

Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum

Date: 27th January 2011

Present: Laura McGhee (Chair), Cllr N Taggart, Lee Ingham, J & M Houseman, M Bracup, T Holland, S Clark, M Bell, J Lockett, L Hawkins, B Cutts, P Miles, M Tyson, N Gibson, S Longley, JB Quimby, Alison Friebe.

Apologies: Tom Maynard, Cllr T Hanley, B & K Miller, Cllr D Atkinson, S Withers.

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Laura McGhee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 5 brought forward: Stephen McBarron is standing down as Chair of Bramley Community Forum and also as co-optee to the Inner West Area Committee. The meeting gave a vote of thanks to Stephen for all his hard work at the forum and in the community.

AF will send out the nomination forms with the papers for the next forum.

Action

AF

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 Correction: (6.1) The footpaths at Rodley Park have not yet been restored – they are still being worked on.

3.0 Police Feedback (PCs MB & TH)

3.1 Police – recent priorities include drug-dealing on the Ganners, a couple of fires on Ganners Green and burglary.

3.2 Residents reported fires:

- Bins outside the flats on Rossefields just before Xmas;
- By bench on footpath between Rossefield Rd and Rossefield Mt;
- In St Peter's churchyard near the school.

3.3 There are 2 problem tenants at the Rossefields – Housing are aware.

3.4 There have been several burglaries on the Landseer estate – the level of burglaries has been consistent here for several months. This is not restricted to evenings either but is happening at all times of day.

Police - 2 males have been arrested here recently who are persistent offenders so this could impact.

One resident questioned the measures being used by the Police to combat this consistent burglary etc problem. These include:

- High visibility patrols;
- Disrupting known offenders;
- CID work.

3.5 A few months ago there was a spate of burglaries on the Ganners - 2 arrests were made and imprisoned vastly reducing the burglary rate.

A general discussion about burglary followed. Cllr NT asked about support services – are they in place? It is accepted that the majority of this crime is by young male drug-users stealing to support their habit. What is available to interrupt this cycle? LMc agreed to contact BARCA to ask for someone to come and speak to us (with possibly a client). Cllr NT believes it can help for us to understand the situation from an offender's point of view. Often these people come from chaotic or unhealthy family backgrounds/lifestyles.

LMc

3.6 A resident reported a white transit van on the corner of Wesley View in Rodley. This is not taxed and has been static here for over 2 yrs. It also is an obstruction.

- Police agreed to follow up.
- 3.7 Police – there are several operations ongoing in the area at the moment. Capture car is also being used in the area.
- 3.8 Cllr NT mentioned the spending cuts that the Council are having to make – £90M. The Cllrs have pledged to protect the funding the Police receive however for the next financial year – this funds PCSOs etc.

4.0 Bramley Elderly Action (Lee Ingham)

- 4.1 Additional funding from Leeds City Council means that BEA are able to extend the area they cover to now include Swinnow and parts of Stanningley. The Stanningley & Swinnow Live at Home scheme will continue but members can also join BEA.
- 4.2 BEA will be getting a new member of staff.
- 4.3 Hoping to setup a new singing group (at the Britannia at Swinnow) for Alzheimers sufferers.
- 4.4 Lee has met the Head teachers of the local primary schools around the 'Bramley for all ages' project. Lots of activities have already taken place including poems, singing. Computer buddies at the library etc).
The area would really benefit from an Intergenerational development worker – and there is a lot of support for this however it is a hard time to fund raise at the moment. The community can really benefit from the old and the young spending time together.
- 4.5 The organisation for this year's Bramley Carnival is underway. This becomes more popular and successful every year. LI was keen to say that the carnival belongs to the community so it's what the community makes it. This year there are more organisations involved and the schools are keen – also there is a marquee this year so people can sit down.
The committee received some funding from the Community Fund last year and some is left for use this year.
One idea was raised for the marquee – a resident has access to a film of the carnival through the years which could be shown inside.
The Carnival is Sunday 17th July at Bramley Park.
- 4.6 BEA are looking into the possibility of taking over the closed Bramley Lawn day-centre. This would be much larger premises than they have at present which would expand the range of services they could offer and be more accessible to more people. The centre is on Stanningley Rd near 2 sheltered housing complexes. BEA may be able to get this building through Community Asset Transfer – Cllr TH is very supportive.
Cllr NT also welcomed this very positive news and the meeting agreed their support.
BEA will be getting the building surveyed as a next step.
- 4.7 NG – This year's theme for the West Leeds Debt Forum is 'protecting the most vulnerable'. NG asked if LI would consider it useful to have the targeting of elderly people by loan sharks on the agenda of their annual meeting.
A discussion followed around loan sharks targeting vulnerable people eg the elderly – often local business are also involved in supplying credit at inflated interest rates. Royal Mail do not help by delivering offers through the post and the banks also do nothing. Cllr NT feels there should be a change in legislation and an upper interest limit set. Cllr NT/LMc agreed to look at inviting someone to discuss this at a future forum.
- 4.8 LI – BEA currently have 2 community shops that are doing well – manned by volunteers – one on Stanningley Rd and one at Bramley Shopping Centre.
- 4.9 Lee added that BEA have a fantastic network of volunteers – up to 142!

5.0 Bramley forum Chair – see above.

6.0 A O B

- 6.1 AF asked to contact Parks for an update on Rodley and Bramley Park works. AF to invite Phil Staniforth to the next meeting. Promises of a park-keeper and new footpaths were promised in previous years so why haven't these been delivered.
- 6.2 A question was raised as to the ownership of the land to the rear of Westover Rd. Westover Rd is also used as a rat-run. Both issues have been previously investigated by Cllr NT who promised to discuss this after this meeting. In the past there has been no agreement reached as to where a point of closure could be implemented on Westover Rd.
- 6.3 A question was raised as to parking around Bramley Railway Station – too many cars park on Elder Rd which leads to access problems. There is some spare land near the station – can this not be used to extend the carpark.
Cllr NT – the land is privately owned. The extension to the carpark is on a long list of railway improvements however recent government cuts will mean further delays to these.
- 6.4 Concern was expressed as to high charges in NCP car parks. Cllr NT – there is no way to control these as they are private car parks – they charge what they believe the market will pay.
- 6.5 AF asked that if anyone had any requests for speakers from any of the Council departments then to please let her know.

7.0 Next meeting

31st March 2011

Eric Atkinson Centre, Wellington Street, off Waterloo Lane, Bramley

AF