

## **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS – NORTH LEAMINGTON AREA PANEL**

**WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY, 2008 AT THE TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON SPA**

Present:-

Cllr David Greenwood (Chair) – Royal Leamington Spa Town Council  
Councillor Robert Cunliffe - Royal Leamington Spa Town Council  
Robert Nash - Royal Leamington Spa Town Council  
Kate Evans – Neighbourhood Watch  
Cllr Sarah Boad – Warwickshire County Council  
Cllr Alan Boad – Warwick District Council  
Cllr Eithne Goode – Warwickshire County Council  
Cllr Chris Davis - Warwickshire County Council  
Cllr Roger Copping – Warwick District Council  
Cllr Dave Wreford-Bush - Royal Leamington Spa Town Council  
Act/Sgt Ben Smith – Warwickshire Police  
Cllr Janice Dean – Warwick District Council  
Gladys Gibbs – Tagbusters, The Chain  
Tina Gibbs - Tagbusters, The Chain  
Mary Hewins – Lillington Community Action Forum  
Tom Dobedoe – Neighbourhood Watch  
Katie Western – WCC  
David Jones- Warwickshire Youth Service

Apologies for absence were received from David Francis, Inspector Adrian Davis – Warwickshire Police and Janet Wilson.

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor Copping, seconded by Councillor Goode, that Councillor Robert Cunliffe be appointed Chairman of the North Leamington Safer Neighbourhoods Panel for 2008/09. There being no further nominations, it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Robert Cunliffe is appointed Chairman of the Panel for 2008/09.

### **2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Panel held on 28th January, 2008, having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Graffiti Removal Packs. - Robert Nash confirmed that the 50 packs ordered by Pete Cutts had now been delivered and were available at the Town Hall for distribution. It was noted that the packs were only effective in removing Graffiti from smooth surfaces.

Lighting Improvements at The Holt and Rugby Road – Councillor Goode confirmed that capital funding had been secured to upgrade the lighting and this would be implemented during the current financial year.

Crown Way - Councillor Alan Boad agreed to make inquiries with Warwick District Council on completing work to rectify the defective light in Crown Way.

**Action: Alan Boad**

#### Lighting and Community Safety at Chestnut Square

Katie Western outlined progress in relation to dealing with problems of anti social behaviour in the vicinity of Wathen Road and Keir Close. The County Council was presently investigating the placing of a Gating Order to prevent use of the alley way between these two areas during certain hours. In order to achieve a sustainable solution however, it was necessary to ensure appropriate consultation with residents living in the immediate area. It had also been recognised that closure of this right of way could potentially affect other areas of the neighbourhood and simply transfer the problems elsewhere. The Panel was therefore asked to provide assistance in terms of helping identify the radius for consultation with neighbours. It was agreed that action in relation to this proposal should be preceded with formal consultation with the residents likely to be affected by it and that a draft letter should be circulated to the relevant County Division and Ward Members for comment.

**Action: Katie Western**

#### Lillington Free Church

Tom referred to the outstanding payment of £30 for the hire of the Church Hall for the last Panel Meeting. It was agreed that a cheque of £30, drawn from the budget allocated by the Town Council, be sent together with a letter of appreciation.

**Action: Tom/Robert**

#### **4. PANEL PRIORITIES**

A copy of the Notes of the Meeting held on 28th April, had been circulated and formed the basis for a discussion on the immediate priorities for action by the Police and agencies.

Sergeant Smith observed that the majority of the issues raised by the public conformed to the Panel's agreed priorities of anti-social behaviour, speeding, litter and graffiti. These issues were also largely consistent with those being experienced in other areas. The Panel noted that issues raised during the meeting were capable of being addressed within the existing defined priorities but that it was essential for there to be appropriate feedback to all those who had attended to ensure that progress was reported. This could possibly be facilitated through the Safer Neighbourhoods Website and more creative use of the Press.

**Action: Ben Smith/Carolyn Chambers**

The Panel considered that the meeting had been a success which could be built upon in the future, subject to improving communication with the public and generating interest among residents within Milverton Ward and young people generally. Reference was made to the interest of Members of the Warwickshire Youth Parliament in local democracy and it was agreed that an invitation is made to Ben Wesson of North

Leamington School to attend the next meeting of the Panel to discuss issues of importance to young people.

**Action:Robert**

Katie Western suggested that issues such as a communications strategy and the involvement of young people could be developed within an Action Plan, the format of which had been successfully used at Kenilworth. It was therefore agreed to establish a sub- group to work on a draft Action Plan. The following Members of the Panel indicated a desire to take part:-

Councillor Dean  
Councillor Cunliffe  
Councillor Alan Boad  
Kate Evans/ Neighbourhood Watch representative  
Warwickshire Police

**Action: Katie/Carolyn**

## **5. COMMUNITY POLICE UPDATE**

Sergeant Smith reported that a Dispersal Order had been put in place for the area around Crown Way for six months commencing 10th March. This had been very successful with a 42 per cent reduction in reported incidents of rowdy behaviour. If necessary, the period of the Order could be extended.

In terms of criminal damage, a recent covert operation in the Wathen Road area had resulted in seven arrests and a ninety five per cent reduction in reported incidents of criminal damage. The situation would be kept under review and incident levels monitored in the neighbouring areas of Campion Road and Campion Terrace to assess if a similar operation should be repeated. Traffic speeds along several of the primary routes of North Leamington had been conducted and a number of penalty notices issued for speed violations. It was also intended to mount an operation in the near future to deal with young speed offenders.

The Panel was advised that the Warwick District Policing team had recently been made the recipients of an award for good performance. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Chief Inspector Bailey to congratulate the Team on their success.

**Action: Robert**

## **6. BUDGET**

The Panel was advised that the carry forward of unspent budget from 2007/08 was £7,516, which, together with the funding allocation for 2008/09, gave a total available budget of £17,516. A contribution of £1,000 was also available to bid to the Town Council. Further advice was awaited from Pete Cutts of Warwick District Council in relation to the amount of funding committed last year to the purchase of a speed gun.

**Action: Robert**

## 7. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

### (i) GEARED UP PROJECT

A request from Sergeant Paul Calver was considered for financial assistance with the cost of operating a training Project for young people over a twelve month period. The Project aimed to provide young people who are neither in employment, education or training with an opportunity to obtain practical vehicle maintenance skills. Sergeant Smith indicated that the Project had a good track record of encouraging those with a previous history of offending to undertake worthwhile study. It was considered that insufficient detail was available to enable the Panel to assess the outcomes of the Project, though in principle it would be prepared to provide financial support.

**RESOLVED** that the Panel indicates its support for the principle objectives of the "Geared Up" Project and consideration is given to providing financial support subject to receiving further information on the outcomes of the Project.

**Action: Paul Calver**

### (ii) RESIDENTIAL TRAINING COURSE – MARLE HALL

Dave Jones outlined the proposed District wide residential course delivered by Warwickshire Probation in partnership with the Police at Marle Hall, North Wales. The course would provide up to 40 young people with a programme of outdoor activities and evening workshops aimed at developing self confidence, enterprising behaviour and decision making. All the participants would be given the opportunity to gain a nationally accredited qualification. The cost of the week long residential was approximately £14,000 and each of four Safer Neighbourhood Panels was being asked to contribute equally to raise a sum of £8,000. The course would help to address the Panel's objective of reducing the incidence of anti-social behaviour. A report on the preparation for the Course would be made to the next Meeting.

**RESOLVED** that a contribution of £2,000 is made to the cost of the Marle Hall Residential training course.

**Action: Pete Cutts/Dave Jones**

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

Kate Evans referred to the incidence of vandalism at the Church of Our Lady at Valley Road, Lillington. It was suggested that the application of anti-vandal paint would prevent entry onto the roof of the Church Hall. It was agreed to defer consideration to await a formal request from the Church.

**Action: Kate Evans**

In concluding the Meeting, the Chairman thanked Councillor David Greenwood for his contribution to the work of the Panel over a period of eighteen months.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor David Greenwood is formally thanked for his contribution to the work of the North Leamington Safer Neighbourhood Panel.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 21st July, 2008 at the Town Hall, Leamington, commencing at 7.00 p.m.