

NOTES OF THE NORTH LEAMINGTON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS PANEL – ADDITIONAL MEETING ON LOCALITY PROPOSALS

TUESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2008, TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON SPA

Present:-

Cllr Robert Cunliffe (Chair) – Royal Leamington Spa Town Council
Liz Young – Warwick District Council
Tina Gibbs – The Chain
Gladys Gibbs – The Chain
Cllr Eithne Goode – Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Roger Copping – Warwick District Council
PCSO Sarah Lithgow – Warwickshire Police
Katie Western – Warwickshire County Council
Alan Turner – Neighbourhood Watch
Cllr Janice Dean – Warwick District Council
Cllr Chris Davis – Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Simon Wheeler – Leamington Town Council
Tim Healey – Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Sarah Boad – Warwickshire County Council
David Francis – Milverton EDP
Tom Dobedoe – Neighbourhood Watch
Yvonne Moore
Kate Evans – Neighbourhood Watch

Apologies:-

Geoff and Janet Wilson, David Greenwood, Robert Nash, Sgt Greewal

There were 3 items raised prior to the presentation and discussion on the Locality Proposals, these were:-

- Reference was made to incidents of vandalism and anti social behaviour by large groups of young people around the Newbold Comyn on Friday 5th September. A call to the police call centre by a local resident had received a very unsatisfactory and unsympathetic response. PCSO Lithgow has been to see the resident concerned. The police are aware that this is a hotspot for under age drinking and associated problems and there will be an increased police presence as a result of recent events. Complaints have also been received from the owner of the Newbold Comyn Arms. Local residents are encouraged to report any incidents.
- Katie Western circulated copies of the final draft action plan. Changes were new columns headed Priority and Funding plus an overall target for the Plan of 5% decrease in ASB and criminal damage incidents from the 07/08 baseline. An additional action has been included on speeding and an entire new section on under age drinking together with a statement on risk assessment. Comments required by 26th

September in order for final version to be signed off by the Panel at its next meeting.

- Milverton Public Meeting – Kate Evans informed members that she was enquiring about the use of the theatre at Trinity School for this meeting on 20th October. The Panel agreed for her to go ahead and book it at a cost of £20 per hour providing the facility was suitable. Kate will liaise with Robert Nash.

LOCALITY PROPOSALS

Following Tim Healey's presentation members of the Panel raised a number of issues:-

- 1. How big will these community forums get? Concerns about them being unwieldy and unmanageable if too large and diverse.**

Whilst it would be great to think that there will be lots of people engaged in these new forums raising all sorts of issues, in reality it is unlikely that we will be inundated. Many people contact the service provider directly with a problem e.g. housing, waste management and would not consider attending a public meeting as a way of getting their problem solved quickly

- 2. Neighbourhood Watch representatives are not interested in attending if they have to sit through discussions about 'grass verges' – their remit is community safety and they're concerned about it being diluted. People won't attend if the main business doesn't concern them**

There is a general governance model however each forum can tailor the detail to meet their requirements in terms of membership, structure etc. The creation of sub groups on different issues may address this concern. We will work with community forums to come up with terms of reference that suit.

- 3. How will business and decision making get done?**

The Forums initially will not have any decision making powers – there is likely to be increased delegation of authority over time. In the mean time they can make recommendations to the relevant body depending on what the issue is, in terms of spending requests – they would be signposted as such by the locality officer.

- 4. What about the chairing issue?**

It was explained that this was going back to Area Committee proposing that the Forums can be chaired by either WDC/WCC or Town/Parish councillors. A final decision won't be made until 21st October at full council.

5. What about funding?

There is no specific allocation of funding to the new community forums at the moment. However there are various sources of grants and funding streams that Forums would be able to access with the help of the locality support officer.

Service providers will be looking to engage community forums in their decision making processes around different service areas e.g. older people

Additional comments:-

- Important to build on success of SNPs
- Not necessary to rush this process
- Important to bring discussions down to a lower level – too high powered, people don't understand what's going
- Training of community forum members – building skills capacity is important – this was very successful with the SRB6 PIE Project
- Understand theory but concern about in practice
- Volunteers don't want to become councillors

NEXT STEPS

It was suggested that a small sub group convene made up of reps from the SNP together with Liz Young and Kushal Birla, who are the WDC and WCC allocated officers to the North Leamington Locality Area, to look at drafting specific terms of reference and work out the process of transition.

Recommendations can be brought to the next meeting of the SNP with a view to the inaugural meeting of the new community forum taking place early in the New Year.

Action: Liz Young

