

**Safer Neighbourhoods – South Leamington Safer
Neighbourhoods Panel meeting
14 April 2008
Brunswick Healthy Living Centre, Leamington Spa**

Attending

Cllr Bill Evans (Chair)- Royal Leamington Spa Town Council
Carolyn Chambers - WCC
Robert Nash – Clerk, Royal Leamington Spa Town Council
David Gill – WCC
G Dunkley – Brunswick Tenants Association
Dave Finnerty – Warwickshire Fire Service
Sgt Andy Scruton – Warwickshire Police
PC Rob Garrison – Warwickshire Police
Cllr Tim Naylor – WCC
Cllr John Barrott – WDC
Cllr Barbara Weed – WDC
Mario Jaco - CVS
Kath Bannister – WDC
Jenny Murray – WCC
Dave Jones - WCC
Alan Turner
Richard Beatty
Helen Lowthian
Liz Iles - Brunswick Community Safety Local Action Team

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dave Jones, Warwick Area Youth and Community manager at WCC as a new panel member. He also thanked the Neighbourhood Watch members for their display at the meeting.

1. Public questions for panel consideration

The public were invited to ask questions. George Dunkley raised the issue of parking problems around Gas Street which have been discussed at previous meetings. This was addressed under Agenda Item 3.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter Rotherham, Morris Rodham, Cllrs Richard Edwards and Mike Britland.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 21 January 2008

The previous minutes were agreed.

David Gill reported that he has spoken to Roger Bennett in the Highways Department at WCC regarding the parking issues on Aylesford St, Tachbrook Road etc. This had culminated with the issues being referred back to the police. Cllr Naylor felt that following decriminalisation of parking this should not be the case, and will take the matter back to the Highways Department. David Gill agreed to take on the matter and liaise with the Chair regarding previous correspondence in order to resolve the issues as it has been a concern for some considerable time. **Action: David Gill**

Dave Jones reported that he has identified some local youths who would be interested in attending the Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings, and he would be willing to bring them along for half an hour to talk about issues which affect them in the area. Suggestions were made on how to engage the young people with the panel.

David Gill reported on the Action Plan which is in place in Kenilworth and offered to work with the panel to prepare an action plan for the South Leamington area. He agreed to email the Chair a copy of Kenilworth's plan as an example, and to work with a sub – group in putting the plan together. It was agreed the sub-group would include, Cllrs Naylor, Barrott, Edwards and Britland, Kath Bannister and the police. **Action: David Gill.**

The Chair asked the panel for feedback on the publicity of the meeting. Sgt Scruton agreed to publicise future meetings through Neighbourhood Watch and through a pilot scheme they are running with Warwick Business School distributing leaflets with a tear-off slip for feedback.

Cllr Weed offered the police use of a labour newspaper which is hand delivered to all households in the area. It was felt that there was a need for political sensitivity and also money has now been committed to the pilot scheme with the Business School.

4. Review of priorities 08/09

Sgt Scruton reported that criminal damage occurs mostly on Friday and Saturday evenings after drinking. Operation 'Shaftsbury' has resulted in a number of arrests and operation 'Margate' commences this weekend (18/19 April). The police have worked with the Housing department to resolve the issues there.

Anti-social behaviour

Operation 'Margate' begins this weekend and the area will be flooded with officers.

Speeding

An operation using the speed gun will be carried out once a month on the Queensway, Sydenham Drive, Gainsborough Drive and Leam terrace areas, on various days and at various times.

Kath Bannister requested Bury Road be added to the list of roads to be targeted.

Sgt Scruton recommended the panel keep these priorities. This was agreed.

The police were asked if drug use could be made a priority. Sgt Scruton explained that this is a priority for the police and not a Safer Neighbourhood Team priority.

5. Police Report

Sgt Scruton reported that a man who was indecently exposing himself on the canal towpath has now been arrested.

He also reported that:

- a cannabis factory was found on Victoria Business Park and 1 man is on bail.
- The police are working on a pilot scheme with Warwick Business School
- 250 counterfeit DVDs were recovered on 28 February on Sydenham
- 3 arrests have been made following arson attacks on Wychem Drive
- Operation 'Helstom' is planned for the summer to tackle issues on Christine Ledger Square.

PC Garrison reported on the crime statistics for the first quarter 2008 compared to the same period last year:

- Violent crime is down from 115 to 10
- Anti-social behaviour is down from 225 to 172
- Drug related incidents are down from 23 to 22
- Vehicle crime is up from 40 to 52
- Robbery is down from 9 to 5
- Burglary is up from 34 to 35
- Garden burglaries are down from 22 to 14

Dave Finnerty reported there have been a spate of fires on Sydenham some of which may be linked to the new refuse collection system. A number of the fires correlated with collection times.

6. Expenditure

Robert Nash clarified the situation regarding Capital and Revenue expenditure.

Sgt Scruton requested £450 for covert earpieces for the police. Cllr Barrott proposed this be accepted. This was seconded by George Dunkley and agreed.

Dave Finnerty requested funding from the panel for smoke alarms which cost £6.74 each and are fitted free as part of a home safety fire check initiative. Cllr Naylor proposed this be a 4th priority for the panel caring for vulnerable members of the community. This was seconded by Cllr Barrott and agreed. Robert Nash agreed to talk to Pete Cutts about this. **Action: Robert Nash.**

Sgt Scruton reported that Sgt Calver from the Town Centre Safer Neighbourhood panel is seeking £500 to £1,000 from each area towards the 'Geared-up' project. This project is aimed at youths who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs) and teaches them mechanics. The project has previously been funded by the Town Centre panel and Connexions.

Sgt Scruton agreed to get more information about the project and report back to the panel. **Action: Sgt Scruton**

Cllr Naylor suggested funding may be obtained from other sources such as Committee funds or the Local Area Partnership.

Mr Dunkley proposed £750 be awarded to the project. Cllr Naylor seconded this and it was agreed.

Mr Dunkley asked the police about the use of their bikes. They are currently awaiting further training but meanwhile are able to use them to get from A to B.

7. Any other Business

Mr Dunkley thanked the Town Council for funding the planting in Charles Gardner Square.

8. Date of next meeting

Further meetings were scheduled for:

7 July 2008

6 October 2008

5 January 2009

6 April 2009