

**First Meeting of the South Leamington Community Forum  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009  
Shrubland Street Primary School Leamington Spa**

**Notes of the Meeting**

**1 People who attended:**

David Gill	Warwickshire County Council
A Holmes	ACT
Rosa Ferreira	ACT
Adrian Salvin	ACT
Pauline Haynes	Regenesis Two
D Banting	
Sam Neil	
Kate Cliffe	Sydni Centre
Cllr Barbara Weed	Warwick District Council
Lynn Unitt	The Green Man
Cllr Gill	Leamington Town Council
Martin Stott	Warwickshire County Council
Mark Brayne	Respect Coordinator
Colin Clarke	Queensway Neighbourhood Watch
Liz Clarke	Queensway Neighbourhood watch
Katy Bridgewater	Orbit Heart Housing Association
Faye Middleton	
Cllr John Barrott	Warwick District Council
Cllr Jane Knight	Warwick District Council
Rachel Chesterfield	
Penny Bould	Labour Party
Cllr Bill Evans	Leamington Town Council
Satnam Kaur	Warwick District Council
Cllr Tim Naylor	Warwickshire County Council
Nick Gower Johnson	Warwickshire County Council
Jodie Wiltshire	
Cllr Alan Wilkinson	Leamington Town Council (Chair)
T Dunckley	
Councillor Gill	Warwick District Council
Sgt Andy Scruton	Warwickshire Police

[Quite a few other people attended but did not sign the signing in sheet!]

**2 Welcome, Introductions and Chairing Arrangements**

a) Alan Wilkinson welcomed everybody to the first meeting of the Forum, commenting on how good it was to see so many people attending. He asked everyone in the room to introduce her/ himself and then followed on by reading out some important statistics from the South Leamington Community Profile all of which, he said, emphasised the importance of the Community Forum which had a clear role to bring local people together to identify THEIR

priorities and then make sure that the public agencies worked together to respond to them.

b) Alan said that he would be very pleased to chair the first and future meetings of the Forum. An opportunity was given for others to volunteer and everyone agreed that Alan should take this role on.

c) Alan then outlined what would happen at the meeting which would be a mixture of short reports and discussions. He said that the most important part of the evening would be the 'Glad, Sad and Mad' session which would give everyone the chance to think about and express their key issues and concerns about community life.

### **3 Background to the Community Forums and possible ways in which this Forum will work**

a) Nick Gower Johnson explained some of the background to the Community Forums in Warwickshire. There are 30 in all, 7 of which are in Warwick District.

b) Nick made clear that it had been agreed that the work of the South Leamington Safer Neighbourhoods Panel would now be taken forward through this Forum.

c) Nick summarised the purposes of the Forum as being:

- To give local people the opportunity to identify their concerns and ambitions for the area
- To identify key issues (including Community Safety issues) that needed action by organisations from the public sector.
- To keep a check on progress being made on agreed action
- To give people from the public sector the chance to engage with local people on their plans and ambitions for the area

### **4 Update on the Safer Neighbourhoods Action Plan**

a) David handed out the latest version of the Safer Neighbourhoods Action Plan. He stressed the good progress that had been made in addressing many of the issues that had been identified for action in the plan.

b) David referred to the highly successful 'Your Town, Your Choice' event which had taken place in Brunswick during the previous week. This had built on much of the work that had been done previously but, importantly, was a very positive demonstration of the commitment of all concerned (both from agencies and the local community) to work together. He would leave it to Sgt Andy Scruton to give more details of the event.

c) David said that this would be the last meeting that he attended as he was leaving the County Council very shortly. He made clear that he had very much enjoyed working with the Panel and that he wished to newly formed Forum every good wish for the future. He suggested that the next steps to be taken by the Forum should be to take stock on the Plan, and then look at this alongside any actions / issues arising from 'Your Town, Your Choice' and the other discussions that would take place during the evening

## **5. Update on Your Town, Your Choice**

Sgt Andy Scruton gave a very positive update on this week long event in Brunswick. In summary:

- Officers /PCSOs dedicated 464 police hours to the week - with more than 100 hours over and above that being applied by the traffic unit
- 89 miles of foot patrol had been covered and 175 miles of vehicular patrol
- 1028 community contacts had been made
- 311 individual pieces of advice had been given
- 89 people had been referred to agencies
- 93 business premises had been visited and an additional 28 visits had been made to licensed premises
- 16 arrests had been made
- 147 fixed penalty tickets had been issued and 58 endorseable offences recorded
- 11 cars had been seized for 'No Insurance', 3 vehicles had been subjected to the vehicle scheme
- 51 people had been stopped and searched, and seven cannabis offences detected

It was agreed by all concerned that the event had been a great success. More information would be made available to future meetings of the Forum concerning the overall impact of the work.

## **6. Other Key issues for the Forum to take forward**

The meeting then split into two groups – one supported by Berni Allen and the other by Nick Gower Johnson. The groups were asked to consider what made

them 'Glad', 'Sad' and 'Mad' about their local community. These issues were recorded and would form the basis of much of the work to be carried out at the next Meeting of the Forum

## **7 How do we all want the Forum to work in the future?**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Forum would take place on:

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7 pm (Refreshments available from 6.30pm) at the Sydni Centre. The main purpose of the meeting would be to consider and agree

The priorities voiced by local people during the evening

- Catching up on progress on the Safer Neighbourhoods Action Plan
- Learning more about the outcomes of 'Your Town, Your Choice'
- And through these discussions agreeing the priorities of the Forum for the next 12 months.
- Additionally, it would be good to discuss how the Forum wanted to go about its business – one of the possibilities would be to hold 'themed' evenings on local issues – e.g. Youth Matters, Older People's issues, and the Environment / Street Scene

In the meantime, the priorities in the Safer Neighbourhoods Action Plan would remain.