

Present: Cllr Andrea McKenna (Chair), Cllr Murray (LCC), Adrian Lee (Youth Service), Kevin Pease (Pease of Garforth), Philip Dunwell (Garforth in Bloom), Susan Ashworth (Garforth in Bloom), Shirley Raisey (GRA), Anne Murphy (Swillington Parish Council), Insp Chris Jones (WYP), PCSO Lisa Tate (WYP), PCSO Ruth Butler (WYP), Tim Dixon (LCC Senior Engineer), Sharon Elliott (School Partnership Trust) Pete Mudge (LCC Area Management). Graham Ambler (West Yorkshire Fire Service) was called away from meeting to an emergency.

Apologies: Cllr Dobson, Mark Robinson (LCC Transport Strategy)

1.0	Introductions and Apologies	Action
1.1	Councillor McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies noted.	
2.0	Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 March 2011 and matters arising	
2.1	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. No matters arising.	
3.0	Community Safety	
3.1	<p>Report from Police – Insp Jones said the good news was that over the last 6 months, overall crime had reduced significantly in both wards with a total of 463 incidents this year and 516 last. The bad news was that burglaries had risen by 20 resulting in 64 burglaries since April 2011. It was clear that many of the burglars came from other areas and measures are already in place to reduce last year’s peak period of November.</p> <p>The North East Police region is split into 8 operational areas and of these Garforth has by far the lowest levels of crime.</p> <p>Q. Cllr Murray said the crime reduction in Garforth is commendable but requires adequate levels of policing. Is there any risk that the Police will reduce the number of officers and PCSO’s in the area.</p> <p>A. Neighbourhood Policing is at the core of Police policy and there are no plans to reduce numbers in the Garforth Swillington area.</p> <p>Q. Kevin Pease said an elderly couple had told him they were the only ones in their residential block willing to go out as all the rest were too scared.</p> <p>A. Incidents of trouble and gangs congregating are falling month on month. It was agreed that TV has a lot to do with perverse fear of crime.</p> <p>Q. Whilst not aware of any incidents, has off-licence on main street led to any problems.</p> <p>A. No it has not. Not even seen people hanging around outside.</p> <p>Q. Can the Police end pick-up trucks driving around touting for scrap metal in residential areas. This problem is made worse as the</p>	

3.2	<p>Council collection often takes many weeks.</p> <p>A. While the Police cannot stop them driving around, they can ensure the drivers have all the necessary permissions and that their vehicle is properly maintained.</p> <p>Cllr McKenna explained that the Fire Insp had previously left the meeting to deal with an emergency but she is on the Authority's Board and so was happy to discuss the "Fire Chief Launches Blueprint for Change" proposal. Cllr McKenna outlined the plans and said they do not affect Garforth Swillington at all as the stations proposed for closure were Gipton, Stanks, Rawdon and Otley and new ones were proposed for Killingbeck and Manston. In addition staff numbers would not be affected in Garforth Swillington as the station was not due to lose any staff through early retirement.</p>	
4.0	Environmental Services	
4.1	<p>Report from Community Environmental Support Officer – No-one was in attendance from Environmental Services which may be as a result of Michelle McGill no longer being able to attend as she has a new role in the Council. The matter will be resolved for the next Forum.</p>	
5.0	10 Minute Open Floor	
5.1	<p>Tim Dixon said that on behalf of the Council he is undertaking consultation on opportunities to switch off street lights. He said the proposals would be for some to be removed, some to be left on and others to be off from 2-6am.</p> <p>Q. If the savings are made in Garforth could any of the money saved come back to be used in the town?</p> <p>A. While Garforth may be one of the first areas, the assessment will eventually cover all of Leeds so he could not comment on how the savings would be used.</p> <p>Everyone agreed the matter should be discussed in detail at the forum in 6 months times.</p>	TD/ PM
6.0	Christmas Lights	
6.1	<p>The switch on is going ahead on 25th November after Garforth councillors approved sufficient funding. This will include fireworks however it is hoped businesses can contribute £500 towards this. Garforth Lions are again arranging the event.</p>	Lions
7.0	Garforth to City Centre Cycle Route	
7.1	<p>Maps and outlines were circulated of the planned cycle route running from Garforth to the City Centre – via Colton, Halton and Richmond Hill. This will be one of 17 routes around Leeds and is set to be the fifth route completed.</p> <p>Q. At Thorpe Park end there were formerly bollards to stop cars entering. These have now been removed and cars are entering and dumping rubbish. Can the bollards please go back.</p> <p>A. Pete Mudge said he would ask Highways and respond.</p>	PM

8.0	Garforth Parking Strategy	
8.1	<p>Tim Gave a presentation on parking problems affecting Garforth town centre concentrating on his 9 recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Immediately convert 24 spaces to 4-hour spaces in either Main Street or Barleyhill Road car parks, the remaining spaces (128) to be converted to 2-hour spaces – this number to be revised depending upon adoption and success of other strategy elements below. No regime change is envisaged in the Greengrocer’s car park. 2) Immediately review signing, lining and traffic orders on Main Street (including zig-zag lines, location of bus stops and narrower running lanes) with a view to providing short-stay parking of 30 minutes duration where-ever possible. 3) Review disabled parking provision in the public car parks and redistribute 4 spaces along Main Street. 4) Review the need for bus timing points on Main Street. 5) Review resident parking areas to allow dual short-stay use, if appropriate. 6) Immediately create additional parking areas (including motorcycle parking) where possible e.g. by enlarging Main Street car park (demolish the garages), reviewing car park layouts. Leeds City Council should ensure the 12 bays are utilised behind the old One Stop Shop building and bring the Recreation Ground car park up to parking standards for long-stay use. 7) Encourage sustainable travel and efficient use of private car parks (including Town End and Gascoigne’s) within the business community. 8) Complete a street audit of Main Street to support identified parking improvements. 9) Continue with the existing parking management regime using comprehensive waiting restrictions, but keep under review the possibility of introducing Pay and Display. <p>In addition, there are some non-strategic measures that would improve Garforth’s parking experience and the future wellbeing of the town centre. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement any changes/additions to signing to improve access to parking and information for visitors • Introduce gaps in lines of parked vehicles on Church Lane and Barleyhill Road • Set up a regular car park inspection regime to identify the need for any improvements or maintenance • Implement a programme of maintenance and improvements as 	

	<p>necessary</p> <p>Review walking routes between car parks and destinations and between housing areas and the town centre and implement improvements (including targeted enforcement of footway parking) as necessary to assist access.</p> <p>The Action Plan must remain up to date and will require continual review. Given the nature of the proposed changes, a review within one year would be appropriate.</p> <p>Q. Would it be possible to remove the guard rails at the junction with Church Street as these originally went up because of the school. The school has long since gone yet the rails remain and are a danger as people walk outside them so they can cross the road more easily.</p> <p>A. That is a recommendation the town could make. Possibly via a trader's group.</p> <p>Q. Would significant costs be saved if a single application was made for several changes?</p> <p>A. Yes this may be possible with some points.</p>	
9.0	Services to Young People	
9.1	<p>Adrian provided a brief summary of services noting that 279 young people had received more than one contact over the last 6 months.</p>	
9.2	<p>Swillington: The events on offer were detailed and ranged from zumba to discussion groups.</p> <p>Projects had combated anti-social behaviour and getting youth involved in media project to produce a film about violence, weapons and gangs. (POCA helped with funding.)</p> <p>Residential event taking place at Herd Farm Centre.</p> <p>Once skate park is built youth service will work with people at that location.</p>	
9.3	<p>Garforth: Lots of work about dangers of drugs and alcohol as well as a confidential issues session.</p> <p>Leaders are also training youth to assist with youth club which will give them an opportunity to gain new specialist knowledge.</p> <p>Mobile drop ins at skate park on Wednesdays.</p> <p>Future work in Garforth: Continue campaign against drugs and alcohol, skate park exhibition. Look for health drop ins and a longer term aim is to find an indoor venue for use on Friday nights.</p>	
9.4	<p>Sharon then gave an update about extended services. The 2011 holiday programme had included Key Stage 2 activities however this had gained a poor turnout as parents anticipated it would provide cheap childminding throughout the summer holidays. When they discovered this was not the case they found alternate places for their childminding.</p>	
9.5	<p>Breeze events mainly went well and most were full up.</p> <p>Other activities included a day out at Lightwater Valley for 27 families with issues.</p>	

9.6	Extended services now has three family support workers with one concentrating on NEETs.	
9.7	<p>After school programme attracts 300 – 400 children involved in all sorts of activities. Events include dance activities and much more however Friday events have been scrapped as youth don't seem interested in returning to school on that evening.</p> <p>Forthcoming highlights include the Christmas Fair on 19th November and the Youth Council meeting in December of January.</p> <p>Q. Are there any youth activities which could link in with Garforth in Bloom</p> <p>A. Youth Service would like to help with activities however they have very limited staff resources and it would be impractical to have staff dedicated to additional areas. Adrian will get Philip's details so that they can correspond over any opportunities.</p> <p>Q. How do children from Swillington get to Garforth events as the bus service is infrequent.</p> <p>A. Know it's difficult but there are always at least some coming to Garforth activities.</p>	
10.0	AOB / date of next meeting	
10.1	In light of Peter Mudge being a town centre manager and the Traffic Strategy calling for a trader's Association to be formed, Kevin Pease asked if Peter could encourage trader's to form a group and it was agreed with the intention of holding a meeting early next month.	PM
10.2	Kevin asked if the Forum could be more widely promoted and it was agreed it should.	PM
10.3	Cllr McKenna said the next meeting should be in 3 months with the intention of them being quarterly from now on.	PM