



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRANKSOME WEST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Heatherlands First School

Library Road Parkstone Poole BH12 2BG

Meeting 8 September 2010

Attending:-	
Chairman,	Vic Humphries
Secretary	Jacqui Wilson
Planning Officer	Colin Jones
Treasurer	Diane Wyatt
PR & Recruitment	Jessica Elvin
Committee Members	David and Thelma Gilliver, Trevor Wyatt, Jill Coombes David & Natalie Rose Ruth McCullough
Apologies	
Guest	Sgt JP Oosthuizen Safer Neighbourhood Team

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mr Humphries welcomed our guest Sgt JP Oosthuizen Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Sgt JP Oosthuizen Safer Neighbourhood Team told the meeting that due to his Dutch surname is was more commonly known by his initials of JP and was more than happy for everyone to do so. JP has been at Alderney for 2 years.

JP is a Sergeant with the SNT based at the rear of St Aldehems Academy (previously Rossmore Community School) in Herbert Ave. He has 17 officers and their area of responsibility is Rossmore, Branksome, Alderney and Newtown.

Emergency response teams ie 999 calls come from the new building in Wimborne Road Poole. The SNT can be contacted on 07887633384 and are available from 8am to Midnight. The SNT major role is to deal with ongoing neighbourhood problems.

SNT is broken up into three staffing areas:-

Volunteers: usually come from students who are looking to enter either the police or legal professions

Police Community Support Officers: their main goal is to provide a high level of visibility presence on the streets and can detain offenders for up to 30 minutes until the Police arrive as they are not warranted. The PSCO are usually on foot or cycle they mainly deal with problems associated with people or houses and have a very high level of communication with the community. PSCO undertake a lots of work due to financial constraints placed on the police force at present

Police Officers: Have their contract with the Queen and are employed at her discretion. The police are warranted and have more powers in enforcing the law than a PSCO. The police are not allowed to recruit at present, and there is little money to reemploy. There is a review due to the Dorset Police by the end of October but it is possible that the financial restrictions will continue or even be increased.

There will also be major changes in the way the police work. However the SNT is a major success and there are over 23000 SNT offices throughout the UK and each officers is assigned a minimum 2 year tour of duty therefore this gives a continuity of service.

There is a public meeting held bi monthly with priorities set at each meeting for the next three months. Details of this can be found on their web site at:- Attending the meeting are the Dorset Police, council officials and councillors and the public and this committee forms the strategy needed to the community.

The Area can be broken down to two main areas of concern with vastly differing problems. Branksome Newtown and Rossmore Alderney. Branksome and Newton have very little problems with anti social behaviour.

Rossmore and Alderney have increased problems in this area. These are mainly parking problems, neighbour disputes and underage drinking. A report to the police regarding parents collecting their children from school and parking on zigzag markings resulted in policing the area and handing out on the spot fine of £60 with 3 points on their driving licence. This seems to have alleviated the problems. Underage drinking usually the police take away the alcohol and try to find out how they acquired it. Often the young people try to hide this in bottles of soft drink such as cola or lemonade but the police has 'dipsticks' to test for alcohol in these bottles.

Branksome problems usually revolve around parking in the narrow streets which results in various damage incidents such are broken wing mirrors, or car damage. The police have installed hidden cameras in the main areas and these are often patrolled with non uniformed police in unmarked cars. There is a known list of habitual offenders whilst 80% of residents are upstanding citizens the remaining 20% make life difficult for the residents.

Ashley Road is a very cosmopolitan area and suffers from shop lifting, thefts and racial abuse

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC) is the first line of defence when dealing with habitual offenders. This is a contract between the offender and the police. The pressure is brought to bear on the parents/family to ensure that the young person behaves in an acceptable manner according to the contract. This usually curbs the problems and there has been a good response due to dedicated, consistent policing through the SNT. Often there is a fine line of what is considered acceptable between the offender and victim. The SNT feel that the time for play out should have a 10pm deadline.

Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO): These were brought in by the Labour Government under an Act of 2003 and gave the police the necessary tools to react quickly to both victim and offender.

Due to an incidents of repeated Anti Social Behaviour in Yorkshire where a young mum took her children and committed suicide the police now take this very seriously and have specific steps in placed and will work out the why, who, how offence is reoccurring and will take the necessary steps to catch and convict the offender before it matter gets out of hand.

It is advisable to contact the SNT quickly and get them involved from an early stage. At present there are no ASBO in force in Branksome and 3 in place in the Bourne Valley Area and 4 pending.

The ASBO are issued by the council and can affect social life by limiting where a person can go and what time he/she must return home. If the offender is a council tenant then they can be evicted. Even if this results in good behaviour then returning to bad in an ongoing pattern which does happen by the time the hearing is heard, the ABSO can still be put in place before a situation gets out of hand. JP has lots of things he can do to make the bad things simply go away.

The Police have now a community Sports Focus Team and this is extremely successful having won 10 trophies in the last 2 years. They provide the trainers and kit to the young offenders and gives them a focus.

The teachers at Aldehem Academy identify the trouble youngsters and there is a special programme in place dealing with agencies such as drugs, dog unit and housing. Punishment is not always the answer often the answer to find out what the problem is whether this comes from home or outside sources this can reduce bad behaviour very quickly each course is about 12 weeks. Often some of the younger people have no or insufficient role models to help make a difference in their lives such as parents who are abusive, little caring, or even alcoholics.

Well behaved youngster s are also involved and go to events such are army obstacle courses, canoe and sailing events and even a rugby training professional.

Questions	Answers
Mr Gilliver Bad behaviour due to alcohol. The local corner shop managed to extend its licensing hours to 2am. Is it possible to have this reheard.	The SNT were not very happy about this application. However they have the powers to confiscate alcohol immediately. The licence can be revoked should there be an upward trend in alcohol related crimes but this needs to be proved as a link back to the shop
Mrs Rose What is ringmaster and how do you get it	Ringmaster is an email contact group advising on crimes or how to prevent a crime for instance a spat of thefts in the local area or person attempting to defraud in the area. Contact the SNT and an officer will call with a form to be completed.
Mr Hawkins – Car drivers using mobile phones	There is a zero tolerance in the area for this and attracts a £60 fine and 3 points on the licences. There have been about 10 convictions in September. 90% opt to pay the fine and accept the points. Remain 10% continue to go to court. The police must make the statement very clear. Often the offender thinks that the police have not really seen them using and try to pass the phone quickly.
Mrs Wilson Can we report an offender to the police	Not really – as it is very difficult to prove this as it is a case of you said he said. If you see a police man very quickly after spotting a mobile phone user to can mention to the officers and they may be able to watch the person to see if the police

	can catch them using the phone.
Mrs Rose Cyclists on the footpaths	This has been addressed by the police who have concerns over cyclists. There has been an active campaign recently 5 have been stopped leading to 2 fines but if an accident occurs the cyclist can be arrested for assault.

2. TVG application

At the Licensing Sub Committee meeting held on 20 July, it was decided that the application for a Town or Village Green (TVG) made under the Commons Act of 2006. Poole Borough council have now instructed Martin Carter from Kings Chambers in Manchester as Counsel to conduct a Non Statutory Public Inquiry. The Public Inquiry will commence on **Monday 11 October 2010** in the Council Chamber. It is likely to run for 3 or 4 days from 10:00am till 5:00pm plus one evening session. This inquiry is at no cost to the residents of Branksome.

We now have sufficient witness statements for the hearing and these have been forwarded to Chris Maile for him to deal with appropriately. An acknowledgement letter will be sent out to the people who have responded and we will contact everyone again once the details of how the hearing is to be organised has been received from Martin Carter.

Normal process Applicant First, Objectors second, public third. Acknowledgement letter going out with details of a team rehearsal on 7 October.

3. Chairman's Update

The Area Committee Meeting to be held on 21 July was postponed

4. Treasurers Report

Closing bal reported - 23/6/10 £1,472.69

Income: M/ship £5, Fun Day Profits £986.47 Total £991.47

Expenses: Insurance PLI £220, July Hall Hire Coffee Morning £25, Fun Day Exp £373.40 Total £618.40

Bank account closing balance as at 8 September 2010 £1,845.76,

Outstanding item 8/9 Chq 70 £32.31 Continental Landscapes - hall hire 18 September 2010

Fun Day profit less expenses £613.07 would be split as agreed. £300 to a new restoration fund a/c and the remaining amount £313.07 along with a further £686.93 from the main bank a/c was transferred to a new general Lloydstsb savings account. The opening balance of the new savings account to be £1,000.

For the time being until such time a separate account named restoration fund is opened, £300 is currently being held in the new general savings account.

5. PR and Recruitment

A Christmas party is to be organised for 7 December for all residents. Bourne Valley has been booked at a cost of £30 for the room and the opening of the bar. This is to take the format of an American supper (each person attending supplying a plate of food). Mrs Coombes will organise a list of food.

Due to the numbers attending the coffee mornings it was decided wasn't viable at the present time.

6. Fund Raising/Events

The Fun Day was a great success and was attended by around 200 people and the weather remained dry. The event was opened by the Mayor Cllr Chris Bulteel and Mrs Bulteel also in attendance was the Sherriff Cllr Graham Wilson and Mrs Wilson and the Town Crier Mr David Squire.

Mr Barry Steed rides and games were a great success and he has agreed to assist us with next years event.

It was disappointing that we had insufficient volunteers to man about 5 games which would have increased the profits.

Mrs Wilson took some photographs and these will be put on the website in due course.

7. Planning

The boys` club have placed an application with the council 10/00977 this is mainly alterations.

There are 2 large and contentious applications are the news of the day – neither directly involving our ward:

Talbot Trust/University seems that a review has been called for.

West Quay Road” between the bridges “ – this is really the first of what will be up to ten major developments in Poole I the forth coming years. this is a very contentious application –guidelines indicate a density of 222 units – the planners have put in for 440, far too many and with inadequate parking.550 spaces yet only 124 single occupancy units , add visitors/shop and restaurant workers and the numbers simply do not add up.

Transportation

Bourne Valley Road will be closed 9.30 -3.30 on the 18th October

Part of **Cornelia Crescent** will be closed 20/9 – 9/10

8. Administration

Mrs Wilson attended the Economy & Scrutiny Committee Meeting 10 August from 9.30 am To 3.30 pmt to review the record of the Poole Town Football Club's application to build a stadium in the Branksome Rec. Meeting chaired by Cllr. Gregory, **RECOMMENDED that:**

No reports to Council or any Committee of the Council to be submitted until ALL background work has been undertaken to include, where necessary:

- Legal Implications
- Planning implications
- Financial implications
- Risk Management implications
- Better communications between Community groups, the Council and Councillors.
- That Area Committees be made aware of all significant projects.
- Legal Services to be consulted at the inception of any project.
- Accurate and full note-taking to be undertaken in formal and informal meetings.

- More active advice and participation by the Strategic Director in potentially contentious issues.

The motion to refund the PTFC monies was reject their views were simply that the PTFC were aware of the implication prior to commencing with the proposals

9. April Meeting with Clive Smith and Peter Adams items taken away for investigation were

1. The provision of further trees around the Recreation Ground.
2. Investigate the problems on overhanging trees on Recreation Rd in the vicinity of Number 60.
3. The step and drainage problems Playfield Rd/Wharfdale Rd access.
4. A second notice board to be located at the Central Drive/Playfields Rd access.
5. Health and Safety issues regarding the Pavilion raised by Mr Hawkins letter from the Freedom of Information Officer Ms K Watters (copy given at the meeting).
6. Improvements to the children's play areas.
7. Request for further waste bins to forward to Environmental Services and/or Cllr Collier.
8. Prevention Officers to help us eliminate dog fouling
9. The installation of penalty notices to assist with litter and dog fouling.

Response

Clive Smith has looked at the letter via Mr Hawkins and spoken to its author, Bruce Carmichael in Building Consultancy Services. He confirms that the electrical inspections and emergency lighting inspections have been completed satisfactorily quite recently. He also confirms that the last fire safety inspection was 2000 and is due again now – this is currently being arranged. This may seem a long time but is exactly as programmed. None of this suggests any reason for concern about the safe use of the building. I also passed on Mr Hawkins concern about there being no separate fire escape from the first floor – Bruce Carmichael confirmed that is not a cause for concern if the staircase is kept clear to allow safe exit.

Whilst Mr Hawkins seemed to be suggesting a big problem, the Council's position is that the pavilion is safe for use as it is pre 2001 Health and Safety Act. Should any alterations modernisations or even a new build then the current legislation will come into effect.

Following your Residents Association Meeting earlier on this year you requested an update for your meeting on 8 September. Clare Freeman has provided an update on some of the points – however some of the actions would be deemed to be 'development' and therefore it would not be appropriate for these to be considered or progressed before the TVG application is determined.

Trees – Andy Osborn and Trevor Maynard have the tree issues in hand - they are also keen to see more tree planting at Branksome Rec. As the site has wet ground conditions in places and the poplars have suffered some disease problems they have made a careful selection of tree species to be planted in this years winter tree programme, so these will be in place by the end of March at the latest. Trees selected will be 10 Quercus robur 'fastigiata', (Cypress Oaks) 12 Populus nigra var. Italica (Lombardy Popular) and 10 Sorbus aucuparia and Mountain Ash rowan

Dog fouling – ECPS do regular patrols across the Borough but unfortunately their time is very limited due to capacity – what we have found is helpful in other parks is if you link up with ECPS directly and also for members of your group to report matters via the Councils 'report it system' this is really helpful as it helps give ECPS regular times when repeat offenders may be on site and they have been very helpful on other sites at then targeting their time. Another really good approach is for dog walkers who regularly use the site and care about it - it would be worth seeing if there was interest in forming a Dog walkers small group. This has happened at Hamworthy Park

– if you Google ‘Dog walkers action group Hamworthy’ you can find out more about DWAG – this has been a really effective way of making the site a lot cleaner and also overall increase community ownership and engagement – let me know if you would like an introduction to the main members of DWAG as it would make sense to learn from local groups. The other really good approach that DWAG have done is to be an active presence on site when they are walking their dogs and they have small slips of paper reminding people of their responsibilities – this is much more effective than putting up too many additional penalty signs which are costly and prone to vandalism - but most importantly not as effective.

The step and drainage problems Playfield Rd/Wharfdale Rd access are being looked into and Clare is from leave until 13 Sept and will come back to us.

Anthony Rogers from The Sport And Rec Team has been progressing some pavilion maintenance With regard to the Pavilion, the council recently arranged for some new handles and locks (store cupboard next to ref’s room and upstairs cupboard), we’ll update the keys once we have the new one’s).

Anthony has reported to the Council’s property team that work is needed at the ladies changing end on internal ceilings and external cladding.

Working has been carried out this week on plumbing repairs to some of the showers, taps & toilets.

Once the outcome of the TVG is known the council may be able to open discussions with their strategic planners regarding the use of planning obligations funding for enhancing the pitch drainage, landscaping and pavilion improvements.

Other ideas will need to wait until the determination of the TVG

New bins and a poo bag holder have been erected on the rec

10. Parkstone Sports and Arts Centre

PSAC have offered to hire their facilities to us at reduced rate of £15 per hour for each room used. But this is for a long term let with a series of 12 month booking.

Being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

11. Next Meetings

Wednesday 10 November

Wednesday 12 January 2011 AGM

All meetings held at Heatherlands School and commences at 7.30pm and the booking form and a copy of the Public Liability Insurance has been forwarded to the school