

Wednesday, 19.09. 2018, 7.30 – 9.30 pm The Maxwell Room, The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley

1. **Present:** Mary Bather (in the chair); Mike Evans (vice-chair); Dan Taylor (PCSO Thames Valley Police); Cllr Keith Baker (WTC, WBC); Cllr Richard Dolinski (WTC, WBC); Cllr Carl Doran (WBC); Cllr Sheena Matthews (ETC); Mary Holmes (WTCMI), David Provins (Friends of Woodford Park), Sam Mulligan (Woodley Community Youth Partnership); **Residents** – M Millard, Ben Graham, C Dolinski, M Crane, J Layhe, R Heather, I Haggerty, I Hills, N S Gill

Apologies: Cllr Alison Swaddle, Cllr S Younis, Cllr John Armstrong, Sgt Mark Smith (TVP), Jacques Lherbier (Woodley Town Centre Manager), Jenny Lissaman (ACER), Sion Williams (ACER), Rev P Hobday (Earley St Peters Church)

2. **Reporting of meetings** – The chair reminded the meeting that the forum is a non-profit making, non-political organisation. Meetings are open to all residents from Woodley and N Earley and to representatives of any organisations associated with Woodley and N Earley. Minutes of meetings are available on request and will be published on the forum website once it is up and running. Those attending the meeting are asked to respect the non-political nature of the forum when passing on details of forum discussions outside meetings.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM) – 13.06.18 / matters arising

3.1 **Cycle survey in Woodley Precinct:** There were 4 actions resulting from the discussion on the cycle survey at the June meeting and Sgt Smith had briefed the chair that:

- Legality – There was a TRO in place making cycling an offence in the precinct. The ‘no-cycling’ signs are legal therefore and it would require action on behalf of WBC if Woodley decided that the signs should be removed and the precinct become a ‘shared space’. The metal signs were very clear but it was agreed that the painted signs on the road were rather faded.
- PCSO’s had spend time in the precinct over the summer talking to cyclists (including children) about considerate cycling and explaining what they could and couldn’t do.
- Work with the relatively few adolescent cyclists who were a distinct nuisance (rather than just careless) was on-going as part of the neighbourhood policing team (NHPT) work on ASB. It is likely that those seen causing a nuisance in the precinct during the survey are the same ones who are causing a nuisance when cycling on the road.
- Beechwood school – as yet there has been no contact with Beechwood School.

The Town Centre Manager (TCM) had received two complaints about dangerous cycling over the summer which had been forwarded to the NHPT. There was further discussion regarding the pros and cons of creating a shared space. It was agreed that it was difficult in practice to enforce the non-cycling TRO (and as the precinct was not a road the only offence could be ‘careless cycling’ as road laws did not apply) and that there was some evidence that a shared space was in fact safer. Cyclists of all ages have been seen cycling in the precinct and encouragement of safe cycling by all age groups was important.

ACTIONS:

- NHPT to liaise with Beechwood school (and other local schools) regarding education on considerate cycling.
- Forum and NHPT to prepare a joint statement for the TCM to use when faced with complaints about cycling in the precinct.
- Chair to update TCM on outcome of meeting.

3.2 **Organising another ‘Have your say’** – Forum to man a ‘Have your say’ stall in the precinct (outside Peacocks or Prezzo) one Saturday morning in November. NHPT may be willing to join in.

ACTION: Chair and Vice-chair to liaise with TCM and NHPT to fix date.

3.3 Funding: Chair had hoped to apply for some funding from the PPF (public protection fund) but had been informed that the application date had now been moved forward to 2019. Applications were therefore being made to WTC (£240) and ETC (£40) for community grants to cover the printing of public safety leaflets. The applications would be submitted at the beginning of October.

ACTION: Chair to finalise funding applications and submit

3.4 Other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda:

- Displaying forum meeting notices on notice boards: Agendas were displayed on ETC boards.
ACTION: Chair to speak to clerk at Woodley TC to discuss displaying notices on Woodley boards and to liaise with Woodley TC marketing manager with regard to disseminating forum information to Woodley residents.
- Second anti-burglary and anti-fraud event at the Oakwood Centre: Julie Susel willing to organise one for spring 2019.
ACTION: Chair to liaise with Oakwood Centre and Julie to find a date.

4. Update from Neighbourhood Policing Team on recent reported criminal activity in the local area

There are no major issues at present. ASB has been less of a problem than anticipated over the summer. Incidents of cycle theft also low over the summer although there have been a couple of thefts reported since the beginning of the school term. Theft from vans is not an issue at the moment. PCSOs have been patrolling the Garden of Remembrance as requested and have not become aware of any problems. Police have had some successes in action against drugs in Woodley. There is a lot of intelligence coming in regarding drug dealing and the police are working hard to target the dealers. Illegal encampment on Ashenbury Park and Mallone Park but these were dealt with and the travellers moved on relatively quickly.

5. Local policing priorities – Review of progress / agree actions with respect to:

5.1 Antisocial behaviour: There are no new figures available of levels of ASB but incidents over the summer were lower than expected. There was some discussion regarding what actually constituted ASB and concern raised that in some cases it was a matter of perception on the part of the residents rather than actual bad behaviour - group of teenagers congregating in a part of the park were not necessarily a threat. It was agreed that some complaints of ASB in the Woodford Park area were not always reported to the police.

ACTION: Residents to be encouraged, through newsletters, websites etc, to report any specific incidents to the police either through phoning 101 or on the Thames Valley Police website.

5.2 Speeding – Community Speedwatch: Sgt Smith had reported that this is now up and running under the leadership of Tim Woolford. Chair had already contacted Tim with a list of streets in North Earley and Woodley where there were speeding concerns. He has forwarded this to the volunteers in Woodley and Earley and also to the Woodley Independent speedwatch group. In the future names of streets will be sent by the forum to a specific speedwatch email address (yet to be set up). Speedwatch will feed back directly to the forum indicating which streets are shown by the equipment to be subject to speeding. The forum will then pass this information on to the NHPT who will take appropriate action.

5.3 Speeding – Woodley Independent Speedwatch: Cllr Baker reported that WTC now have a data logger (which will be used first to monitor speeds for a week) and a camera to record speed and car registration in streets where the data logger records excessive speeds. WTC are currently testing the equipment. There are 12 volunteers already and if this increases to 25 it should be possible to use the camera 2 or 3 times each week. The system should be up and running by the end of the year. It was agreed that it was essential to avoid duplication and that there should be close liaison between WTC Speedwatch team and Tim Woolford.

ACTIONS

- Chair to contact Tim Woolford with additional street names (Colemansmoor, Mohawk, Hurricane) and reinforce the need for liaison with WTC to avoid duplication.

- Chair to mention report of continued speeding in Coppice Road to Sgt Smith.

5.4 Attempted Burglaries: Cllr Dolinski reported that there had been a number of attempted burglaries in Reading Rd. CCTV recordings of someone trying front door handles at night had been shared on social media. PCSO Taylor was not aware that these had been reported.

ACTIONS

- Chair to mention these in report to Sgt Smith

6. Communications

6.1 Website -Chair had been in touch with Sam Chaher who is based at the university and who had helped MERA (Maiden Erleigh residents) with their website. He was willing to set up a simple website for the forum at minimum cost as part of the university contribution to the community. Chair was in the process of providing copy, but would like some suggestions for photos (showing the positive side of Woodley) and in the longer term the forum would need someone to keep the website up-to-date.

ACTIONS:

- Chair to continue to liaise with Sam regarding content;
- Forum members to send photo suggestions

6.2 Reaching a wider audience – The forum continues to strive to reach a wider audience to ensure that it is representative of the Woodley / N Earley Community as a whole. It is hoped that the new website will encourage younger people to engage and that the proposed leaflets will reach those who are less able to make use of the internet. Chair thanked all those who had passed on information regarding the forum and the meeting.

7. AOB

7.1 Woodley Community Youth Partnership – Sam Mulligan (Chair of the WCYP) explained the work of the partnership which aims to help young people who are experiencing difficulties and their families. They have held a mental health conference and worked with Ark Counselling Service to provide workshops for parents of children with anxieties. The aim is to train facilitators so that parents can help each other. The WCYP is run by the WTC but with the impetus comes from the organisations it represents (i.e. JAC, ARK) rather than WTC. It was agreed by all that Woodley was a much better place to live now than in was 15 years ago.

7.2 Wokingham Health and Well-being Board – Cllr Dolinski (chair of WHWB) outlined the aims which included improving understanding of and thus helping to build more resilient communities. WHWB is to carry out a study of Sandford Park community applying the results to communities throughout Woodley.

7.3 Cllr Matthews thanked the police for their speedy action in finding a lost child at a recent event in Woodley Town Centre.

7.4 Parking on the pavement / cycleway – It was confirmed that parking on pavements and cycleways and thus causing an obstruction was a matter for the police (not CPE at WBC) unless there are double yellow lined on the road. Obstruction of pavement / cycleway and drives should be reported to 101.

8. Date and venue of next meeting

It was agreed that the most convenient nights of the week for meetings were Mondays or Wednesdays, but it was important to check dates of Earley Town Council meetings which are on Wednesdays.

ACTION: Chair to liaise with the Oakwood Centre to book meetings for end of November/ early December, end of January/ early February and April. The April meeting would be an AGM.

NOTE: The following dates have now been booked – all in the Maxwell Hall, Oakwood Centre, at 7.30pm:

Wednesday, 5th December, 2018 – Open Meeting

Wednesday, 6th February, 2019 – Open Meeting

Wednesday, 10th April, 2019 - AGM