

Notes on NAP Meeting for Great Baddow & Galleywood held in the Millennium Centre, Great Baddow, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1st November 2017

Present: Richard Beck (Chairman), Maureen Miller, Trevor Miller, Chris Shaw, Andrew Sosin, Jenny Chandler, Gill Smith, Stephanie Scott, Liz Ahmed, Dan Glading, Norman Taylor, Ben Gibbons, Marian Lawrence, Bob Clarke, David Allan, Lorraine Allan.

1. Apologies: Bob Hendrie.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 30th August 2017 were agreed.

Matters arising.

1. Highways. It was confirmed that the signpost from Church Street pointing down West Hanningfield Road does now include Baddow Hospital.
2. Policing issues. (a) The Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner have both acknowledged the letter from Richard and promised a full written response. However this was now several months ago and Richard will chase. (b) Richard had circulated a letter to members about how to contact the police in non-emergency situations, based on an article Chris had written for the next issue of the Great Baddow Times.

3. Youth Facility

Ben Gibbons reported that numbers were good, with about 30 young people usually. More younger ones were coming (Years 7 and 8), enabling early intervention, and a lot of promotion has been done through primary schools. There have been no reported incidents in Bell Street. Staff work closely with Spencer Clarke from CCC and PCSOs sometimes attend. Sarah Daniels now does some one-to-one work on Wednesdays.

4. Highways and Traffic Problems relating to policing

Members were not aware of any action taken by police regarding vehicles parking on pavements. Although pavement parking was not illegal, space must be left for wheelchairs and buggies to pass on the pavement.

Andrew reported on the crossing campaign for Church Street led by Claire Horsley, a parent from Baddow Hall Schools. Claire had attended a recent Parish Council Highways meeting to enlist the support of the Parish Council, but Andrew has not yet contacted her again to carry out his offer of help in filling out the form to submit to the local highways panel. The completed form needs to go back to Jenny Chandler.

Resurfacing and drainage work in Jeffery Road and Crescent Road had now been completed.

5. Policing Incidents and Issues.

Drugs continued to be an issue in the Meadgate, Readers Court, The Chase and Vineyards areas, including dealing taking place in the phone box at The Vineyards. David Allan reported on a recent incident of possible domestic violence in The Chase and on continued problems with shoplifting in The

Vineyards. It was felt that there was a lack of support for rehabilitation for residents in The Chase and Ben noted cuts in mental health services as a contributory problem. Liz Ahmed pointed out the need to provide support to children in families with domestic violence issues. She noted that some victims of domestic violence get worse treatment than victims of other types of assault, as the perpetrators of domestic violence tend to receive lesser sentences.

It was noted that PCC Roger Hirst had appeared on television news programmes as a national police representative saying that the police needed more funds. One example of difficulties was the decision by the chief constable of Norfolk to axe all PCSO posts in order to fund more PCs. Essex are trying to recruit special constables. Andrew pointed out the problem of asking for higher council tax precepts for the police; voters in a referendum held in the north of England had voted against a higher precept.

Richard had received an invitation from the police to a workshop addressing issues in relation to policing on 29th November and will be attending. David reported that members of the Great Baddow East Neighbourhood Association (GBENA) were having a meeting with Ronnie Egan, CHP etc. next week. He also reported that some special constables come to Baddow occasionally. One problem is reluctance on the part of shops to report shoplifting. Bob reported that a public confidence focus group meeting was being held in Maldon on November 15th. This was an invitation only event to which residents could apply to go; David Allan was going to attend.

Richard reported an Essex Police scheme to help reduce drug-related crime. However, Dave reported that GBENA experience was that the police were not always cracking down hard on drug dealing incidents. Ben noted that the police do know the people involved in drug dealing, but are wanting to catch the 'big fry'; however, the lack of involvement in dealing with dealers lower down the chain does not help the people affected. Lorraine reminded people that 101 is not a free number, which can cause problems to people on phone packages when they are forced to hold on for lengthy periods before being able to speak to someone. Marian noted that it was still important for people to keep on reporting drugs issues to the police. Unfortunately Ben was aware that the police no longer had the capacity to do much work in schools, although the schools do invite relevant charities in. Grooming is happening in Baddow. Dave noted the problem of drug users being at the top of the housing list, but not getting rehabilitation.

Stephanie reported that a Galleywood resident in a mobility scooter was mugged in Chelmsford at a bank cash point. Andrew reported that a letter had been received by the Parish Council reporting human faeces and nitrous oxide canisters left outside a house in West Hanningfield Road; the writer had been advised to report this to the police. Richard asked people to email him with details of any other incidents before the meeting he was attending on the 29th.

Dan reported that a few evenings ago there had been a very bright green light shining towards him and other drivers in Meadgate Avenue between Marney Close and Longmore Avenue. He thought this may have been a laser and reported it via 101.

Bob noted that crime statistics on the police website had not been updated since August.

Gill was pleased to report that six specials with two police cars had been in the Vineyards the previous Saturday handing out security equipment for doors.

Liz enquired what action CHP takes in cases of domestic violence and drug use/dealing. Marian replied that this is a breach of tenancy, but evidence is required. In cases of domestic violence the partner responsible can be excluded by legal process. Support will be provided for victims and CHP may consider moving them if there is a direct threat to life. Referrals are made to Social Services and the police.

7. Priorities

1. It was agreed that the main priority issue for the NAP would continue to be drugs issues in Great Baddow and Galleywood.
2. Encouraging reporting to the police by whatever means.

8. Any other business

It was noted that we have not had Fire Service representation for some time and it was no longer clear who our contact should be. Dave had an email contact address that he would supply and Jenny will make enquiries.

9. Date of next meeting

7.30 pm, Wednesday 31st January 2018.

CS 6.11.17