



**Outer East Area Committee**  
**Garforth & Swillington Forum**  
**& PACT meeting**

Meeting held 22 October 2013  
at Garforth Liberal Club

**Present:** Cllr Andrea McKenna (Chair,) Cllr Mark Dobson, Cllr James Lewis, Cllr Mary Harland, Mark Burns-Williamson (Police & Crime Commissioner), Insp Chris Jones (WYP), Shirley Morris (Garforth & District Crime Prevention Panel), Jacqui Smith (Chair – Swillington Parish Council), Ian Wallace (Great & Little Preston Parish Council), Kevin Pease (Pease of Garforth / Garforth Traders Chair), Jane Anne Parsons (SPT Uniforms, Garforth Traders), Martin Eggington (Garforth & District Lions Club), Philip & Karen Dunwell (Garforth In Bloom), Susan Ashworth (Garforth in Bloom), Ian Forster (Resident), Stuart McKenna (Swillington Resident), Shirley Raisey (resident), Glen O'Malley (Youth Service Team Leader), Jack Bate (Kippax Parish Council / Kippax in Bloom), Joy Bate (Kippax Parish Council / Editor) Adrian Lee (Youth Service), Simon Norman (LCC – SSE Locality), Pete Mudge (LCC - Area Support Team, minutes)

**Apologies:** Cllr Tom Murray, Sharon Elliott (Garforth Cluster), Alison Lane (Precious Bridal), Eric Pepper.

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introductions and apologies</b>	Action
1.1	Councillor McKenna welcomed everyone and apologies were noted.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Community Safety PACT – Insp Jones</b>	
2.1	Insp Jones said that year on year, crime figures have been reducing but at present they are comparable with the same time last year while burglaries are 12 higher than they should be.	WYP
2.2	ASB for the last three months continues to decrease and this is especially pleasing as this period includes the school holidays.	
2.3	While one burglary is one too many, apart from the city centre, Garforth has the lowest crime figures in Leeds and below the national average. This is certainly assisted by the No Cold Callers initiative.	All
2.4	“Project Immobilise” whereby images of treasured possessions are registered online at no charge is being more widely used. In the event of a theft or an item being found, they can quickly be recognised anywhere in the UK.	All
2.5	Q) How much of the increase in burglaries is due to us and how much to smash and grab? A) 15% is sneak in but the vast majority results from thieves travelling to Garforth. Some of the crimes are avoidable but a considerable number occur because thieves force their way in.  Q) Does improvement to the environment help reduce crime? A) Yes. If you have a property with one broken window and do nothing about it, within a short time it will have two broken windows and from there four etc. If people take pride in their area and schools and communities get involved it undoubtedly helps reduce crime.	
2.6	<b>Mark Burns-Williamson (Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire)</b>	
	Mark thanked the forum for inviting him and said that his job is to hold the Chief Constable and Force to account.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since taking office he has been involved with appointing a new Chief Constable, helping set the Police budget and appoint 44 new police officers. The overall role is to help people feel safer and actually be safer in West Yorkshire.</li> <li>• In today's visit to Garforth Swillington and Kipapx Methley area he has seen several projects and met staff and members of the local community.</li> <li>• The monthly perception survey for the area identifies traffic and rubbish as the two main problems followed by burglary and property crime a long way behind. Compared with the comparable population sizes of Manchester and the West Midlands, people feel safe and are indeed a lot safer in West Yorkshire.</li> <li>• The Safer Leeds Partnership is doing a great job protecting everyone and nearly a third of their budget is spent on helping people on the frontline.</li> <li>• Future projects in Leeds include contracting from 3 divisions to one which will save costs.</li> <li>• The Commissioner said he shares Leeds' ambitions for the city to become the best and safest in the UK.</li> <li>• Domestic abuse is too frequent and the Commissioner is aiming to get specialist workers to tackle sexual offences.</li> <li>• Central government is responsible for supporting victims and providing witness support however the Commissioner believes more can be done. Therefore pilot schemes investigating better ways to give evidence and after crime support are being trialled in areas across Yorkshire and Humberside.</li> <li>• Bobbies on the Beat are always seen as a priority and the Commissioner is committed to supporting that continuing and developing.</li> <li>• Meetings are held with the Chief Inspector every week to ensure everything is operating in the best possible way.</li> <li>• A recent worry was the English Defence League march in Bradford which cost the Police nearly £1m to oversee. The Commissioner received strong support in the forum for suggesting that at such events, the organisers – in this case EDL – should pay considerably towards the costs.</li> <li>• Under the Proceeds of Crime Act, half the proceeds go to the government and half are available locally. The Police are supporting an online petition for all the money to be available locally. The Commissioner encouraged everyone attending the forum to sign up on the website.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr McKenna thanked the Commissioner for attending and asked the police to pass on the Forum's thanks to PC Rosie Rowley who is retiring and will be sorely missed.</p>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</b>	
3.1	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.	
3.2	There were no matters arising which do not feature as an item in the meeting.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Planning</b> – Cllr Dobson	
4.1	<p>Week on week more and more towns and villages across the UK are forming teams to develop a neighbourhood plan to deal with planning development. Forming a Neighbourhood Plan will give Garforth a fighting chance to ensure scoping and shopping development is in the best interests of Garforth.</p> <p>21 people will be needed to form a Neighbourhood Plan committee and while councillors will not lead, they can be involved in this group.</p> <p>It is also understood that whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is being developed, no key planning decisions will be made in the town.</p> <p>A Neighbourhood Plan drop in session, attended by Councillors and Planning, is being held at the Miners Welfare Hall in Garforth on Saturday 2 November to assess public interest in forming a group.</p> <p>It was reported that even in advance of the Forum, 15 names had already come forward.</p> <p>Q) Having attended an NP meeting in another area, it is clear thorough organisation is vital.</p>	All

	<p>A) Absolutely. It must be a well-managed process and once everything is in place it can seek financial support.</p> <p>Q) The NP ultimately needs approval from a specialist inspector. Will the inspector be from Leeds or London?</p> <p>A) They must be an independent inspector from government's Neighbourhoods and Communities.</p> <p>Q) How many available development sites have already come off as a result of SHLAA?</p> <p>A) SHLAA is another step in developing the Core Strategy and the details are publicly available.</p>	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Older Persons Event Week</b> – Cllr McKenna	
5.1	This annual event was again very popular in Garforth and many hundreds of people joined in.	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Highways</b> – Cllr Dobson	
6.1	<p>Cllr Dobson said he had been told Garforth Main Street is scheduled for relaying in 2014/15.</p> <p>He was thanked for finding out the information so quickly and letting businesses know.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Locality Working Update</b> – Simon Norman	
7.1	<p>For the first half of this year there have been 975 jobs undertaken in Outer East including 176 special call outs to deal with fly tipping and dog fouling and drain clearance in Newton Green Rd, Ashby Lane, Woodland Drive and Beech Grove Avenue. Proactive patrols are undertaken to combat dog fouling and cameras are available to be used in hotspots.</p> <p>Proactive patrols are also used to stop wheelie bins being left out.</p> <p>Q) Right through Swillington village on the Wakefield Road the drains are blocked and this is especially bad at Bridge Farm and the junction with Bullerthorpe Lane.</p> <p>A) Simon will report this for cleaning.</p> <p>Q) On Brierlands Lane the hedge has become overgrown. In Summer this could not be undertaken because birds could be nesting. Presumably this is no longer an issue?</p> <p>Reference was made to a poorly maintained garden at a particular house. Simon subsequently took the details for investigation.</p>	<p>SN</p> <p>IF</p> <p>SN</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Services for Young People</b> – Glen O'Malley	
8.1	<p>Under the Youth Service restructure, Glen has been appointed Youth Manager for the South East. Having only been in post for a matter of days, he said he will bring more details to the next forum.</p> <p>Some posts have yet to be appointed but the team hopes to run all existing projects. These include National Citizen Panel work on social actions, football training and working with the Police to tackle hotspots.</p>	G'OM
<b>8.0</b>	<b>10 Minute Open Floor</b>	
8.1	<p>Q) Switching off street lights in Swillington to save public money was causing chaos.</p> <p>A) Councillors heard about it via Look North and were horrified they had not been consulted in advance. Officers were told that under no circumstances were they to progress until there had been full consultation with the public.</p>	
<b>11.0</b>	<b>AOB / Date of Next Meeting</b>	
11.1	Those attending joined the Chair in congratulating Garforth in Bloom, Swillington in	

	Bloom and Great Preston in Bloom for their excellent success in the 2013 categories.	
11.3	The next meeting will be on <i>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 at 6pm.</i>	<i>All</i>