

Wallisdown & Winton West and Ensbury Park Area Forum

Public Meeting Minutes

25 January 2014

Present: Chair (BC) Secretary (RT) Treasurer (CC) 3 committee members, Cllr Nicola Greene, Cllr Susan Phillips and 12 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Rod Cooper (current Mayor of Bournemouth), Conor Burns (MP)

Speakers: Mr Martyn Underhill (Police & Crime Commissioner), Sgt Steve Houston, PCSO Liz Addis and PCSO Susie Elliot from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

Welcome from Chair (BC)

1. Minutes accepted from last Public Meeting 19 October 2013 - Proposed by Wayne Cook; Seconded by Chris Caley
2. A presentation was given by Martyn Underhill explaining his role, responsibility and priorities. Main points:-
 - The role is to work with the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Panel to become more visible and effective in the eyes of the public.
 - To hold the Police to account and to hold reviews of policing strategy to ensure efficiency and good use of resources.
 - Funding appropriate resources to improve policing for example the body cameras which captures the situation digitally (and can be used as evidence) and mobile data.
 - Promote early intervention, dual diagnosis (in particular in cases of drug/alcohol related offences and mental health), licensing safe buses and wet tents (designated areas for the consumption of alcohol), reducing re-offending and the use of CCTV
 - Commissioning of services is also part of the role.
 - The PCC is involved in National and local agendas, meeting with 8 MPs across Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset, Councillors from District, Town, Parish and Unitary Councils, voluntary groups and forums and meeting young and old residents in the County.
 - Crime is down. PCSO's have been retained against the cuts. Use of the 101 number has improved. PCC advocates in Polish, Boscombe and older people communities to improve engagement.
 - Challenges ahead - financial cuts, making better use of existing buildings (Fire/Police co-located), late night levy (pubs/clubs to fund police) and transforming rehabilitation.
 - Future developments include providing body cameras for all police officers, mental health triage (avoiding police cells), improved case management and restorative justice boards.

Chair thanked Martyn for his presentation and time today and introduced Sergeant Steve Houston.

3. Sergeant Houston introduced his colleagues and gave an overview of the Neighbourhood Safety Team (NST) which covers the areas of Northbourne, Moordown, Muscliffe, Slades Farm and Redhill and Bournemouth University.

- There has been a 7% reduction in crime in the area overall
- Local concerns include the noise levels at Slades Farm from motorbikes and parking issues along Canford Avenue.
- Bicycle thefts and sheds broken into are also a concern however there is much a resident can do to protect their property. Advice can be given from the NST and a new initiative called 'Ring Master' which can give alerts to potential threats in the area. It was noted that most theft from motor vehicles occurred due to them not being locked!
- Forms were made available at the end of the forum for attendees to register their interest to join the 'Ring Master' scheme which is led by PCSO Liz Addis.
- Community Speed Watch was encouraged if speeding vehicles were a concern.
- The Guardian Scheme which is being used in Queen's Park is proving successful in tackling anti-social behaviour and local concerns. This scheme recruits regular users of a space such as Slades Farm or Redhill to report any suspicious behaviour or criminal activity to the correct agency. Guardians are given phone numbers of particular departments to contact depending on the situation, for instance graffiti to be reported to the council, mopeds riding across the field to the police. Funding may be available to bring the scheme to this area.
- The SNT promote education before enforcement in particular with young people. Close working partnerships with youth service and PCSOs to reach young people and educate them about the risks to the safety of the public during their antics such as riding mopeds across the field when young children are playing in the park.
- SNT also work with Councillors, social services. Schools and University, in particular with students to educate them about the use of social networks. Parties posted on websites such as Facebook can turn a small planned party for 20 into a house party of 200!
- Bogus callers have recently been reported. A request to inform the SNT of any neighbours who may be vulnerable, to ensure support can be given. Partnership with Age Concern and social services will help identify any support needed or appropriate sign posting to another agency.

Chair thanked Sgt Houston for his time and presentation and welcomed questions from the floor

Q1 Concerns over the 'rat run' in Dawes Avenue. Resident reported that the humps do not deter speeding as the cars straddle the humps without a need to reduce speed. Bournemouth Borough Council (BBC) are aware of the situation but no improvements have been made as yet.

Response from Cllr Phillips offered to give the resident an update after the meeting. Sgt Houston suggested the Speed watch scheme may help with enforcement in the mean- time.

Q2 Cllr Greene asked PCC Martyn Underhill about budget cuts as BBC were experiencing a 50% cut and were putting their house in order before cutting front line staff. Could the PCC give reassurance to the public?

Response – Mr Underhill explained that he and the Force had examined every area of expenditure under the One Team programme and that Dorset Police had already lost 500 officers and staff in the cost cutting process. He further explained that over 80% of the police budget related to staff costs and therefore further staff losses were inevitable. He had undertaken a review of the estate to try and lose buildings rather than staff. He talked of the 30 year vision, in other words, he had asked the police where would the buildings be in 2040 and to work backwards from there to try and establish which buildings to keep.

Chair thanked both speakers and the SNT for their presence at the forum.

4. Friends of Slades Farm - Date for next festival is 12 July 2014

The festival hopes to have a National competition at the velodrome; skate park competitions and displays in conjunction with youth service; a dog show, stalls, community garden activities and an open day at the Ensbury Park Community Centre.

A request for any willing volunteers to contact the WWWEPAF website to register their interest in supporting this event would be very much appreciated.

5. Posters on behalf of dog walkers - the Chair asked for a poster campaign to be launched to promote responsible dog owners. The A4 or A5 poster is to raise awareness of the health hazards of dog faeces left on the open space at Slades Farm.

Details of the campaign will be found on the WWWEPAF website and schools would be encouraged to participate.

6. Road Crossing update - BBC will review the priority of the crossing amongst other requests across the borough which will also be dependent on funding available.
7. Questions from residents - non taken
8. Presentation: young people - cancelled
9. Ensbury Park Community Centre - An update of activities available at the community centre was given and thanks to Wayne for his support in managing the centre during the transition of committees.

Further details of how to hire the hall and activities held are available on the WWWEPAF website

10. AOB - None

Future dates

Next Public Meeting & AGM Saturday 26 April 2014 to be held at BSVI, at 10.30am