

Meeting notes – 7.00pm – 9.00pm  
28th March 2013  
Trinity Methodist Church, Bramley

### 1.0 Introductions

- 1.1 Cllr C Gruen welcomed everyone to the first themed forum meeting. The speakers were introduced and the format of the evening explained.

Apologies were noted for Cllr Hanley, Roger Cliff and John Locket.

### 2.0 Minutes and matters arising

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.
- 2.2 2.4 – A site visit was carried out and costings have been put together. An application for funding will be submitted to the Area Panel.  
6.1 – The forward plan was circulated with the minutes

### 3.0 Police and Crime Commissioner - Mark Burns-Williamson

- 3.1 MBW introduced himself to the forum and talked through his strategic vision for tackling and preventing crime in West Yorkshire over the next five years. The key points were:
- MBW was elected as the Police Commissioner in November 2012. He recognises people are unclear what his role entails.
  - The Government has abolished the Police Authority which MBW was the Chairman, and introduced Police and Crime Commissioners.
  - Mark Gilmore will be appointed Chief Constable on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013. He is currently the Deputy of Northumbria Police
  - MBW's role will be to hold the Chief Constable and the force accountable on behalf of the community for the delivery of Policing in West Yorkshire. He will meet with the Chief Constable and the command team every week.
  - He has increased the Police Council Tax by 3.8%. The revenue generated will be used to recruit 44 new police officers.
  - The new Police and Crime 5 year plan has been launched. Copies of the document can be found at [www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk). The plan was formed by feedback from the community, Police, Partners and voluntary organisations, and sets the frame work for the Police force. The main priorities of the plan are:
    - Reducing burglary
    - Reducing ASB
    - Making sure victims and witnesses are supported
    - Local, regional and national threats, risks and harm are tackled
    - Criminal justice system is effective and efficient
    - Communities are listened to

### 4.0 Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services – Cllr Peter Gruen

- 4.1 Cllr P Gruen talked explained what the main crime priorities are for LCC and what initiatives are happening in Bramley and Stanningley. The key points were:
- LCC will continue to;
    - reduce burglary
    - tackle domestic abuse
    - reduce reoffending
    - deal with legal highs and cannabis
    - improve the understanding of child sexual exploitation
    - strengthen community engagement through PACT meetings and support to victims
    - make communities feel safer
  - Money has been invested to help reduce burglary in Bramley so it is no longer one of the

worst effected wards in Leeds.

- LCC will continue to support the work of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations, such as BARCA to support one on one work with offenders.

## **5.0 Chief Inspector Neighbourhood Operations – Jim McNeil**

5.1 JM talked through the priorities for the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). The key points were:

- JM is the Neighbourhood Commander for the North West Division and looks after 5 NPTs.
- The key themes are burglary, ASB and community engagement - especially with BME.
- There has been a 40% reduction in burglaries across the Division and a 54% reduction in the Bramley & Stanningley Ward. The Division has seen a 20% reduction in ASB and a 35% reduction in Bramley and Stanningley but the perception of ASB is still high. JM recognises that more work is need to tackle ASB in the area.
- Although the Service is facing cuts, the North West Division will do everything it can not to cut front line staff.
- There are 7 key drivers for the NPT, they are:
  - Strong strategic lead
  - Partnership commitment
  - Collocation – JM asked for ideas of where the force could collocate within the community
  - Share the publics priorities
  - Multi agency problem solving
  - Evidence based deployment – Operation Optimal
  - Making more use of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations, volunteers and special constables.
- If residents are interested in volunteering with the Police they should contact JM.

## **6.0 PACT update – Acting Inspector Nathan Franklin**

6.1 NF has been in the role of Acting Inspector for 6 weeks but has been with the North West Division for 7 years. He knows the area well and is looking forward to working with the community to tackle the PACT priorities.

6.2 **Priority Crime Update:** There have been no burglaries in Bramley & Stanningley since the 20<sup>th</sup> March (8 days). Compared to this period last year there has been a decreased of 250 burglaries, an increase of 23 theft from motor vehicles, an increase of 9 theft of motor vehicles, robberies are down 19%, criminal damage is down 12% and call reporting ASB is down from 134 to 84.

6.3 **PACT priorities:** Officers have been deployed and tickets have been issued to tackle problem parking. The SID and speeding gun have also been deployed in the area to tackle speeding.

6.4 Through intelligence from the community a number of people have been arrested for burglaries and theft of motor vehicles. Forum members were encouraged to report any information to the Police.

6.5 The Police are working with the taxi licensing team, vehicle standards agency and other partners to create pop up vehicle check sites. These sites have had a direct affect in reducing crime in the area.

6.6 Residents who are tenants of ALMO properties and are charged with burglary offences, will receive a letter warning them they are infringing their tenancy agreement and their home is at risk.

6.7 Residents were reminded that all the PACT information can be found on the NPT website, emergency should be reported by calling **999**, for non emergencies call **101** or email [aa.nptarmleybramleystanningley@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:aa.nptarmleybramleystanningley@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk).

## **7.0 Question and Answer session**

7.1 Q: Will the increase in Council Tax cover the cost of recruiting more PCSO's as well as PC's?

A: MBW - The budget is earmarked to recruit 44 PC's. The number of PCSO's will stay the same, this is due to the additional funding from the Council to fund PCSO's. 2000 Police jobs will be lost during the spending review, 106 will go through retirement. MBW has raise his concerns about the cuts with the Government and is working to secure a better funding formula.

Cllr P Gruen - The Council have committed £1.6million towards funding PCSO's – 5 per ward.

7.2 Q: What initiatives are in place to tackle the increase in theft from motor vehicles in the area?

A: NF – Reducing burglary is the NPT's priority and Operational Optimal is heavily resourced. When there is a peak in the number of thefts from motor vehicles and Operational Optimal allows it, mapping systems will be produced and PCSO's will be deployed in to those areas to tackle the problem.

JM – The increase of theft of motor vehicles is down to a few prolific offenders in the area. The Police target those individuals when they are released from prison.

7.3 Q: What is in place to support young people make a positive contribution to the community?

A: MBW - 'Opening up opportunities for young people' is a key priority in the Police and Crime plan. A Youth Advisory Group will be set up which will consult on the Police and Crime Plan. The plan will be monitored throughout the year and reviewed yearly. The Young Explorers Program encourages young people to get involved with the Police. The budget cuts will make it difficult to support initiatives like this so it is important to work with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations and Council to make them happen.

JM - A Community Volunteer Hub has been set up at the Police Station and is staffed by volunteers to help with Police initiatives. Previous initiatives have involved recruiting students from the Criminology Department to advise students living in Leeds what they can do to help reduce their risk of becoming victims of crime. A youth who started on the Young Explorers Program has now been recruited to become a Special Constable. JM asked for residents to nominate any youth people who may be interested in joining the scheme.

NF – Is starting a Youth Hate Scrutiny Panel. The coordinators are working with secondary schools and colleges to recruit students to the panel. POCA (Proceeds of Crime Act) funding is available to partly fund Youth Projects in the local community.

7.4 Q: What can be done to help/support residents who report ASB?

A: JM - Everyone who reports ASB will receive a visit from an Officer, unless specified otherwise. The under reporting of ASB is high for the area and is a concern for the NPT. They are looking at ways to resolve it.

NF – New markers have been introduced to the call handling system to map any repeat calls.

Cllr P Gruen - Services have been changed to deal with ASB more efficiently and effectively. More work is needed to address noise nuisance. ZT to circulate a copy of the report that quotes all the statistics regarding ASB.

MBW – There has been an issue with the 101 number which may have resulted in people not being able to report ASB incidents.

ZT

7.5 Q: Can PCSO's issue tickets for dog fouling?

A: JM – Will take back the idea to look in to.

Cllr P Gruen – As part of the funding agreement the Council would like the PCSO's to take on more responsibility such as environmental issues which could include dog fouling.

7.6 Q: How can Partners (Schools, Councils etc) work together to tackle hate crime?

A: MBW – Education is the key to tackling hate crime and more work is needed to get in to schools to get it on to the agenda. The force are currently reviewing hate crime reporting centers and new ways it can be reported. Public service staff need training on hate crime.

JM – Safer Schools and CSO's can help in the education program of hate crime and they are already doing some great work.

7.7 Q: What can be done to block or restrict the numbers of pawn brokers/pay day loan shops in the area?

A: Cllr C Gruen - Agreed that illegal money lending needs to be tackled but also raised the point that payday loans shops and pawn broker that are legal but should be managed due to the damage they cause to families.

Cllr Taggart – Is the Chair of West Yorkshire Trading Standards and suggested Officers from the team come and represent at a future forum. The Police can not investigate legal money lenders with high APR's. Trading Standards are recruiting MP's to change the legislation to reduce the top limits on interest.

Cllr C Gruen – The forum will have a debt themed meeting the future.

Cllr P Gruen - Bramley Debt Forum highlights the alternative credit options available to residents.  
MBW - The introduction of the bedroom tax will have an affect on the amount of people using illegal and legal money lenders. The Police could link in with Trading Standards.  
Cllr C Gruen – The Bramley Ward Members meet with the Bramley Shopping Centre on a regular basis to discuss the amount of legal money lenders and the impact they have on the area.  
JM - The Police are concern the illegal money lenders in the area.

7.8 Q: Does LCC allow planning permission for pawn brokers and payday loan shops to open up in the area?  
A: Cllr C Gruen – Pawn brokers and payday loans shop are legal. Shop unit rents are high and in the recession it is hard to find traders who can afford the rents.

7.9 Q: How accurate are the NPT PACT figures?  
A: NF – The figures relate to crimes that have been reported and recorded. NF can bring details on detection rates to future meetings. **NF**

7.10 Q: As the rate of domestic violence is high in Bramley, what support is available in the area to victims?  
A: NF - The Police has a Safe Guarding team that covers the whole of Leeds. They have trained Officers to support victims. The Police also works with Partners and LCC to tackle domestic violence.  
Gill Hunter, Community Safety Officer – A lot of work is happening in the area around domestic violence. All schools and Partner agencies have received training on domestic violence. Work is needed to link in with the Children Centers.

7.11 GH expanded on some points that had been raised earlier in the meeting. They were:

- Off road motor bikes team have produced a leaflet that will be circulate shortly which informs residents how to report nuisance motor bikes.
- Eastern European volunteers are helping to deliver advice sessions to Eastern Europeans about unemployment, hate crime, training etc.

7.12 Cllr Gruen asked GH to provide an update of what is happening in the area at a future meeting and suggested Partners are invited.

## **5.0 Area Committee Update (Kevin Ritchie – Bramley Forum Co-optee)**

5.1 KR gave an update on what was discussed at the last Area Committee. The key points were;

- the Area Committee have allocated 10K towards the war memorial
- work is started to support residents effected by the welfare reforms
- Children Service presented an update report

## **6.0 Any other business (All)**

6.1 Residents at the forum passed on their congratulation to Rachel Reeves on the birth of her baby girl and also to the gritters during the bad weather. **ZT**

6.2 A resident report the pot holes in Bramley Shopping Centre car park. Cllr C Gruen to report. **Cllr Gruen**

6.3 Due to the Forum over running, there was not time to pick up any housing issues. Resident were asked to report any concerns directly ZT who would feed them back to Claire Smith at the ALMO.

6.4 The vote for the Co-optee will take place at the next meeting. Nomination forms are available from ZT. Email [Zoe.tyler@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Zoe.tyler@leeds.gov.uk) or call 0113 3367859.

## **7.0 Next Meeting**

7.1 Debt themed forum - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013, Venue TBC