

Arbury and Stockingford Community Forum

Minutes from meeting held on 22nd October at Stockingford Sports and Social Club

Councillors present:

Cllr Chris Watkins (NBBC Kingswood) - Chair
Cllr Caroline Philips (WCC Stockingford)
Cllr Clare Goldby (NBBC Arbury and WCC Arbury)
Cllr Tricia Elliot (NBBC Barpool)

Apologies received:

Cllr Barry Longdon (NBBC Kingswood)
Cllr Gwynne Pomfrett (NBBC Barpool)

In attendance:

Mike Slemensek (WCC)
Chris Florance (WCC)
PC Chris Smith (Warwickshire Police)

21 members of the public

1. WCC Updates:

1.1 Mike Slemensek updated on the following matters:

- County Councillor Grant scheme
- Community Computer Scheme
- NBBC Borough Plan is open for consultation through Engage NBBC. The deadline was 31st October but has now been extended to 3rd December 2018. For more information visit www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk and follow the appropriate links.

1.2 Chris Florance updated on the following:

- Money Wellbeing Survey for Nuneaton and Bedworth is currently open and we would welcome as many respondents as possible. It gives us a snapshot of peoples approaches to money and will help inform services from Citizens Advice and partners as to how they provide future services. Paper copies of the survey are available from Chris Florance (chrisflorance@warwickshire.gov.uk) or the survey can be completed online via: <https://goo.gl/forms/mtuPqnCl6WyYddCo2>. The survey closes on 20th November
- Coventry Canal Clean Up on Saturday 27th October from 10.00am to 1.00pm meeting in the car park of Tomkinson Road car park.

2. Police Updates

2.1 Up to date crime statistics are available via: www.police.uk

2.2 PC Chris Smith said that there were fewer police officers on duty at any one time and that the areas they cover have got larger. His area covered Hill Top, Attleborough and Arbury

and that he is unable to speak for the other areas, but will feedback comments and queries to colleagues. The new SNT Sergeant is Andy Scruton.

2.3 PC Smith did say that resources have to be targeted into the town centre at times and focused on priorities in response to questions about cycling without lights and vandalism in Whittleford Park. The following issues were raised with the police:

- There were illegal bikes on Portland Drive recently. The incident was reported (Incident 285) but no one came. The bikes were there being ridden with no crash helmets for at least ¾ hour. The police said that they will seize a bike when they can. Cllr Elliot said that there is a cycling forum that meets regularly at the town hall in order to (*The next meeting is on Wednesday 7th January at 10.15am - https://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/info/20049/cycling_and_walking/109/cycling/3*)
- Someone mentioned that a van had been parked near their house. It's MOT had expired, although it was taxed until the end of November. PC Smith requested that these matters are reported so that the police can bring out processes to remove the vehicle.
- Residents mentioned that young people on scrambler bikes in the Grove Farm area are a constant nuisance. The police responded that these motorcycles can be seized when causing a public nuisance. Some areas do have Domehawk cameras and the Chair urged people to report issues
- A query was raised what the rule was with regard to the parking on pavements (see *below*). The police responded that they are empowered to deal with obstruction of the highway offences - but not parking offences which are 'decriminalised' and are enforced by the local authority.

There are two types of traffic warden

- 1) Wardens employed by NBBC cover the car parks only and
- 2) NSL Wardens who are employed on behalf of Warwickshire County Council and are responsible for on- street parking issues.

You can contact NSL via: 0333 999 3332 or email warwickshirparking@nslservices.co.uk
Information on parking issues can be found via: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parking>

Warwickshire Police have provided information on parking issues and who is responsible via: <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/has/parking>

2.4 The Chair observed that there has been an increase in car crime in the Kingswood area and Range Rovers and other types of 4 x 4s have been targeted.

3. Councillor Updates

3.1 Cllr Tricia Elliott (NBBC) mentioned that she is working with residents to do some work in Tomkinson Road Recreation Ground. The group is called Tomkinson Road Rockers and Rollers.

3.2 Cllr Caroline Phillips (WCC) said that the Grove Farm Young People's club is having a Sports/Fun Day on Saturday 3rd November.

- 3.3 Cllr Phillips said that she has a meeting with the Highways Dept in Warwickshire County Council on Monday to discuss several issues.
- Looking at improving the junction of Croft Road and Tomkinson Road
 - Discuss the removal of double yellow lines in a stretch of Heath End Road.
 - A roundabout has been put on the Croft Road/Greenmoor Road junction
 - New 20mph signs have been put up in Stockingford, so that the 20mph zone can be enforced
 - A bus stop on Haunchwood Road has been moved to make it more accessible
- 3.4 A member of the public said that there was not a road sign indicating that the speed into Stockingford from Tuttle Hill is 20mph. It was mentioned that there are repeater signs. The request should go to the WCC Councillor for Camp Hill for any more signs.
- 3.5 Off road biking is still causing a nuisance and Cllr Golby encouraged people to keep calling the police to report it.

4. Wider Issues raised from members of the public

4.1 The following issues were raised and discussed:

- A question was asked whether there could be an 'open forum' of councillors. The Chair responded that questions can always be asked at Full Council.
- Speeding in the Atholl Crescent area. It was suggested that it might be worth exploring a Community Speed Watch - www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/39649/Community-speed-watch
- Drains were blocked on the corner of Wiclif Way and Church Road. There seem to have been quite a lot of blocked drains recently.
- There was a question regarding the removal of large waste items such as washing machines. Bulky items are removed in Camp Hill, but not elsewhere, why not? The Chair responded that Pride in Camp Hill did run a scheme for Camp Hill residents as part of their regeneration programme, which used external funding.
- There have been street / neighbourhood community clean up days where a skip has been provided for residents to use.
- A query was made regarding Kings Meadow being an unadopted road. It was suggested that the questioner speak to the chair individually about this.
- A request was made to remove or cut back the bushes in Kings Meadow opposite the Community Centre.
- Travellers had broken in to the land near to the Phoenix Centre in Bermuda - leading to local public concern.

5. Summary and closure

- 5.1 The Chair thanked everyone for attending. He added that council meetings are available online and urged people to report their issues or concerns to the relevant authority. A date for the next meeting in 2019 will be circulated in due course.