

Bede & Poplar Community Forum

Thursday 23rd February 2017 – Exhall Cedars School

The meeting was attended by 8 residents, three members of the Bedworth & Bulkington Neighbourhood Watch a number of councillors and officers from the Police, Warwickshire County Council and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

1 Welcome from the Chair

Richard Chattaway opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2 Introductions & Apologies

Councillors in attendance

Cllr Richard Chattaway (CHAIR) WCC
Cllr Julie Jackson WCC
Cllr Bob Copland NBBC

Police in Attendance

Sgt Nathan Hewitt
PCSO Amrit Pnaiser
PCSO Linda Shepherd

Officers in attendance

Mike Slemensek WCC
Phil Richardson NBBC
Rina Sarna WCC

Apologies

Cllr Bill Hancox NBBC

3. Minutes of the last meeting – 20th October 2016

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record of the meeting. Actions will be taken separately later on the agenda.

4 Police Update (Sgt Nathan Hewitt reported the following)

These figures are from 24/10/2016 to 22/02/2017

Bedworth East: These figures include Bulkington

Personal Robbery:	3 1 Bulkington Rec
Burglary Dwelling:	10 (The Mews, Potlidgate Ct., Furnace Rd., Orchard St., Old Arden Cl., BULKINGTON: Oakham Cr., Hemsworth Dr.)
Burglary Other:	21 (The Woodlands, King St., Bulkington: Leicester St., Weston Ln., Shilton Ln.)
Vehicle Offences:	67 (11 in Bulkington)
ASB:	161 (27 in Bulkington)
Damage:	23 (5 in Bulkington)
Hate Crime:	6
Drugs:	44 (2 in Bulkington)

Bedworth Town Centre:

Personal Robbery:	1
Burglary Dwelling:	0
Burglary Other:	5 (High St, 2 in King St)
Vehicle Offences:	2
ASB:	51 (majority Tesco)
Damage:	4
Hate Crime:	1
Drugs:	5

These figures show a further rise in Vehicle Crime. As with the previous meeting, there is a suggestion that residents have left vehicles unlocked and unattended during the cold weather. This may be a reason, but is NO excuse!

Drugs Incidents have been added to highlight that there is a current issue in this area. Hate incidents have also been added, with a view to monitor these offences over coming meetings. There may be a rise in such offences as a result of recent media, and with recent political issues.

The Anti-social Behaviour issues are sporadic, at both ends of the day. They also account for the Christmas period, and pubs and clubs, etc., along with potential Neighbour Disputes.

Good News Stories:

12 Days of Christmas: Ongoing initiative throughout December. This targets 12 specific dates to put aside for Bedworth SNT to carry out Policing activities. These operations include Drink Drive Campaigns, Surgeries in Bedworth and Nuneaton, working with NHW, and using Social Media to promote "Goodwill Messages".

Operation Porterlex: Town Centre Shop Lifting – recent arrests and ongoing operation involving plain clothes Police Officers in the Town. Officers have also sent Crime Reduction Advice and Information to local businesses, to combat thefts. In December, one male was detained and recalled to prison for breaching his licence. Others detained and / or arrested for shoplifting. **Operation Consort:** Ongoing Bedworth SNT Operation, targeting Auto Crime, Burglary Dwellings, etc., using plain clothes and plain vehicles during night shifts.

Operation Anglesey: ASB, OCG, Drugs. In Nuneaton and Bedworth targeting specific areas. Nightly patrols by PCs and PCSOs.

January S.A.L.E (Safer And Legal Environment): Continuation of existing SNT Operations, helping keep residents safe.

Hate Crime Surgeries: Carried out in December and January by Bedworth SNT. More are planned. SNT have called on the help of Police Cadets to help run the events, including a Polish-speaking Officer.

ASB Warning Letter: SNT working with Circle Housing to produce a partnership approach towards dealing with ASB at a set of flats in Bedworth. SNT provided guidance to the Housing Officer in relation to the production of the Warning Letter.

CPN: Bedworth SNT have produced a report in relation to ASB, Damage and Arson at a set of derelict buildings, which was causing great concern for local residents. This report helped NBBC to issue a Community Protection Notice (CPN) to the site owners, requiring them to make the place safe.

December – Two males detained at Flats in Bedworth for possession of Class A and Class B. The quick thinking and swift actions of Bedworth PCSO's lead to these males being caught.

January – male sentenced to 28 months for possession of Class A and Class C Drugs, following initial information and work carried out by SNT, working with the Cross Boarder Team Police Officers. A vehicle was recovered for use in crime, and the male was also charged with driving offences. SNT carried out the Sec.18 House Search in Bedworth, and found important evidence.

December/January – SNT carried out Licensing Checks at various Pubs in Bedworth and Bulkington, based on calls logged with Police. These were followed up with submission of police concerns to Licensing Departments. Intelligence also gathered in relation to sales of stolen goods and drugs.

December – Stall in Bedworth Town Centre, expertly handled by NHW, offering Police Crime Prevention and NHW advice.

December/January/February – Bedworth PCSO's continue to have vehicles seized for various offences. Please check out our TWITTER (@BedworthCops). This will show you how proactive we are, and offer you advice too.

January – PCSO's carrying out patrols and appropriate actions at local schools reference parking and child safety concerns. Cones deployed to ensure motorists abide by parking restrictions, and keep our younger residents safer. Very positive feedback from residents and schools. Again, please keep up to date via our TWITTER.

January 16th – Cannabis Factory found in Bedworth by SNT. Further work ongoing through investigation.

January 31st – Two known drug dealers from London stop searched in Bedworth Town Centre, and told to move on.

February - After talking with housing officer Lorraine Mills about calls we have been receiving about ASB in the area, joint visits have been held and positive action taken.

Regular area patrols, dome hawk camera fitted, survey completed as to change structures in the area to make it less appealing to youths i.e. removal of wall that they sit on, change of area for bin storage and either removal of cover over shed area or shed area fitted with metal palisade fencing structure

This list is not exhaustive, and there are other positive actions which have taken place, and continue to take place through SNT working as a Team. Our work is made a lot easier based on the good will and information supplied by our residents – so keep it up!

5. Update on actions from last meeting

The Corner Pin Pub is looking really tatty and the fence is in bad repair

UPDATE - Paul Daly confirmed that the weeds in the fences have been cut. Katherine Moreton confirmed (7.2.17) that the last time she spoke to the owner about 12 months ago he said he would get his architect to draw up a scheme for older people's accommodation but nothing has been forthcoming. She does not know of anything that can be done to push the owner to develop the site. Have asked Katherine if there is any mileage in contacting the owner again. She will contact the owners agent (as the owner lives in Spain himself) and advise when she hears back. Cllr Chattaway added that as soon as an owner realises that the Council is interested in a site, the value goes up and that we should continue to push for it to be an Extra Care site. Nicholas Chamberlaine Trust are also looking for a site.

Bedworth town centre empty shop (NBBC and private landlord)

UPDATE – The Borough Plan has now been released for consultation. Chapter 9 of the draft Plan - pages 115-125 specifically deal with planned aims for Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres. In relation to them money is set aside for regeneration to Town Centres by NBBC - an update was received from Lorraine Allen that the £200k set aside for town centres will be part of a strategy to be developed by the new Town centre Manager. Therefore details of how this money will be specifically allocated has yet to be decided.

Issues with Grit Bins **Update** : Meeting was convened between Daniel Perkins, Cllrs Jackson and Chattaway, Mike Slemensek and Rina Sarna on 14th February and a plan was agreed with the issue of grit bins and future provision of grit bins and grit. Further actions were taken away by Dan Perkins. It was agreed to have 3 sites assessed – Coalpit Fields, By Exhall Cedars School and Derwent Road. Lots of other sites were discussed but did not meet the criteria. Any additional sites identified can be considered. **ACTION: Tower Road / Briardene Avenue were asked to be considered**

Corner of Newtown Road and Newdigate Road Junction with Ambleside- cars cause an obstruction - risk of accident – Parking is on Newtown Road

UPDATE: - Police have conducted the door knocking exercise of all residents living either side of the junction and spoke to them about the dangers of driving on the pavement. This now needs to be monitored for some time. Any issues to be reported to SNT (with photos where possible). If this does not work then the fallback position is to approach Traffic and Road Safety about installation of bollards at the junction to stop cars but still allow wheelchairs to pass through. Councillor Bob Copland reported that this is still happening but is reduced. He will continue to monitor too.

Wootton Street patrols – Update – Councillor Jackson, Lynne Price and Mike Slemensek met with Sgt Reid (now left) to discuss and although occurrences have reduced it is still an issue. **ACTION: Lynn Price will meet with the new Inspector on 7th March so will raise this again.**

Policing priority - Forum asked that the Police put some resource into schools after half term week as one policing priority due to all issues relating to the parking and obstruction to drives – **Update** – Cllr Chattaway reported that he knows the police have been out but PCSO's do not have power to issue tickets. The Canons Scheme is on the table and once in place will make it difficult to park on pavements and in front of peoples drives (white lines can go across drives). Police then have powers to enforce as parking becomes illegal.

Kings Gardens - people cannot get on and off their drives and so is a policing matter due to obstruction

Update - Police have asked that residents be encouraged to report such issues at the time of occurrence. Reporting mechanisms in terms of numbers and emails addresses were made available on useful numbers sheet.

The importance of reporting helps to build up trends and plan action. Police have asked for reports of obstruction to Highways. Councillor Jackson added that Kings House staff park there and also anecdotal evidence that civil enforcement team also do so while doing their rounds and both of these parking exacerbate the issues. **ACTION: This will be reported back to civil enforcement team.**

British Queen site (opposite side to corner pin site) - Jennifer Roberts, local resident asked if there are any plans for this site as it is in a bad a state as the Corner Pin site. **Update** - Katherine Moreton advised (7.2.17) that the site of the British Queen has permission to be used for flats/apartments/houses and is up for sale at the moment.

Children's Ward from George Eliot - Ann Wilks – resident raised a question regarding the Children's Ward from George Eliot moved to University Hospital Coventry but has now heard that it has moved to Leicester. Find out where the Paediatric Wards are and any future plans. **Update** - On 21 Feb at a North Warks Hub Meeting, Dr Ullah (from Woodlands Surgery - he chairs this group) advised that this is all speculation. There has not been a Children's Ward at George Eliot Hospital, there is a Child Assessment Centre. From there, if children need to go on to a Ward, they are sent to University Hospital Coventry where there is a Children's Ward. Anything else is either speculation or proposals which are still being worked on. Councillor Chattaway added that Cov & Warks NHS Trust has to make £275 million savings by 2020. Plans are not yet in the public arena. He went on to encourage residents to make their views known to their MP/Monica Fogarty in Warks County Council to express concerns about what the NHS service will look like in the future.

All Saints Square - large heavy vehicle has been loading and unloading on the Square in the area of the Alehouses and Boots. **Update** - 31.1.17 - Civil Enforcement advised that Warwickshire County Council does not have the authority to deal with vehicles parked inappropriately, unless there are parking restrictions in place. Location has been checked and although it is classed as part of the highway maintainable at public expense, there are no parking restrictions there. If the vehicles loading are considered to be causing an obstruction, we need to contact the local Police Office for assistance. The Police have the powers to deal with vehicles that are parked in a dangerous position or cause an obstruction.

Jean Whitehead added that this happens early morning and late at night and is causing damage to the pavement. Forum said there are already bollards in place - consider raising them as parking is free after 6pm. **ACTION: Site visit to be undertaken to assess. L&P to explore CCTV that can highlight times of concern.**

6. WCC Update

6.1 Warks Fire & Rescue draft Integrated Risk Management Plan Boundary Changes – Public can comment and make their views known on the plan which is open for consultation until 10th March 2017. Can be accessed on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue.

6.2 Boundary Changes – These will be in place from May 2017 and the reason for change is to equalise the number of residents in each of the wards. The Ward names will also be changed so Bede will become Bedworth Central and Poplar will become Bedworth East and take in a slightly larger area. Mike Slemensek advised that there are maps for people to take away showing the existing boundary and new boundaries from 4th May 2017 and changes will be effective until 2020.

7. Update on Borough Plan

Phillip Richardson updated that the sessions are now completed, however comments can still be made. **Consultation closes on Monday 13th March 2017. Comments need to be in writing** and forms are available on the website to type into. Hard copies are available on request. Forum was advised that the Council will take comments into account that have been expressed and highlighted the importance of explaining the rationale for the comment and to not make it personal but on planning grounds. Phillip added that anyone who owns a piece of land can tell the Council to have their land included in the Borough Plan and at any point they can also withdraw the land from the Plan.

8 Current Local Issues - Open Forum

8.1. Jean Whitehead raised (could be heresy) that there has been an incident in the Bedworth Leisure Centre car park. Concern that the CCTV has been removed in the summer (near the car park by front entrance). **ACTION: Check if CCTV is removed.**

Parking

8.2 Chamberlaine Street – (Robert Maggs) Issue here is still ongoing with obstruction in this street. There was a medical emergency today and the ambulance could not get through.

8.3 Two residents from Leicester Road raised concerns regarding Parking on Leicester Road in the area of Chick King. This is happening daily where parking is on double yellow lines, dropped kerbs, at the bus stop and on the pavement. There has been damage to cars and drives have been blocked. Pushchairs have not been able to get through due to pavement parking. When challenged drivers have given abuse to people. Fridays from 4pm is particularly bad. Deliveries to retailers are not being taken from their car park but by illegal parking. There has also been parking to block the hydrant so a risk if fire emergency services need to fill up.

ACTIONS: Site visit to be undertaken to consider possible options in liaison with civil enforcement and Police(SNT).

8.4 Area around Salvation Army, betting shop and Spencers – parking causing obstructions. **ACTION: CCTV to be checked**

8.5 It was mentioned that parking is a general issue all around the town centre. **ACTION: Site visit to be undertaken with Police, Lynne, Councillors and Officers to assess all of the above Parking issues.**

Other

8.6 Welcome to Nuneaton & Bedworth sign opposite Ricoh was raised by Lynne Price, however Phil Richardson confirmed that he already had this in hand.

8.7 Lynne Price raised that the Bede & Poplar Community Forum is the most poorly attended even though there is a fair amount of publicity. Councillor Chattaway said that many issues do get picked up in other ways and also Forums may change after change of boundaries in May 2017.

8.8 Sleets Yard - there is flytipping mainly from carpet shop in Bedworth Town Centre. **ACTION: Site visit to be undertaken.**

9. Summary and Close

Cllr Chattaway thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.