

Notes of Meeting held 29th November 2012
Eric Atkinson Centre, Wellington Gardens, Bramley

1 Introductions

- 1.1 Cllr C Gruen welcomed 15 residents and Cllr Hanley to the meeting, 3 apologies were noted.

2 Police Update (Inspector Mark Wheeler)

- 2.1 Priority Crime update - house burglaries in the period have dropped from 59 to 13 which is a reduction of 46 and also equates to 249 less burglaries since 1st April 2012. Theft from vehicles has decreased by 14 to 19; theft of vehicles has decreased from 7 to 4 and no robberies have taken place.
- 2.2 Following the day of action about traffic issues earlier in the year, work has continued and 6 drivers were arrested on suspicion of drink driving – 3 have been charged, 2 are on bail pending sample results and 1 was released. A 20 year old male was charged with serious offences of dangerous driving on Ganners Grove and Fairfield Hill – the male deliberately drove at police vehicles; he was arrested and remanded in prison custody until 4th December. A Section 59 warning was issued to a 21 year old riding a motorcycle on a pavement at Summerfield Walk – this means that should he be caught again, his bike will be taken and destroyed.
- 2.3 Officers in Stanningley successfully raided a cannabis factory and destroyed 600 plants, 4 arrests have been made and investigation are ongoing.
- 2.4 Insp Wheeler gave out two tips – after Christmas take packaging (such as large boxes for televisions etc..) directly to the nearest household waste site and don't leave them in your gardens as burglars could target your home knowing you have new items. Also, don't leave your car unattended with the engine running while de-icing as thieves could steal your car.
- 2.5 A resident asked about diabetes guidelines relating to checking bloods an hour before driving and if the Police have powers to access blood sugar records. Insp Wheeler was unaware of any powers the Police have to access medical equipment but will look into it. He did say that Officers are trained in spotting those suffering from diabetes attacks.

MW

3 Bramley Shopping Centre Update (Paul Smith)

- 3.1 There are no updates on the planning issues about the viewpoint flats since the last meeting although work has been going on behind the scenes and a meeting is taking place in December between Leeds City Council Planning and New River (the owners of the centre).
- 3.2 The lights switch on was very successful with over 2300 people passing through the centre. Thanks were offered to Terry and Helen who worked very hard on the event. Next year will be bigger and better. It was noted there was a real feeling of community spirit.
- 3.3 There is a new Santa's Grotto in the centre, the PDSA are running it and proceeds are going to the charity. The Post Office are recruiting a new postmaster and will be developing the retail space. Some new shops have opened including an Indian Takeaway, Munchies Café has moved to a larger unit.
- 3.4 Flowerbed planting will take place in the Spring by the front entrance and in the raised bed at the back; this won't affect the planting done by Bramley in Bloom. The car park is planned for redevelopment at the front but there is no date as yet.
- 3.5 Footfall has increased in the centre throughout the last year likely to be because of Tescos and changing the parking to a 2½ hour limit with no return for 2 hours which means people know they will be able to park.

- 3.6 **Tescos (Mick Carr – Store Manager Tescos – Bramley Shopping Centre)**
The Kirkstall Tescos store will not impact on the Bramley Shopping Centre Store, there are no plans to close the store. The store is doing well.
- 3.7 A resident noted that the buses to Bramley Shopping Centre run at limited times; MC and PS to look into this. **MC/PS**
- 4 **West Leeds Debt Forum Update (Norah Gibson / Sally Dodgson - Trading Standards)**
- 4.1 SD spoke about the SAFER project; this has been set up with Big Lottery fund money and is a two year project working in Leeds and Bradford. The project worker in Leeds is offering debt advice for those over 55 and is training workers and volunteers who are customer facing to be aware of signs of debt/scams. 70% of people do not report scams to the Police mainly because of embarrassment.
- 4.2 The SAFER project is working well already – one person in Armley who had seen the information was the victim of a potential scam was able to report the scammer because they were aware of the signs of a scam.
- 4.3 SAFER is also working in partnership with BARCA with those people on the BARCA drugs scheme as those with dependences are more likely to be the victim of a scam.
- 4.4 NG updated the group on the work of the West Leeds Debt Forum particularly working against loan sharks and advising where people can go if they have money worries. The forum are also promoting Credit Unions, Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB) and Burley Lodge Centre.
- 4.5 There was considerable interest amongst the group about the issues raised and it was suggested that a longer discussion at the next meeting would be useful, particularly noting that the Government are currently looking at Pay Day Loan legislation. SS to add to agenda. **SS**
- 5 **Area Committee Update (Kevin Ritchie – Bramley Forum Co-optee)**
- 5.1 KR gave an update on what was discussed at the last Area Committee, he also noted that the documents for the committee are available on the Leeds City Council website (www.leeds.gov.uk)
- 5.2 KR has been on a walkabout with Jason Singh, Locality Leader and identified areas of concern for Environmental Services in particularly noting litter on the Ganners and Somerfield Shops which has since improved and vegetation on Rodley Lane that has now been cleared.
- 5.3 Cllr Gruen offered thanks to Kevin for his hard work and time relating to sitting on the Committee as Co-optee.
- 6 **Any other business (All)**
- 6.1 Cllr Gruen asked for suggestions for future items – items suggested were Recycling/Waste, Environmental Services, Bramley Baths representatives, Police Commissioner Mark Burns-Williamson and a discussion about debt in the area. **SS**
- 6.2 Moorside are holding the annual Carol Concert on Friday 7th December, 7pm, at St Catherine’s Drive.
- 6.3 The Inner West Area Committee is now seeking applications from community groups for funding from its Wellbeing Fund for 2013/14. Further details are available from Susan Skinner (Susan.Skinner@leeds.gov.uk). **SS**
- 7 **Next Meeting**
- 7.1 31st January 2012, Eric Atkinson Centre, Wellington Gardens, Bramley
6.30pm Housing forum, 7.30pm community forum.