

# Notes of South Leamington Safer Neighbourhoods Panel Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008 Bath Place, Leamington Spa

## **Present:**

Cllrs Barbara Weed (Chair), John Barrott, Mike Britland, Chris Davis, Tim Naylor and Alan Wilkinson

Ben Wesson

Kath Bannister and Jenny Murray, Community Partnership Team

Andy Scruton, Robin Clifton and Lance Pearce – Warwickshire Police

Dave Jones, David Gill and Kit Leck - Warwickshire County Council

Liz Clarke – Neighbourhood Watch

Dave Finnerty – Warwickshire Fire Service

**Apologies:** Richard Edwards and Liz Iles

## **1. Open Forum**

An informal session was held where residents were able to raise any issue of concern they had with colleagues from Warwickshire Police and local Councillors. Councillor Naylor reported that a recent public meeting for residents affected by cycling on pavements in the Radford Road area had resulted in a commitment to publicise the fact that cycling on pavements was illegal and dangerous – there was a clear need for a longer term publicity campaign to educate cyclists. Liaison with residents is ongoing, with the support of Sgt Andy Scruton.

**ACTION: Cllr Naylor and Sgt Scruton to maintain involvement in public awareness campaign regarding illegality of cycling on pavements**

## **2. Notes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

The notes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record – there were no matters arising.

## **3. Community Police Team Update**

1. Sgt Andy Scruton informed the group that the local team was currently having staffing difficulties, and attempts were being made to replace vacant posts as soon as possible.

It was noted that Operation Radwell, an initiative to reduce speeding was going well, and was ongoing. The police team would welcome more feedback from members of the public about hotspot areas for speeding in the locality,

and Sgt Scruton confirmed that the Kingsway/Radford Road area can be covered as part of this initiative.

It was noted that Whitnash Safer Neighbourhoods Panel had bought illuminated speed awareness signs, which had cost £2,500 per unit, plus £2,000 per unit installation fees. Sgt Scruton informed the group that this type of sign was effective in reducing speeds by reminding motorists of the speed limit on the road.

Sgt Scruton advised the group that Operation Sawbridgeworth had been in operation recently, which was focused on issues relating to failure to appear warrants and evasion of court.

The group noted that thefts from motor vehicles in the area had increased significantly in recent weeks.

The dispersal order in the Sargent Street area was now in place – if people asked to move on failed to do so, they could be arrested. This can be in force for up to 6 months. A recent residents' meeting in Shrubland Street had been very positive, with some very creative ideas being shared.

**ACTION: Sgt Scruton to copy David Gill information about the meeting in Shrubland Street for the SNP Action Plan**

The 'Cuppa with a Copper' initiative had been launched, with a first successful session at the Westbury Centre, with refreshments provided courtesy of sponsorship from Asda. It was noted that this type of informal surgery was a good way to reach the community. Councillor Weed informed the group that, subject to members' support this evening, she had approved a grant of £500 to cover rent of premises for the next 12 months to support the 'Cuppa with a Copper' initiative. The group endorsed this proposal.

**ACTION: Pete Cutts be requested to approve £500 from the 08/09 SNP budget for this purpose**

Operation Tors was currently being progressed – this initiative was targeted at reducing crime in the town centre during the evenings at weekends.

Sgt Scruton reported that he hoped to run Operation Helston shortly, which would focus on targeting acute areas suffering from incidents of criminal damage.

Sgt Scruton demonstrated to the SNP the draft presentation he was planning to make to the first meeting of the South Leamington Community Forum, when it was established in early 2009. He advised the Group that this format had been used successfully at the first Community Forum for Whitnash at the end of September, and he asked for comments from members via email.

**ACTION: SNP members to feed back to Andy if any comments on presentation**

Jenny Murray reminded the Group that as part of a County and District-wide initiative to develop existing SNPs into broader Community Forums, it had been suggested that the first Community Forum for South Leamington could be launched during Respect Week in February 09. The Group supported this proposal.

**ACTION: Jenny Murray to liaise with Respect Week Planning Group and SNP members regarding development of first South Leamington Community Forum.**

#### 4. Priorities

The group were reminded of the 4 priorities in their action plan:

1. Reduce Speeding
2. Preventing Criminal Damage
3. Reducing Anti Social Behaviour
4. Fire Safety

The report from the Community Police Team had covered progress on the first three priorities. It was noted that the smoke alarms bid to support the 4<sup>th</sup> priority had been funded with some difficulty, but had now been sorted out satisfactorily.

#### 5. Budget Update

Jenny Murray agreed to provide the group with an update on the remainder of the grant available to them for 08/09. This has since been circulated separately to the Group, but for information this is as follows:

There is a total of **£9,903.16** left in the budget, to be allocated by end of March 09. Expenditure to date is as follows:

07/08 budget	£
bikes	1340.00
gates	880.00
kit	536.16
room hire	29.38
graffiti kits	233.30
08/09 budget	£
room hire	78.00
Marle Hall	2,000
Cuppa/copper	500
Smoke alarms	1,000
Respect Week	1,000

It was agreed that bids for the remainder of the funding allocated to the SNP should be considered at the next meeting of the Group. Funding bids highlighted so far include:

- £950 for an internally approved laptop - Insp Robin Clifton highlighted a need for a laptop to enable his team to give presentations in community venues – at present the team had difficulty accessing this type of equipment
- Cllr Naylor said he would be requesting funding for some measures to support the cycle calming scheme but these would need to be discussed and developed with officers

SNP members were asked to make any funding proposals to the next meeting of the group.

**ACTION: all members of the group as appropriate**

### **Action Planning**

David Gill updated the group on progress with the action plan – he circulated the current version to the group and asked for feedback via email, and advised that this feedback would be scrutinised at the next Action Planning Workshop.

**ACTION: all members of the SNP to feed back comments on the action plan to David Gill**

**David Gill to incorporate feedback at the next Action Planning Workshop**

David also circulated a paper outlining proposals for Respect Week, which it was hoped would take place during February Half Term Week 2009:

- Structure
- WCC Champion – Jim Graham, Chief Executive, WCC
- Operational Management Team – Chair to be Barbara Weed, and workstream leads to include:
  - Kath Bannister – community participation
  - Kit Leck – drugs and alcohol
  - Dave Jones – Youth Service
  - Dave Finnerty – Fire Service
  - Robin Clifton – Police
  - Pete Cutts – Warwick District Council
  - Dave Adams – Community Payback/Probation
  - Paul Devlin – Coventry and Warks NHS Trusts
  - Jenny Murray – Community Forum
- Respect Week Co Ordinator – David Gill
- Media Officer – Stuart Goodwin WCC

It was also suggested that Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA) should be invited to attend Respect Week planning group.

It was agreed that the first meeting of the Respect Week Planning Group should be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm at Leamington Police Station.

**ACTION: David Gill to organise Respect Week Planning Meeting, and invite Jim Graham to attend if possible**

**Carolyn Chambers to circulate date to theme leads.**

It was noted that Brunswick Healthy Living Centre was likely not to be open by February, so alternative venues for the events needed to be found, eg local schools. It was also noted that Dave Jones had already booked Bath Place to hold various events/workshops for young people during this week.

The group commented that the impact of Respect Week should be sustainable, and able to be replicated in other areas. Kath Bannister expressed concern about the need for early engagement of the community in this process, and that the likely cost needed to show appropriate benefit.

### **Any Other Business**

Dave Jones reported on the success of the recent trip made by local young people to Marle Hall, supported by the Youth Service and PCSOs. It was noted that contributions by 4 of the SNPs in the Warwick District had made the event so successful, and that this was the only example of joint working by SNPs in the county, in partnership with the police.

### **Date of Next Meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the SNP should be held on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at the Sydni Centre beginning at 6.30pm with an informal drop-in for residents, followed by a business meeting at 7pm.**

**ACTION: Jenny Murray/Carolyn Chambers to organise next meeting**

**Jenny Murray to organise for leaflets to be produced asap for circulation by PCSOs to local community**

A further meeting of the SNP will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 from 6.30pm at Bath Place

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

