

Notes of Meeting held 31st May 2012
Eric Atkinson Centre, Wellington Gardens, Bramley

1 Introductions

- 1.1 S McBarron welcomed 13 residents and Cllr Taggart to the meeting, 9 apologies were noted including Cllr Hanley and Cllr C Gruen.

2 Grounds Maintenance

- 2.1 Wayne Shirt, Leeds City Council outlined the new grounds maintenance contract. New contractor is Continental Landscapes, they are committed to employing local people, including 24 apprentices.

Quality has improved and complaints are 75% lower than the previous year.

40% of sites are checked, and CL are not paid if the site fails. This could include litter not picked up or shredded and grass not blown back from pavement.

Currently a lot of complaints about areas planted with daffodils. Not allowed to cut these until 1st June.

Complaints about the service can be made by calling 0113 222 44 06 or at the local Neighbourhood Housing Office

- 2.2 Questions were welcomed from the floor:

A number of sites that are not cut were mentioned including Houghton Rise, Snowdon Lawn and corner Rodley Lane / Leeds Bradford Road.

The community centre on St Catherines Drive is now under the contract and the management committee is very pleased.

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3 Police Update and Police Station Helpdesk Consultation

- 3.1 Inspector Wheeler and PC Young attended. Burglary is the number one priority and rates have reduced dramatically, down by 72 on the same period last year, from 89 to 17.

Summer is a traditional spike in burglary rates, and a campaign has started to make people aware of the need to keep windows and doors locked.

Vehicle crime has increased compared with last year. New initiative to issue fake parking tickets to vehicles that leave valuables on display.

A number of drug warrants have been executed and six arrests made.

Some anti-social behaviour around Bramley shopping centre, covert and high visibility patrols have identified the main perpetrators and this has now stopped after warnings to young people and their parents.

Nuisance bikes patrols continue. Residents urged to call the dedicated line 0113 2395092 or 101. Bramley Park regularly suffers from nuisance bikes.

- 3.2 Questions from the floor:

Illegal parking an issue – obstruction, by junction on Valley Road / Pollard Lane.

Police can only issue tickets in certain circumstances, and this could be one, will pass onto officers. Insp Wheeler meets regularly with LCC parking enforcement to discuss complaints and hotspot areas.

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- 3.3 The police are carrying out a consultation on police station helpdesks. The force has to save £96.5 million by 2015 and this is one of a number of service changes being considered. The Chief Constable has committed to Neighbourhood Policing Teams and there should be no reduction in this service. Insp Wheeler asked for views on the use of police station helpdesks.

- 3.4 A number of comments were made:
 Need somewhere for people to go to produce documents, could be on central location rather than police stations.
 Could have a civilian receptionist, most people going to police stations are there to answer bail, produce documents or solicitors visiting clients.
 Well over 90% of reports to the police must come over the phone. Few people would choose to go to the station to report a crime.
 The quality of the police service within the local community is important.

4 **Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Co-optees**

- 4.1 One nomination for chair was received, and S McBarron was re-elected.
 Co-optees for the Area Committee were elected, S McBarron and K Ritchie.
 No nominations for Vice Chair were received, this will be brought to the next meeting.

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5 **Any other business**

- 5.1 Discussion around how the forum is publicised. K Sibson to look at producing posters to send to community buildings and notice boards and press release ahead of meetings.
- 5.2 T Knapton and H Garrard spoke about this year's Bramley Carnival
 12pm parade starts, ending at Bramley Falls Park.
 Activities include a combined church service, reading project, mini Olympics, local bands and children's entertainers.
 There will be a conga around the park led by Dean Michael, formerly of Black Lace.
 Volunteers are needed, and there is a raffle with Jet 2 flights as first prize.
- 5.3 A Murgatroyd asked whether anyone had been involved in setting up an In Bloom group for Bramley. Cllr Taggart and forum members welcomed the suggestion. K Sibson to provide details of possible funding providers.
- 5.4 Jubilee event at Hunters Greave on Tuesday 5th June organised by Newlay and Whitecoates Residents' Association.
- 5.5 T Knapton asked whether there would be any festive lights this year. Cllr Taggart explained that Ward Members had taken the difficult decision to divert funding to help keep Bramley Baths open. Members are looking at possible funding options for lights this year, but nothing is guaranteed.
- 5.6 J Botham asked what happened to the Raynviles Residents' Association and asked whether it could be re-established. It ended when the two key members had to retire due to moving out of the area, and ill health. K Sibson advised that the Area Support Team and West North West Homes will support anyone wanting to set up a residents' group.
- 5.7 Question about whether the Pram Race was going to be run this year, had been cancelled some years ago due to health and safety concerns. Cllr Taggart wasn't aware of it.

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6 **Next Meeting**

- 6.1 26th July Parks & Countryside and Bramley Shopping Centre to be invited.