

Armley Forum

Minutes of meeting
Tuesday 19th November, Armley Library

Chair: Cllr Janet Harper

Present: Cllr J McKenna, Cllr A Lowe, Brenda Mason, Karen Anderson, Sandra Sheperd, Hazel and David Bootle, Harry Shields, Gill Hunter (Community Safety), Steve Williamson (West Yorks Police), John Pearson (LCC Environmental Action), J Ramell, S Richmond, F Smyth, D Peck, L Cheney, Shirley Friend, David & Margaret Stead, Brian Draper, Leonard Henrichs, E Meadowcroft, Mandy Kirby Briggs, Nick Briggs, J Newsome, P Hannah, Kate Sibson (Area Support), Nicole Darbyshire (Area Support)

Apologies: Amanda Willis, Keith Harrison, Margaret Quirke, Brook Nelson

1 Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1 Cllr Harper welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Councillors thanked Kate Sibson for her work on the Armley Christmas Lights switch-on event.

2 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed.
- 2.2 7.3 – It was reported that the I Love West Leeds event went well. Special thanks was given to Jane Earnshaw.

3 Police Update

- 3.1 Temporary Inspector Williamson, PCSO Broxup and PC Rob attended the forum. Inspector Williamson updated the forum on the current crime figures for 19 October – 19 November 2013:
 - Burglary – 20 reported (6 x insecure properties, 9 x bodily force / kick through, 5 x mole grip / tool)
 - Theft from Motor Vehicle – 30 reported
 - Theft of Motor Vehicle – 7 reported
 - Robbery - 4
 - Criminal Damage – 60
 - ASB – 63
- 3.2 The biggest increase in crime, across the district, has been theft from a motor vehicle. Inspector Williamson said that as there has been a crackdown on burglary, he thinks that criminals are looking at alternatives, hence the increase in theft from a motor vehicle.
- 3.3 Inspector Williamson reported on the move to district teams and sought to reassure people that, despite this, there would still be the same number of police on the streets of Armley. He also said that they were ongoing with the 'Darker Nights' project in the area.
- 3.4 Cllr McKenna said that there was a meeting in New Wortley on 18 November and that he was disappointed that there had been no police presence there. Inspector Williamson apologised for this and said that they would always seek to attend such events and engage with the community. He asked Kate Sibson to check the meeting invite. Cllr McKenna reported that residents were upset with police responses to drug dealing and anti-social behavior in New Wortley. Inspector Williamson said that when he first started in the role there were only a few calls coming through from that area so resources were

deployed elsewhere, however, after attending a community meeting, patrols etc were reinstated.

3.5 A resident said that police shouldn't just be looking at the number of calls, as often some people are too frightened to report crime. The resident listed a series of complaints that he had with police responses to a variety of crimes that he himself had reported. Inspector Williamson asked the resident to discuss the issues further with one of his colleagues and said that he would look into the complaints and report back to the next meeting. He also reassured people that the number of calls isn't the only thing that police look at to identify where police resources need to be placed.

3.5 Both Inspector Williamson and Gill Hunter from Community Safety requested that a reminder email be sent to them ahead of the next meeting so that they could ensure that someone would be present.

ND

3.6 Gill Hunter reported that there was to be a focus on cracking down on problems on Ley Lane. Inspector Williamson said that the problem was that people reported crime in the area but that they were then unwilling to come forward with a written statement and it therefore made it difficult to advance with any prosecutions. He said that they were looking at introducing a pilot in the area, similar to one that has been running in Birmingham, where court orders are issued to give police more powers to deal with crime. Gill said that there were extra resources being put into Armley Town Street and that they were targeting the removal of rough sleepers from the high rises too.

3.7 Cllr Lowe said that she thought that the problem with street drinking had got better. She also said that Town Street had been in a disgusting state and that she complained to managers as there had been dog fouling all up the street outside Armley One Stop Shop. Inspector Williamson said that they were looking at a joint date for a clean up operation. Cllr Lowe said that she would encourage people to give a statement if they see people not clearing up dog fouling, so that the council can issue warnings.

3.8 Inspector Williamson said that they were looking to set up a Community Aid Network; there is one already running in Bramley where people can access dedicated advice about who to contact about certain problems. He also asked people to sign up for a problem solving group, for people to meet with the police and partner agencies to discuss specific problems. He said that if anyone was interested then they could pass on their details at the end of the meeting.

3.9 A resident said that he wanted to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Raynville Crescent. Inspector Williamson told him to liaise with him after the meeting. Councillors also offered their support to the scheme.

3.10 Cllr Lowe said that a resident in the Arleys had reported low level anti-social behavior and asked the police to patrol the area. Inspector Williamson said that he would get more information and report back to the next meeting.

3.11 Cllr Harper thanked the Police for attending. She also announced that there is a Challenge Hate Crime event at Leeds Civic Hall on Wednesday 4 December 10am – 2pm.

4 Leeds Let's Get Active

4.1 Unfortunately Louise Walker from Leeds Let's Get Active wasn't present at the meeting, however, Kate Sibson from the Area Support Team was able to provide an update on the scheme. Leeds City Council is running a project to offer free access to leisure centres at specific times to encourage people who aren't exercising to become more active. The offer is open to all, and to take it up, residents should sign up online at www.leedsletsgetactive.co.uk. The library can offer advice on how to do this if anyone is unsure.

4.2 Armley leisure centre is offering the following free sessions:

Swimming:

Mon – Fri: 2-3pm

Sat & Sun: 1-2pm

Gym:

Mon & Tue: 12.30 – 1.30pm

Wed – Fri: 12-1pm

Sat: 2-3pm

Sun: 12-1pm

A timetable will be circulated with the minutes.

5 WNW Locality Team – John Pearson

5.1 John Pearson reported that there are currently 80 cases ongoing in Armley that linked into Bramley too. He said that there had been a spate of fly tipping around the Armley ward just recently and asked residents to report anything that they might see i.e. vehicle number plates, dates, times, descriptions. He asked that residents not approach any fly tippers. John said that he had moved approx. 40 tonnes from the area in the past 6 weeks and about 80 or 90 bags had been loft insulation. He said that he thinks that it is a wagon that is disposing of the materials, mainly in walking areas, and that his team is keen to catch the person responsible.

5.2 A resident reported that some building rubble had been tipped near the woods at Redcote Lane. JP said that he would look into this.

5.3 JP said that there was a plan in place to clear up Moorfield Road. He said that they were looking to put up CCTV in the area to monitor the fly-tipping, however, he said that unfortunately they firstly had to put up notices to inform people that the CCTV was to be installed.

5.4 JP said that he had noted that there was some dog fouling outside the One Stop Shop this evening and that he would be getting it cleared up in the morning.

5.5 JP said that the issue with clearing up the bin yards in the area was ongoing. He said that they now had a plan for the Bardens and Troy Road and that they were working with housing and private landlords to resolve the issue.

5.6 There are 4 action days in Armley planned. He also asked people to be patient with the new bin rounds and if anyone had any problems they should contact the Council. All Councillors thanked JP for his hard work.

6 Any Other Business

6.1 A resident commented on the Remembrance Sunday event at the Cenotaph regarding the lack of publicity and microphone not working properly. As next year is the 100th anniversary, Cllr McKenna suggested the forum could offer support to the organisers to hold a special ceremony to commemorate it.

7 Future Agenda Items

7.1 It was requested that the Remembrance Sunday event be put on the agenda for the September / October meeting. ND
Contact Nicole Darbyshire in the Area Support Team with any requests for the agenda.

7.2 Cllr Harper thanked people for their attendance and wished them a happy Christmas and new year.