

KENILWORTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS AREA (KSNA)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 22nd SEPTEMBER 2008
6.30 pm AT THE YOUTH CENTRE, KENILWORTH.

Present

Cllr Pauline Edwards (Chair)	Kenilworth Town Council
Cllr John Whitehouse	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Daphne Harrison	Kenilworth Town Council
Cllr Dave Shilton	Kenilworth Town, Warwick District & Warwickshire County Councils
Cllr Felicity Bunker	Kenilworth Town & Warwick District Councils
Cllr Michael Coker	Kenilworth Town & Warwick District Councils
Cllr Barbara Weed	Chair of South Leamington SNP
C/Insp Martin McNevin	Warwickshire Police
Insp Richard Woodcock	Warwickshire Police
Sgt Stewart Bosworth	Warwickshire Police
PC Adrian Hamlin	Warwickshire Police
John Durling	Neighbourhood Watch
Richard Morris	Neighbourhood Watch
Andy Garsed	Residents of Central Kenilworth Association
David Gill	Warwickshire County Council
Katie Western	Warwickshire County Council
Jacqui Mannix	Local Criminal Justice Board
Pete Cutts	Warwick District Council
Andy Norman	Kenilworth Youth Centre Manager
Dave Jones	Warwickshire County Council – Area Youth Manager

Welcome and Public Question Time

Mr Smith thanked the Police for their work in resolving the problems in Albion Street raised at the last meeting. The bus shelter, which was the main cause of the issues, has now been removed. There are still problems with the behaviour of a number of individuals and Pete will work with Sgt Bosworth and Julian Hill to take appropriate enforcement action.

The possibility of an 'alcohol free' zone was queried and Pete explained it would be difficult to extend the current restricted drinking zone as strong evidence of alcohol related crime and disorder has to be proven.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Norman Vincett and Ursula Durrant, Verona Newbold, Carolyn Chambers and Dave Jones (who would be arriving late).

Minutes and Matters Arising

Albion Street – this issue was covered during public question time.

Trading Standards Seminar Report – David reported that Trading Standards ran a seminar for Safer Neighbourhood Panels in Warwick and Stratford in mid July. Trading Standards will provide ten test purchase operations per district per year and additional operations can be purchased if required. Operations can be run in Kenilworth but concerned residents, Councillors and partners need to inform Trading Standards of their concerns with particular premises. David can provide copies of the powerpoint presentation from the seminar to any Panel members who would find this of use.

Youth Provision Chart – David reported that work is ongoing to match available youth provision with hotspot times for anti-social behaviour. A piece of work is planned to publicise available activities to young people, ultimately through redesigning the up2datecovandwarks.org.uk website to enable young people to create their own personalised activities wallchart. Each area will need to provide information on activities available for local young people and Cllr Whitehouse suggested Rob Hodgkins, the Extended Services Co-ordinator for Kenilworth, would be a useful contact as he has undertaken a similar piece of work fairly recently. Cllr Shilton suggested that giving ownership of the work to young people would produce a better response. After some discussion, it was agreed that agencies need to build a framework first and then young people can add to and build on this.

Fire Service Statistics – David has commissioned Fire Service statistics which show that, over a six month period, there were sixteen fires with three being classed as ‘deliberate.’ Monitoring these statistics on an ongoing basis will enable Panel members to highlight any emerging issues or problems at an early stage.

David informed the group that he will update the progress column of the action plan following discussions at the meeting and circulate a revised version for members’ information.

Finance report

Pete circulated a report showing the current financial spend position. There is currently £2170.02 of available funding unallocated.

A discussion took place about the vehicle activated sign. Pete explained that discussions are ongoing with the County Council regarding the type of sign to be purchased and, when this is available, it will be mobile with the Panel able to specify its locations. Problems with visibility, speeding and parked cars around the Birches Lane, Windy Arbour, Glasshouse Lane junction were discussed and the speeding subgroup agreed to investigate the issues raised and report back to the next Panel meeting.

Action: Speeding subgroup to request speed monitoring in priority locations and implement appropriate actions in response to this.

A query was raised regarding the Positive about Young People Funding. Pete clarified that this will be used for informal Friday night activities, co-ordinated with Youth Centre provision. This should start around October half-term.

The £1,000 allocated to graffiti removal has not yet been spent and will enable work to be carried out by the Probation Community Payback team. Dave Adams is keen to undertake further work in Kenilworth. Andy Garsed plans to make contact with Network Rail regarding removing graffiti from railway bridges and Katie reported that Paul Garrison at the District Council is currently drawing up agreements with statutory undertakers such as Network Rail. Andy, Katie and Cllr Vincett will meet with Paul Garrison to discuss these agreements and how the Warwick District Graffiti Policy will work in Kenilworth.

Action: Graffiti subgroup to meet with Paul Garrison and update at the next Panel meeting

The Chair thanked Andy for his ongoing work removing graffiti in Kenilworth.

Communications

Katie reported that the communication subgroup has met and discussed a monthly good news stories column in the Kenilworth Weekly News. The paper is happy to run this column and Stuart Goodwin, County Council Communications Officer, can pull it together into a press friendly format. However, concern has been raised that sending out Safer Neighbourhoods Panel messages could be confusing if the name and format of the meeting changes as the localities agenda comes on board. The Panel agreed that it is important to publicise good news messages regardless of the name of the group. Stories (including photos if possible) will be sent to the subgroup to decide which messages should go in the column each month.

Action: Katie to circulate timetable to inform Panel members of the deadlines for getting stories to the Communications subgroup

Sgt Bosworth informed the Panel that he is looking to produce a monthly Safer Neighbourhood Team newsletter to circulate to residents by email as many do not access the website. The Panel passed their email addresses to Sgt Bosworth to start the circulation list. The newsletter will also be placed on the website to enable residents who do use the site to access the information.

Police Report

Sgt Bosworth circulated statistics showing reductions in rowdy behaviour, damage, drunken behaviour and noise when comparing June – August 2008 with the same period in 2007. These reductions can all be linked to actions taken through the action plan. There was an increase in rowdy behaviour in July. However, Police investigations show this was linked to the camp at Thickthorn Farm, with many of the incidents reported not related to criminal activity. There have been fewer large gatherings of young people and the amount of alcohol seized has been reduced by sixty percent. Pete commented that Kenilworth is going against the District trend which shows a

slight increase in anti-social behaviour, at least partially due to good partnership initiatives such as increased opening of the Youth Centre.

Sgt Bosworth further reported on activity at Threshers on Warwick Road, which was caught selling alcohol to underage young people and chose to voluntarily surrender its licence, rather than face a licensing review or criminal prosecution. Training issues for staff were highlighted and the possibility of reviewing the licence of all Threshers properties was discussed.

Cllr Shilton sits on the County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Community Protection and would like to see a loss of licence after one warning for underage sales, rather than two. The Panel agreed that they would support premises being taken to a licensing review if they are caught selling alcohol twice to underage youngsters.

Sgt Bosworth also reported that HeadCams continue to be used successfully by the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Cllr Shilton asked for an update on action planned for the upcoming Horsefair. Inspector Woodcock informed the group that two planning meetings have been held and the Police will be providing additional Officers as a deterrent and to deal with trespass offences. The District Council are putting additional security measures in place and will explore the legality of the site prior to future events. Direct liaison is also taking place with the landowner.

Town Centre Manager's Report

Joe Baconnet was not present. David reported that he had spoken to Joe and there has been an increased interest in PubWatch radios.

John and Andy Garsed reported that the need for a CCTV camera on Southbank Road is being reviewed based on statistics over the next six months. Residents are concerned about privacy issues and that there is not enough evidence to site a camera in the suggested location.

Youth Provision

Andy Norman reported on activity ongoing at the Youth Centre. Two Marle Hall trips and a tepee adventure are planned for early 2009 and the courts are now fully open and being well used. The Friday night junior sessions are proving extremely popular with ninety one young people attending last week. Consideration is being given to running an additional session on Saturdays to ensure session numbers are manageable. Cllr Whitehouse reported that demand has been overwhelming and the Management Committee are now considering how to maintain sustainable levels of staffing. David informed the Panel that the Drug and Alcohol Action Team may be able to provide some funding for sessions if this is required.

Older children are no longer seen hanging around outside the Youth Centre on Fridays and the success of matching activity to hotspot times for anti-social behaviour and encouraging young people to participate in positive activities at an early age was commended.

Dave Jones arrived and provided feedback on the Marle Hall trip run in August and partly funded by Safer Neighbourhood Panels in Kenilworth, Warwick and Leamington. The young people involved increased in confidence on the trip and produced a comic strip as a record of their stay. Only four young people from Kenilworth attended as some parents were not keen for them to participate. A shorter activity trip is planned for Kenilworth youngsters in January 2009.

Forty young people have recorded a CD at the Youth Centre, developing both musical and technical skills.

AGM

The provisional date and venue for the AGM had been set for 27th November at Kenilworth School. However, the school is unavailable on this date.

Alternative venues include the Sixth Form Centre, Methodist Hall, Parochial Church Hall, Holiday Inn and St Francis Church.

Action: Cllr Edwards and Carolyn Chambers to finalise a date and venue and confirm to Panel members

Planning work required includes:

Publicity - through Stuart Goodwin at the County Council.

Questionnaire for residents – David suggested amending last year's questionnaire slightly and using this. Pete to organise printing.

Name badges – Verona Newbold to produce.

Timetable – Cllr Edwards to develop.

Displays – organisations suggested included: Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Community Payback, District Council, Fire Service, Trading Standards, St John's Ambulance, Youth Service, Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Kenilworth School, Local Criminal Justice Board.

Action: Relevant partners to pursue these actions

Any Other Business

Cllr Weed thanked the Panel for the opportunity to attend and ideas she will take away to consider for the South Leamington South Neighbourhoods Panel.

Future Meeting Dates

2009 meetings are planned for February, June, September and November.

A subgroup will meet shortly after the AGM to consider any new business arising.

The next Safer Neighbourhoods Panel meeting will take place on Monday 9th February 2009. Venue to be confirmed.