the Police were present in the problem areas. The North SNTs (Brickhill, De Parys, Harpur, Queens Park, Goldington, Newnham, and Putnoe) are joining together and will again be attending all Schools across the area regarding this issue.

Criminal Damage

Enquiries on the February/March spike are now virtually completed with 23 Positive Disposals anticipated. The amount of occurring Criminal Damages is now showing a more normal tend, which the Brickhill SNT hope to reduce further

Anti Social Behaviour

This particular group have now seen the error of their ways and appear to have completely disappeared. Obviously not keen on too much attention. However, a new group is trying to take their place, and this group are already being tackled.

6. **Police Report (Pc Dave Hawkey)**

Overall there has been a decrease in crime within the area. 2 recent arrests have now been linked to 20 burglaries in Brickhill. Antisocial Behaviour figures are showing a small increase, but again over a larger area, and again this shows an ongoing downward trend. Of the 85 reports for this 3 monthly period 58 are nuisance incidents. 5-A-Day information has been gathered by PCSO4480 Bonforte and the top 2 concerns are Burglary Dwellings and Anti-Social Behaviour (Nuisance Youths). 5-A-Day forms were made available to the public for them to complete with their concerns.

For the first time ever PC Hawkey reported that Brickhill has no particular crime hot spots! This is excellent news. Monika Gerula has settled into her new role and is doing an excellent job within the community.

7. Agency Feedback

Cllr Royden – Bedford Borough Council

Cllr Royden reported on the Borough led initiative to tackle illegal parking outside local schools. The Borough has employed an additional 6 members of staff who will be targeting parking offenders outside schools. Following a meeting at Brickhill Lower School it has been agreed to install a bollard which will prevent parents from driving on the pavements. In addition the Borough has purchased a new vehicle which is fitted with cameras to record parking infringements. The van simply drives past and takes photos which are forwarded for prosecution by Bedfordshire Police.

Tim Gannon - Brickhill Baptist Church

Tim gave an update on the football tournament which has been a tremendous success. Attendance has been excellent with up to 150 young people turning up to play. In addition Tim had organised a rounders match which had also been very popular. Tim Gannon was thanked for his hard work in organising the tournament and his continued commitment to youth work in the parish.

Delia Shephard – Brickhill Parish Council

The Parish Council are currently developing a sustainable community plan. A small steering group has been established to pick out suitable action points for the Plan. There have been several consultation events at the local shops on Brickhill Drive and Avon Drive shopping parades and two planning for real events held at St Mark's Church and Anjulita Court. There will be a stand at the Gathering on the Green event and members of the public are encouraged to visit the stand and take part in this consultation. The community plan website is www.brickhillcommunityplan.org.uk.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council would take account of the letter sent by the Forum to Mayor Dave Hodgson requesting a weight limit on commercial vehicles travelling through Brickhill.

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick – Brickhill Parish Council

Cllr Fitzpatrick thanked Tim Gannon for the football tournament which demonstrates the need to such activities for the young people in the parish. The Play area on Waveney Green is now open and is proving very popular. The Parish council have commented on the Allocations & Designations Plan. Thankfully Jackman's Farm and Freemans Common were not in the plan and are now protected from development. The parish council is keen to preserve its green spaces and is seeking to get Waveney Green registered as a village green. On Sunday 18 July there will be a seed gathering event – members of the public need to meet outside Beauchamp School in Hawk Drive at 9:45am.

Kim Norris – BpHA

There will be a resident's roadshow on the 26th July. Employees from BpHA will be visiting several locations throughout the day to meet with its tenants and discuss any problems or concerns its tenants have.

Penny Fisher – Bedfordshire Police Authority

Penny explained that she was attending the CSF meeting to see if there were any action points that needed feeding back to Beds Police Authority. If anyone wished to ask any questions they could speak with her during the break or after the meeting. Penny was thanked for attending the meeting

Brian Marsh – Neighbourhood Watch

The dates for the neighbourhood watch road shows have been deferred. Mr Marsh will update when the new dates have been finalised. There will be a neighbourhood watch stand at the Gathering on the Green on the 4th August where property marking will be available to members of the public

Angela Williamson – Beds BC Community Safety Team

Angela gave a report for the period 1 April – 30 June 2010. The team reported on the following:

Abandoned Vehicles - none

Broken Street Lights – one

Cold Calls – none

Fly Tipping – 1 reported and 1 resolved

Graffiti – 6 reported and 6 resolved

Parking enforcement – 3 fixed penalty notices (5hrs enforcement)

Pot holes – 9 reported

Street signs – 2 reported and 2 repaired

Members of the public were urged to remember to ensure all windows and doors are closed and secured during the warmer summer months to prevent break-ins.

Mrs Williamson was thanked for her report

Councillors Reports

In addition Cllr Royden informed the meeting that the borough had recently carried out some additional tree planting and tree maintenance in the roads off Bourneside. Road repairs on the Avon Drive roundabout and the new pedestrian crossing are scheduled between 26 July – 22 August. The Borough are trying to get all the street bollards in full working order – if anyone needs to report a broken bollard in their area please contact Cllr Royden. It was noted that the bridge over Browney path had been repaired but ideally this would need replacing in the future. It was disappointing to see that the unit adjacent to the chemists on Brickhill Drive was still not in use and the Borough would be contacting the tenants to pursue.

Cllr Royden was thanked for his report

Guest Speaker – Dave Hodgson Mayor of Bedford

The Mayor addressed the meeting and said it was good to be back in Brickhill as he had close connections with the area. The borough was facing a very difficult time at the moment and would need to make savings equivalent to a 1/5 of the budget in the next 2 years. The Borough was keen to work with other partners to spread the load and keep cuts to a minimum.

What is the Borough doing for Brickhill?

Mr Hodgson replied that the deadline for the Allocations & Designations Plan has been extended until 19 July. There were 300 additional protected green spaces in the Borough plan and Jackman's Farm on land north of Brickhill would not be sold by the Borough while the current Mayor is in office – Mr Hodgson felt that there was now sufficient housing provision in Brickhill.

The Mayor stressed that his role was to listen to the general public and to feed back what the Borough can and can't do for its residents. There was good news for the town centre, Sainsbury's will be taking over the old Woolworths site which will create more jobs and Unibake will be creating another 200 jobs at its site on the Cambridge Road just off the bypass.

Cllr Seymour asked if the Mayor would support a proposal to register Waveney Green as a Village Green. The Mayor replied he could not offer any financial support due to the current economic climate but he would certainly support this proposal in principle.

2 tier schooling in the Borough

When the Borough voted to move to 2 tier schooling this was on the proviso that funding from the Building Schools for the Future fund was available. Unfortunately this funding has now been withdrawn by Central Government and although the Borough has spent £500K already on this project the Borough would not be pursuing this change to the education system. The closure of Woodside School would take place with the top 2 year groups moving to Mark Rutherford and the bottom 2 year groups to Putnoe Lower School. It is still uncertain whether the proposed changes to

the Special Schools within the Borough will now take place. The remaining statutory middle school closure notices would now be revoked.

Communications

Currently there are no local bus routes from Brickhill to local business parks and this was something the Borough was keen to address. However, in order to make the service viable it needed to carry enough passengers and this was the key problem in providing the services without an unacceptable cost to the Borough and its taxpayers. The no 10 bus route would shortly be available from the Woodlands Estate to the train station. Mr Hodgson stated that he would be available to take any questions during the break and after the meeting.

The Mayor was thanked for taking the time to attend the meeting.

The meeting broke for refreshments and networking

Open Forum

Anti social behaviour Woodlands Park

Mrs Brookes a resident from the Woodlands Estate addressed the meeting. She was very concerned both as a parent and a resident about the problems with Anti Social Behaviour and asked for help from outside agencies. Mrs Brookes was willing to assist to work with other residents and local volunteer groups to tackle the situation. Would BpHA be willing to organise a meeting at Woodlands to discuss? Kim Norris agreed to arrange. The parish council were challenged that there were no play facilities for young people on the Woodlands Estate. Cllr Seymour responded by stating that technically the Woodlands Estate is not in the Parish of Brickhill but that Ravensden PC do not want the additional residents from Woodlands. However the Brickhill Borough Councillors will continue to work on behalf of the Woodlands Park residents and the parish council would welcome the opportunity to incorporate the estate within its Parish. It was noted that there was an agreement for the provision of a country park, changing facilities, football pitches as part of the S106 agreement with the housing developers and work is due to commence in the autumn. It was suggested that parents should see the information that the police are giving to the local school children and then they could take more responsibility to ensure problems are tackled at home. It was noted that a large proportion of young people are hanging around at the Woodlands Estate but are not residents and have come from other parts of the Borough. In addition could the Borough not promote more walking bus schemes to include Beauchamp Middle School? Cllr Seymour thanked Mrs Brookes for attending the meeting and her details were passed to the local agencies present.

Parking on verges

This continued to be a problem and concerns were raised that this type of inconsiderate parking posed a real safety issue when pedestrians were trying to cross the road.

Action Priorities

The following three priority action points were agreed:

- (i) ASB Woodlands Estate
- (ii) School Parking – Cllr Royden to take back to Borough
- (iii) Parking on verges – Cllr Royden to take back to Borough

Date of Next Meeting

14 October at Sir William Harpur House and the guest speaker would be the CEO of Bedfordshire Health Trust.

Cllr Seymour expressed appreciations to Mrs A Southern for taking the minutes and thanked Brickhill Baptist Church for hosting the event and everyone for attending the meeting.