

Camp Hill and Community Forum Meeting 9th June 2011
Held at Chess Centre, Cedar Road, Camp Hill, Nuneaton CV10 9EN

Attendees: Cllr Harvey, Cllr Jim Foster, Cllr McCarney, Cllr Sid Tooth, Dawn Dawson, PS Lampard, PC Sherwin, Dan Green, Graham Stanley, Sarah Elliot, Sophie Dangerfield, Heather Lowe, and Sarah Hunt

Apologies: Jane Atkins, Chris Egan, Jackie Earl, Cllr Ian Lloyd.

Chair: Dennis Harvey, meeting started 7.00pm

All officers gave brief introductions to the group and what their job role is.

Approximately: 12 Residents from Camp Hill 3 Galley Common, and 3 Whittleford Road, residents attended the meeting.

The police priorities going forward from the last meeting:

- Fly tipping
- Spinney Lane Junction
- Recycling

PC Sherwin advised that he was the officer for Camp Hill and Galley Common and that he would be working between the two areas along with two PCSO's.

A presentation from the Police was shown to the group. This showed that crime had gone up in both Camp Hill and Galley Common. All crime that was reported in the last quarter was 209 this quarter 283 crimes was reported which is a rise of 34%. Burglary has seen a rise, in particular, in Galley Common, however a lot of the crime could have been prevented and the Police have worked with the residents locally to show how to make their property more secured.

Motorbikes in the Camp Hill area on the Dingle are a problem youths are riding motorbikes across the Dingle, in particular when the children are leaving school. PC Sherwin advised that this is huge challenge and there are many issues regarding chasing illegal motorbikes. These include the safety of the child on the bike and the safety of other residents. However, in the last three weeks, we have seized a motor bike, and also given a warning to a parent who was allowing their child to ride a motorbike around the play area, if the parent is caught again, then the bike will be seized.

A resident asked if you hit a youth who was riding on a motorbike by accident in your car, as sometimes they are not visible, due to the dark clothing they wear,

what would happen to the driver of the vehicle. PC Sherwin advised that the driver of the car would be prosecuted.

A resident, also had an issue with motorbikes on the Dingle and surrounding areas, while walking their dog, nuisance youths tend to aim for your dog or yourself and turn away at the last minute, not only frightening your dog but residents as well. It was asked why not make an area for youths to ride their bikes legally. PC Sherwin advised that they had looked into this, however it would be too expensive to do, plus the police do not have the manpower to man it, plus there would be health and safety issues.

Cllr Frank McCarney, for the Police Authority, explained that as we all know by now, we need to make £23 million of savings this year and this will have an impact on the policing service. After the 9th May, we will see around 900 police move to new locations, the relocation of some of the police vehicles, possibly we will be looking at around 400 police vehicles being lost.

Bedworth Police station will still carrying on for the moment, however we will lose some police stations and we will look to sell off exiting buildings. Whether we will be able to sell off empty police buildings will be a challenge due to the current economic climate.

The Police are still very committed to their work despite the cuts. A lot of police officers will be more stationed based rather than on the beat. We may also, look to a strategic alliance with West Mercia Police. A resident asked is this all the cuts that will be made or will be there be further cuts. Frank advised that unfortunately this is just the beginning of the cuts.

Recycling – Sarah from NBBC advised that the new recycling scheme is imminent and will be going live in October. The new wheelie bins should be with residents late August/September. The council needs to make huge savings and this will save a lot of money as well as improving the current recycling scheme that we have at the moment. The new system will put an end to the colourful array of different bags and bags being blown around the streets on windy days.

Sarah gave a demonstration on how the new recycling scheme would work and advised that NBBC would be doing Road shows across the borough demonstrating how this will work.

It was asked if flats would be able to participate in the new recycling scheme. Sarah advised that there will be a trail run to see how it goes, however they will have blue bins and will be distributed to flats shortly.

Local Issues for the Agenda

1. Police's response to Residents calls.

A resident informed PC Sherwin that they are told to report crimes happening otherwise the police are unaware of a crime happening. However when you get through to the call centre to report that there are people on the roof of a property, and with Camp Hill's history of empty properties being set fire to, the resident was told to call the fire Brigade if she saw smoke coming out of the property not to call the police. The resident felt at the time that the officer who took the call was very condescending. The resident advised the police that they wonder why residents don't call the police when that is a response given. PC Sherwin advised that he was not happy with the response the resident received and advised that if you are not happy with the response then ask for the name and number of the officer taking the call.

Another Resident also called the police regarding empty properties on Hillcrest Road having people on the roof and smashing chimneys. When the resident contacted the police, the Police told the Resident, that it was not a police issue and that they would need to contact Camp Hill officers. PC Sherwin advised the resident that he was working with NBBC to come up with a solution to the properties being empty for a long period of time. Cllr Harvey explained that some of the properties are private owners and some times, it can take a while to track down proprietors, who are responsible for those properties.

1. **Crime** - discussed earlier.
2. **Motorbikes on the Dingle** - discussed earlier
3. **Scrap Man** - A resident raised the issue of scrap men disturbing the piece on a Sunday morning with the bugle playing. There was also a resident who had an issue with the scrap men taking items that are not scrap without even asking. Sarah from NBBC advised that they had actually had a sting operation with NBBC and the police, which was very successful and resulted in 4 vehicles being stopped, 3 were sized for none insurance. Work on this issue is continuing.
4. **Increased Crime Activity at Lovell Building Site Beechwood Road.**
Lovell had wanted to let the Forum know that crime had increased on their building site. Lovell has increased their security by employing 2 extra security guards and putting extra cameras up on the site.

PC Sherwin advised that he was aware of increased levels of crime, not just at the Lovell site in Camp Hill, the Lovell site on Bucks Hill and across the Board.

5. NBBC's response to residents Queries

A resident voiced concerns regarding NBBC's response to a query to the empty properties on Hillcrest Rd. This related to the property ownership. The resident was passed from one officer to another until he was then informed that the empty properties are not NBBC's responsibility and that they need to contact Pride in Camp Hill. Pride In Camp Hill officers project manage on behalf of NBBC, unless the empty properties were a former private tenant or a homeowner. Pride In Camp Hill help residents, who are within the regeneration project, vacate from their properties and securing the property once the resident has vacated.

6. Orchard Way

A resident queried what was happening with the leak on Orchard Way. Dawn Dawson advised that Severn Trent have taken responsibility for the leak. It is not a natural spring, it is indeed a underground pipe which has two leaks, however with the way the retaining wall sits on Orchard Way, Severn Trent are looking to build a gully to drain the water away. Dawn will have a much better update, when she meets with Seven Trent on Friday. (10th June).

7. Spinney Lane – Graham Stanley from WCC advised that he and Sarah Hunt had visited the site and no driver had an issue with turning right. The maximum time waiting to turn out of the junction was 10 -15 seconds max. Graham also advised that he also went to Spinney Lane on two other occasions (different times of the day), which also concluded that drivers did not have a long waiting time to turn out of the junction. Also, visibility was clear on all three visits. Yellow lines could not be painted on the roads, as there would be nowhere for residents on Whittleford Road to park their vehicles.

8. Dentists Camp Hill Road – Cllr Sid Tooth advised that he was still having a number of residents complaining about the people visiting the dentist, parking outside resident's properties and blocking their driveways. When the residents contact the police, they are advised that the police cannot do anything. PC Sherwin advised that we can issue tickets to residents who are illegally parked and that the police are driving around to find illegally parked cars. However, it was felt that this would take them away from crimes that are more serious. PC Sherwin did advise that residents can telephone the police if another driver is obstructing the driveway of another resident. However, this would not be classed as a serious crime.

Another resident who was speaking on behalf of another resident who lives in Bucks Hill cannot see on coming traffic when pulling off her drive due to the numbers of parked cars and vans on the pavement, which is illegal. Graham Stanley informed that this was a dispute between neighbours and that they should ask them to remove the cars and vans.

Cllr Foster explained that once the CPE officers were employed, that they would be enforcing the Parking regulations. This included drivers parking in front of resident's driveways or on pavements.

9. Cedar Road – It was discussed that Cedar Road did not look the way it was intended from the original design plan. It was discussed that the road layout was dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. Residents raised concerns that due to the lack of Road signage, some drivers are driving down the wrong side of the Road, no double yellow lines, drivers not using the parking bays (or parking bays are full), parking outside the Co-op by the new properties on Cedar Road, blocking the roadway so that drivers cannot drive past. Graham Stanley advised that he would speak to Chris Egan when he returns from annual leave to see ways of improving the safety of residents on Cedar Road.

10. Fire Service - A resident reported that he lived in a Cedar Road in one of the cul-de-sac's, he had a kitchen fire in his property and the Fire Brigade could not get into Cedar Road because of cars parked on the corners of the entrance to Cedar Road. Graham advised that we usually respond to parking issues when the fire brigade cannot respond to an emergency. Once we receive information from the fire service that there is a particular issue with a road, then we will look at ways of improving the situation.

11. Glendale – It was asked if anyone knew if Glendale's work was inspected after they have finished a job due to the fact that they leave a mess once they have cut the grass or other jobs that they do. Dawn Dawson confirmed that Glendale are the gardening contractors for NBBC and that once they have finished a job they have been assigned to, NBBC officers go out and inspect that the job has been completed and that they have cleared any grass cuttings etc.

12. Overgrown Vegetation - Sarah advised that no overgrown vegetation could be cut back until after the 4th July when the bird-nesting season is over. Zeb Ghumra wanted to thank PinCH and the Residents Forum for the walkway at the School.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Key Priorities going forward for the next meeting

- Motorbikes on the Dingle in Camp Hill
- Nuisance Youths Beechwood Road
- Road Safety Cedar Road Junction

Next Meeting: Thursday 15th September 2011 at 7pm

Venue: Haunchwood Sports and Social Club, Valley Road, Galley Common, Nuneaton CV10 9NH.