

Notes of Kenilworth Safer Neighbourhoods Panel meeting
Monday 9th February 2009
Council Offices, Southbank Road, Kenilworth

Present:

Cllr Pauline Edwards (chair)
Cllr Norman Vincett
Cllr Alan Cockburn
Cllr John Whitehouse
Cllr Felicity Bunker
Cllr Daphne Harrison
Cllr Spencer Harrison
Inspector Woodcock
Sgt Stewart Bosworth
David Gill – Community Safety Manager, WCC
Peter Cutts – Community Safety Project Officer, WDC
Joe Baconnet – Town Centre Manager
Dr Richard Morris – Neighbourhood Watch
John Durling – Neighbourhood Watch
John Levett – Neighbourhood Watch
Andy Garsed – Neighbourhood Watch
Helen Alten – Neighbourhood Watch
Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager, WCC
Louise Richards, Policy & Partnerships Co-ordinator, WCC

Apologies:

Apologies were received from, Chief Inspector Martin McNevin, Cllr Ursula Durrant

1. Welcome - Chair

The Chair Welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

Issues & Actions from the Public Question Time

Richard Woodcock – Bus Shelter at Warwick Road

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problems with anti-social behaviour – later night problems, noise, drugs, etc• The bus stop over looks properties and there has been criminal damage of property walls and adjacent properties• Asking the panel have the bus shelter removed |
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ACTION: This issue will be referred to WDC by Cllr Vincett, together with a petition and photographic evidence

Michelle Clarke – Anti Social Behaviour in Forrest Road
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youths throwing snowballs at houses, when confronted they threw snowballs at the resident, police have also been pelted with snowballs |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other complaints have also been received about these incidents
<p>ACTION: This will be taken forward via a 1 to 1 meeting with Sgt Stewart Bosworth</p>

<p>June Rowlings - Traffic Problems at Hargen Court</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of traffic and access problems – double yellow lines are needed to alleviate the problems
<p>ACTION: Cllr Whitehouse to progress this with WCC</p>

<p>Catherine Worseley-French – Rubbish Storage Unit on Hayer Mews</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooden cabinet containing rubbish bins belonging to a local hotel – is very dilapidated, and is a Health and Safety problem
<p>ACTION: Cllr Vincett to progress with WCC Environmental Health Services</p>

The chair informed the panel that Carolyn Chambers had left WCC so would no longer be attending panel meetings – and introduced Louise Richards who will be taking over the support role.

2. Presentation Nick Gower-Johnson

Nick presented a paper (attached at the end of these minutes) which was circulated with the agenda, covering the introduction of a Community Forum in Kenilworth.

In 2008 the County, District Councils and Police Authority agreed that as a way to get closer to the public and to deliver more responsive joined up public services they would introduce 30 Community Forums across the County. The Police Authority in particular wanted the SNP's to be integrated in to these Forums.

Cllr Edwards and Vincett met with Nick in Jan 09 to discuss the way forward. The approach will be to build on the excellent work of the KSNP. Therefore the panel will remain and slowly evolve in to a Community Forum, taking forward a broader remit. The only immediate difference will be;

- Name change - over time to Community Forum
- Enhanced membership e.g. PCT, Police Authority
- District & County will provide Heads of Service to attend and take forward an issues raised
- Chairing arrangements – Chairs can be County, District or Town Councillors

Budget and Boundaries issues were raised as part of the discussion.

- The original budget to the KSNP was from WDC – uncertainty whether this will continue
- Boundaries differ at a County/District/Town level for Kenilworth Abbey ward – we need to adopt a pragmatic view and be guided by local residents and local Councillors

Warwickshire Police confirmed their support for the introduction of Community Forums. The panel voted and the recommendations in the briefing paper were agreed.

ACTION:

- **Nick will attend the Kenilworth Town Council Meeting on Thursday 12th February, and submit a paper to the next Warwick Area Committee on progress and future arrangements**
- **Cllr Vincett will work on draft Terms of Reference for the Forum**
- **Louise to update the original circulate list and email the briefing paper to everyone**

3. Action Plan – David Gill

David Gill addressed the panel for the last time and thanked everyone for their help and support over the last few years. He felt that the success of the panel was due to 4 main reasons;

- Loyalty/stability
- Not a political playground
- Flexibility
- Innovation

Cllr Edward gave a thank you card to David on behalf of the panel, thanked him for all his hard work and wished him well for the future.

ACTION:

- **David will update the action plan and circulate to all by 27th February**
- **Nick will contact Kate Nash to ask who will be replacing David Gill**

4. Police Report – Sgt Bosworth

There have been between 750 – 800 police incidents over the last 3 months. The main problem has been with auto crime, the team has been very active in the problem areas since 14th Jan 09, which has proved to be successful. On 4th Feb 09, 14 vehicles were broken into on Malthouse Lane, the following day the suspect was arrested – commendation to Sgt Bosworth and his team who tracked the suspects tracks through the snow on SNP bikes.

The panel was also informed of a new PSCO starter, who is currently undergoing training and that a newsletter has been produced.

The issue of staffing was raised, Insp. Richard Woodcock gave an overview of the current situation and KSNP will be down by one Police Officer on a temporary basis. Cllr Vincett reminded the panel that the Police had promised that there would always be a full complement of Policing staff to support the KSNP, and that he wouldn't want the success of the panel to be compromised.

ACTION:

- **Cllr Vincett to write to the Chief Inspector again asking him to explain the situation, and identify clear timescales on when the situation will be rectified**

- **Sgt Bosworth to check if crime figures currently available as percentages can be given as actual numbers**
- **Sgt Bosworth to compile a distribution list for the Newsletter and to investigate the SN Watch information – which apparently isn't being circulated to anyone.**

5. Speeding Report – Cllr Whitehouse

It was reported that the small working groups have been successful and good progress had been made since the last meeting in November. Speed surveys had been undertaken to access the remaining hotspots identified by the public. Kenilworth Speed Watch has been launched – Kenilworth has been identified as a pilot area to work with the County Council and Police.

Concerns over volunteers personal insurance have been solved as the scheme gives training and insurance cover. Two volunteers for the scheme are Cllrs Whitehouse and Vincett.

Money has been set aside for the purchase of 2 speed activated signs, which can be moved to 8 sights across the 3 wards. The panel discussed the draft proposals for the positioning of the signs and will also take on board the public's views on where best to position them.

ACTION:

- **If anyone wants to volunteer to be part of the scheme – contact Cllr Whitehouse**
- **Cllr Whitehouse to give the details of the draft proposals to David Gill, to update the action plan**

6. Anti-Social Behaviour Report – Pete Cutts

The panel was informed that the situation has improved over the last 2 months. There are not so many gangs of youths on the streets, and only one individual has been targeted for anti social behaviour and the situation has been successfully resolved. Pete will link his report with the incidents highlighted by residents earlier in the meeting.

The finance report was circulated to the panel. There will be money available for the speed activated signs and for graffiti removal.

ACTION:

- **Pete Cutts to contact Mark Bolton from 'Positive Young People'**
- **Panel to write to Chief Inspector of Police to draw the above issues of anti social behaviour to his attention and for the youths to be targeted**
- **Cllr Vincett to meet with Richard Woodcock as his ward Councillor outside of this meeting**

7. Youth Report – Andy Norman/Dave Jones

Neither Andy nor Dave attended the meeting. Cllr Whitehouse reminded the panel that it had been agreed in a previous meeting that attendance at every meeting wasn't necessary (once a year would suffice) as long as a Youth Report was circulated in advance of the meetings.

ACTION:

- **David Gill to contact Andy and Dave for information to up date the action plan**
- **Cllr Whitehouse to send David Gill more details of the Youth Club activities which could be used as good news stories**
- **Cllr Whitehouse to revise the report which was circulated at the Annual Meeting – ‘Discovering Priorities’ for the success of the building**

8. Graffiti Report – Andy Garsed

Andy thanked Cllr Vincett for his work in this area. Andy has met with Jackie Webb who is developing a Policy for the area and Kenilworth is seen as a model area. There has been good feedback from WDC who have negotiated a good deal with Network Rail to share the costs of removing graffiti from 3 key bridges and repaint with anti graffiti paint –as a result of these savings telephone boxes will also be painted with anti graffiti paint.

Andy will also be assessing extra sites to clean up so is pleased to hear about the extra money available to this area.

ACTION: Andy to email details of the graffiti removal stories to David Gill to use as good news stories/press coverage.

9. Neighbourhood Watch Report – John Durling

John reported that in the first week of January, a letter was sent to all 50 NW co-ordinators inviting them to attend a co-ordinators meeting - and 25 attended. Information on crime and anti social behaviour was presented at the meeting, which was well received. The most worrying statistic was that burglary and vehicle crime in Park Hill had increased by 533% while the increase for Warwickshire was 8%. The NW has been restructured with one town co-ordinator and 4 wards co-ordinators – still looking to fill the position in St Johns ward.

Publicity and news ideas are needed to help increase the membership and awareness of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Also maybe investigate the possibility of hosting meetings at different venues – the Youth Centre might deter some older people from attending.

ACTION: David Gill to send out some publicity on NW and what is happening in the area

10. AOB

CCTV – Cllr Illingworth informed the panel that he is the chair of a recently formed local forum on CCTV issues. Crime in Leamington Spa accounts for 80% of CCTV coverage and the peak time is 1am.

Public Time – at the next meeting was discussed. The members of the public will be allowed to stay for the duration of the whole meeting, but will only be able to raise issues at specified times. Guidance will also be issued to members of the public outlining how the meetings will operate, larger venues

will be investigated. Also the public must be educated in all the different ways in which then can engage i.e. Annual meeting, emails, surgeries.

Publicity – needs to be increased for future meetings. If anyone wants to help with the publicity of the meetings, please contact Cllr Edwards

Kenilworth Safety Committee – Gill Peppitt a resident has been actively involved with the committee for the last thirty years and wanted to know how the committee could link with and contribute to the work of the SNP. It was suggested that the committee continue with their remit and that one person sits on this panel as a conduit. Cllr Edwards and Gill to discuss this proposal in a separate meeting.

Safety at School Crossings – parking shouldn't be allowed on the zig zag lines. Clarification is needed on this issue, to be taken forward by Sgt Bosworth

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6.30 pm on 8th June 2009 at the Council Offices, Southbank Road.

Report to Kenilworth Safer Neighbourhoods Panel and Kenilworth Town Council

9th and 12th February 2009

Safer Neighbourhood Panel / Community Forum for Kenilworth

1 Background

- a. Members will recall that we have been in discussion with officers representing the County and District Councils for a number of months regarding the introduction of a Community Forum for Kenilworth.
- b. We have been very keen to assure the officers of the value and effectiveness of our existing Safer Neighbourhoods Panel which, it is universally acknowledged has been an example of best practice.
- c. We have understood the desire of the County Council, Police Authority and District Council to establish a Community Forum for Kenilworth in order to improve ways in which they engage with local people on the services that are delivered in Kenilworth.
- d. However, we have impressed on the Officers that it would be insensitive, and inappropriate for a Community Forum to be established which either replaced or duplicated the role taken on by the Safer Neighbourhoods Panel – particularly as the Panel has ensured that, through its approach to its responsibilities, the Panel has identified and actioned a range of community priorities that have not been limited to local policing issues – e.g. our Graffiti Campaign, the provision of additional opportunities at Kenilworth Youth Centre and our work on vehicle speeding.
- e. We are pleased to say that, following extensive discussions, we have reached a conclusion on all of these matters that we would like to recommend for adoption by the Safer Neighbourhoods Panel and Town Council.

2 Conclusions Reached

We agreed that:

- a. We would all build on the successes of the Safer Neighbourhoods Panel and would not want to replace this with any new or additional mechanism for community engagement in Kenilworth
- b. As soon as possible (preferably from June 2009) the Kenilworth Safer Neighbourhoods Panel would be renamed 'Kenilworth Community Forum / Safer Neighbourhoods Panel' or equivalent with a view to the name of the Forum being simply 'The Kenilworth Community Forum' by the end of the year. This would ensure that we kept public confusion to a minimum and would enable us all to manage communications to the public in an effective way.

- c. The existing membership of the Safer Neighbourhoods Panel would be retained but additional members would be sought from NHS Warwickshire (Warwickshire PCT) and Warwickshire Police Authority
- d. The combined Forum /Panel would continue to be serviced and supported by Warwickshire County Council / Warwick District Council through the County Council's Partnership and Communities Team
- e. Both the County Council and the District Council would nominate a senior officer (at Head of Service level) to work with the Forum / Panel and ensure that issues arising from our engagement with the public are dealt with promptly and effectively
- f. We would ensure that our meetings (and for entire duration of each) are held in public with appropriate publicity and communications being supplied through the County and District Councils in agreement with the Forum Chair.
- g. The chairing arrangements for the meeting would be decided in due course but that the chairperson agreed would be:
 - A District Councillor or
 - A County Councillor or
 - (with the agreement of the County and District Councillors) a Town Councillor
- h. The Forum / Panel would continue to identify local priorities for actions. These would continue to include local policing priorities but may also include other issues of concern raised by local people (e.g. health, education, highways, local economy etc). As is the case currently, these local priorities will be included in an Action Plan which will form the basis of progress monitoring and reporting to the public

Recommendation

- a. We are very pleased with the outcome of these discussions and would recommend that they are adopted by the Safer Neighbourhoods Panel and Town Council
- b. Subject to this agreement, we would intend to finalise a set of Terms of Reference for the Forum /Panel that reflects these conclusions

Pauline Edwards

Norman Vincett

21st January 2009