

Notes of Meeting held 4th October 2012
Eric Atkinson Centre, Wellington Gardens, Bramley

1 Introductions

- 1.1 Cllr C Gruen welcomed 19 residents and Cllr Hanley to the meeting, 6 apologies were noted.
- 1.2 Cllr Gruen invited Jane Maxwell (WNW Area Leader) to update the group on constitutional issues that had arisen about the Election of the Chair. The Forum was chaired by Cllr Atkinson until she stepped down due to ill health when a resident was elected as chair; however by doing this, the Forum was operating outside the council's constitution which states that an elected member should be appointed as Chair by the Inner West Area Committee. Therefore at Area Committee on 5th September 2012, Cllr Gruen was elected Chair and Cllr Hanley as Vice Chair.
- 1.3 Cllr Gruen facilitated the election of the second Co-Optee to the Inner West Forum (following the resignation of the previous incumbent) Karen Smales was elected by 10 – 8 (1 resident joined the meeting late and therefore did not participate in the vote).
- 1.4 There were two points raised about the notes of the previous meeting.
Point 3.4 - should have read "theft from vehicles has increased by 4 to 23".
Point 4.3 – clarity was requested regarding the Bramley Shopping Centre car park if it was to be improved or installed. It was agreed Paul Smith would be invited to the next meeting.

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2 Police Update (Inspector Mark Wheeler)

- 2.1 Priority Crime update - house burglaries in the period have dropped from 101 to 27 which is a reduction of 74 and also equates to 203 less burglaries since 1st April 2012. Theft from vehicles has decreased by 1 to 29; theft of vehicles has increased from 10 to 3 and robberies have decreased by 2. The decrease in burglaries has been due to residents following advice to lock doors and windows, and there have also been continued patrols visible at all hours.
- 2.2 At the last meeting a day of action was requested on Leeds & Bradford Road targeting speeding vehicles, illegal drivers including those without valid insurance and to carry out "Smiley Sid" operations. As a result, a day of action was held on 19th September and included use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) capability. This day led to recovery of 3 vehicles for no insurance, 10 fixed penalty notices for offences such as excess speed, no seat belt and using a mobile phone whilst driving. Tuesday 18th September "Smiley Sid" was used on St Catherine's between 12.45 and 3.15pm 30 vehicles were checked and 2 were speeding. Kevin Ritchie thanked the Police for acting on the request.
- 2.3 Leaflets about the Darker Nights campaign were distributed including advice about using timer switches and energy saving bulbs when it is dark and houses are empty.
- 2.4 A resident noted that a car parking at the bottom of Ganners Lane was blocking the footpath; officers will investigate. A discussion took place about reasonable defense of property, Inspector Wheeler noted there is no strict definition and to call 999 should a situation arise.
- 2.5 A resident noted that 30th September 2012 was National Police Memorial Day and paid tribute to the courage and dedication of the Police, this was particularly poignant in the light of two recent tragic deaths of officers in Manchester. A minutes silence was observed.

3 Fire Service Update (Divisional Commander Nick Smith)

- 3.1 A presentation on the proposed changes to the Fire Service and provision in the local area. The changes are a medium – long term plan which will establish what the service will look like in 2020; As a result of public sector cuts; West Yorkshire is losing £6m in the first year, with significant reductions still to come throughout the next few years. The consultation ends on the 30th November 2012.

- 3.2 There has been a big reduction of risk recently due to proactive work by the Fire Service who spend time visiting schools, fitting smoke alarms and offering prevention education. In West Yorkshire, there has been a 30% risk of fire reduction in the last 10 years.
- 3.3 The plan will ensure resources are in the correct location; changing the way fires are tackled (ie using small vans rather than the engines to attend small fires); ensuring value for money and having regular audits. WYFRS is already one of the most efficient services.
- 3.4 Risk profiling has been undertaken to give an idea of the risk in a particular area. In 10 years Stanningley will be low risk. Response times will vary by risk area– very high risk areas will have 7 minutes response target, low risk will have 11 minutes. The response time target for Stanningley will be 8 minutes but the actual response time will be 4.35 minutes. Further review information can be found at <http://www.westyorkshirefire.gov.uk/public-consultation>
- 3.5 Locally, Stanningley Fire Station would stay open but with a reduction to 1 engine (from 2). It is rare to have 2 fires at once and having 1 engine would make very little difference. The first engine offers life saving intervention, the second engine offers back up. If a second engine was called out, response times for that engine would be longer.
- 3.6 Questions from the floor: what is the recruitment and retirement criteria for fire fighters? The initial training course is for 13 weeks and 12 – 18 months probation. Retirement at 55 years; although seems young it is harder to do the manual ladder work, crawling into small spaces as a person gets older. An officer can work longer if fit, but to encourage savings officers are leaving at 55. The organisation size is being reduced by not replacing those who leave/retire.
- 3.7 As the review specifies closing some stations and building new stations merged with others, where is the money coming from the building? The Government are giving grants for capital costs to those services who are making savings through merging stations. There would also be income from the sale of buildings.
- 3.8 Will there still be resources if a major incident happens? The plan allows for managing both the day to day activities and large incidents.

4 Youth Service (Vince Foster)

- 4.1 Youth Service delivers provision for young people aged 13 – 19; with an emphasis on taking provision out to the community. In Bramley, provision is delivered alongside BARCA. High on the Youth Service agenda is the need to reduce the number of young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).
- 4.2 Young people in Bramley have the opportunity to be involved in various activities for example health is a priority, therefore YS work with young people to reduce drug dependency and teen pregnancy; enabling young people to make informed decisions.
- 4.3 There are a range of activities at the Lazer Centre including the Friday Night Project; the Lazer Centre is the resource for all young people, throughout the city, not just those who have had issues with the Police in the past.
- 4.4 Questions from the floor: Why are 13 – 19 year olds targeted, what about younger children to offer prevention? The provision is targeted partly because of the NEET agenda, and also because the funding is targeted for these age ranges. There is provision for younger children including at the Lazer Centre where children from ages 8 upwards can attend some sessions.
- 4.5 BARCA also provide provision for younger children and have applied for some funding to deliver play work, and schemes in conjunction with Children in Need.

5 West Leeds Debt Forum (Norah Gibson)

- 5.1 West Leeds Debt Forum is a mix of agencies in a networking group; many events were held

throughout 2010/11 With the changes to the Welfare System there are many people getting into debt and as a result there's an increase in loan sharks. The West Leeds Debt Forum give advice about where people can go if they can get caught by a loan shark. People can access information and advice about Credit Unions offering affordable credit, Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and Burley Lodge Centre.

- 5.2 October is the start of blanket coverage on debt prevention in the run up to Christmas when people are more likely to get into debt.
- 5.3 The Debt Forum has won a Champion Award for all the work done on helping those in debt. Cllr Gruen congratulated those involved on behalf of the Forum.
- 5.4 The SAFER project (Scams and Fraud Education for Residents) is a community education programme aimed at older adults, ensuring they have an increased knowledge and confidence in dealing with cold calling, scams, frauds and the hazards of doing business on the doorstep. It aims to reduce the fear of crime and feelings of isolation in older people, and increase the financial capability and well being in those residents through sound money management and debt advice.

6 **Any other business**

- 6.1 K Ritchie, Co-Optee to the Area Committee gave an update on the last Area Committee meeting. KR is having a walkabout with Jason Singh, Locality Leader in w/c 8th October to identify areas of concern for Environmental Services. Cllr Gruen suggested adding the two Co-Optees on the agenda for the Forum to speak about the Area Committee, this was agreed by all.
- 6.2 Several forthcoming events were mentioned –
28th October 2012, Bulb Planting at 10am, meet at the Changing Rooms on Pollard Lane.
28th October 2012, Bramley Music Festival, please come along and enjoy!
21st October 2012, Bramley Baths underwater art and music exhibition.

7 **Next Meeting**

- 7.1 29th November 2012, Eric Atkinson Centre, Wellington Gardens, Bramley
6.30pm Housing forum, 7.30pm community forum.

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