

Minutes of Meeting 30th January 2014
Eric Atkinson Centre, Wellington Gardens

Chair: Cllr Caroline Gruen

1 Welcome & Introductions

1.1 Cllr Gruen welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Norah Gibson.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

3 Police update

3.1 Sgt Goulden attended with two PCSOs. A newsletter was circulated highlighting initiatives and achievements in the NW division.

3.2 Crime statistics from 1st December 2013 to 30th January 2014

Burglary 16 - down 41 on the same period last year

Theft from motor vehicle - 34, up by 9

Theft of motor vehicle - 13, up 1

Criminal damage - 55, down 2

Burglary other - 27, down 40

Sgt Goulden advised that the tactics used to bring down the burglary rate so successfully will be used to tackle theft from motor vehicle which is rising.

3.3 There were no questions from the floor and Cllr Gruen thanked the officers for attending.

4 Planning Issues

4.1 Sarah Hellawell introduced herself as the new Principal Planning Officer for the inner west area. Her team plays a key role in planning applications and works with developers to bring sites forward for development. She is keen to hear from local residents about planning issues in their community.

4.2 The planning service has had a quiet few years but planning applications are picking up now, including the recently opened Aldi store and an expected application is in development for the former Belgrave Works site to create a new retail development. Twelve houses have been approved for a site on Half Mile Lane, and planners are working with an applicant on a proposal for an indoor skatepark facility on Broad Lane.

4.3 Cllr Gruen welcomed Sarah's attendance at the forum and took questions from the floor: Lord Cardigan Pub site, the upkeep has been raised several times at the forum, can anything be done to speed up the development? There was a plan in place for residential dwellings but that has been abandoned. The owners are looking at other options and they will be reminded of their responsibilities in relation to the upkeep of the site.

4.4 Where is the skatepark development? On Westfield House, Broad Lane, opposite Beecroft Gardens. It will take over part of the old warehouse space, and planners are working with the applicant on a range of issues including parking and accessibility.

4.5 There is a need for more housing in this area, what is being done? Gradually developers are coming forward and there are a few sites being discussed including a former care home off Calverley Lane. Planners are trying to work with developers to meet the needs of the local community.

- 4.6 Complaint raised about the Abbey Pub site, only half of the properties have been completed since the collapse of the market and residents are living on a building site. S Hellawell to investigate and report back.
- 4.7 What is happening with the Bell Lane medical centre? The application is still being worked on.
- 4.8 Are there plans for the Mount Cross building on Broad Lane? Plans are at a very early stage and it's not appropriate to comment yet. Updates will be provided at a future forum meeting. Cllr Gruen thanked Sarah for attending.

5 **Manor Park Patient Representatives**

- 5.1 Annabel and Adrian Gaskin are both involved in patient advocacy at Manor Park Surgery, and Adrian is the Chair of the Patient Voices group. They were invited to the forum to talk about the new Care Quality Commission standards for patient care and how people can get involved with the local practice.
- 5.2 The Care Quality Commission inspects all hospitals, GP practices and Care Homes. Following the scandal at Staffordshire Hospital Trust, the standards of care expected by professionals has been overhauled, and patients will be involved in the new inspection regime. Care should be safe, effective, well led and responsive to the ordinary person's needs. It is important that patients are aware of the expected standards, and a copy of these was circulated at the meeting.
- 5.3 The Patient Voices group at Manor Park is very active and works with the GPs and practice staff. It was a recommendation from the group that led to an early and late close one day a week. All patients are welcome to join the group and come to meetings, see the notice in the surgery for more information. Members of the committee will take any non-clinical complaints or concerns to the practice management.
- 5.4 The group is trying to publicise the need for everyone to ensure their family knows their wishes in case of serious illness or death. Everyone should make a will and you can even pay for your funeral in advance. Keep all your personal financial information together and tell someone where it is.
- 5.5 The Chair welcomed questions and comments from the floor:
 Q: Are there plans for a Wellbeing centre like the one in Pudsey? The Wellbeing centre has a range of services including weight management and advice on healthy lifestyles.
 A: Councillors would like to speak to GPs directly about local medical provision and GPs from different practices will be invited to attend a future forum.
- 5.6 A forum member supported the idea of a patient board and would like to have one at Blenheim surgery.
- 5.7 Q: There are not enough home visits, sometimes patients who request one are asked to come into the surgery.
 A: All GPs have a record of people who can't come into the surgery. Issues like this are inspected as part of the CQC visit.
- 5.8 Q: Why is there a delay in getting planning permission for the new surgery? The planning approval was challenged in the court by Lloyds pharmacy and the Judge found in favour of the council. The original plans have been delayed by two years, and feasibility and financing need to be looked at again before work can start. Any works will be within the footprint of the current site.

6 **Bramley Community First**

- 6.1 Dianne Law from Bramley Community First grant fund attended the forum to remind residents that grants of up to £2,500 are available for community projects. In the past, grants have been awarded to Bramley carnival, Bramley Christmas Light Switch On and a project at the canal.

6.2 Eight people are on the grants panel which meets each quarter. There are currently two vacancies on the panel and they are looking for new people to join. The panel is keen to change membership over the course of the project to get new perspectives and be representative of the community. Members of the forum are invited to volunteer or nominate someone who might be interested.

6.3 A member of the forum nominated Kevin Ritchie who confirmed he would be interested in joining the panel.

7 **Bramley War Memorial and World War One Commemoration**

7.1 Planning permission has been approved for the new War Memorial which will be placed at the entrance to Bramley Park. It is hoped that it will be constructed before the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War in August.

7.2 Councillors are keen to support commemoration events and help co-ordinate a local programme. Anyone interested in supporting this should contact the Ward Members.

8 **Area Committee Update**

8.1 Kevin Ritchie, Area Committee co-optee updated the forum on the December meeting of the Inner West Area Committee.

8.2 Housing officers talked about the abolition of West North West Homes as all council housing is back under full council control.

8.3 Parks & Countryside reported that Rodley Park is being improved in the spring.

8.4 Environmental Services attended and advised them about a case where an Asda van parked on a grass verge and got stuck leaving behind a deep rut. There is no enforcement policy on this but Asda have been approached to pay for the remedial works.

9 **Any other business**

9.1 A query was raised about the proposed plaque acknowledging Denise Atkinson's service to the local community. It was reported that it will be in place before the next forum meeting.

10 **Date and time of next meeting**

10.1 Thursday 27th March, 7pm Eric Atkinson Centre, Wellington Gardens.