

Notes on NAP Meeting for Great Baddow & Galleywood held in the Millennium Centre, Great Baddow, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 11th January 2017

Present: Richard Beck (Chairman), Maureen Miller, Trevor Miller, Chris Shaw, Andrew Sosin, Bob Clarke, Dave Oldershaw, Alex Nelson, Sarah Daniels, Gill Smith, Jenny Chandler, Stephanie Scott, Liz Ahmed.

1. Apologies: Dan Glading, David Stevenson, Bob Hendrie, Mike Humphrey.

Sarah Daniels from the YMCA reported that unfortunately Mike Humphrey had an accident last weekend, tripping on wet tiles and damaging his elbow. He had had an operation today and the meeting wished him well for his recovery.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 12th October 2016 were agreed.

Matters arising.

1. Policing incidents and issues – suspicious male near Baddow Hall Schools.

Richard reported on an email from PC Craig Bernard that said only two instances had previously been reported and there have been no further reports. Alex confirmed that the police had notified the schools at the time.

2. Community engagement day. City councillors reported that to their knowledge this would not be an annual event, but had been organised by Community Safety last summer in response to recent troubling events that had taken place in Great Baddow. Richard suggested that if anything similar was planned in future summers, there should be some diary checking with local organisations to avoid any possible clashes.

3. Parking obstruction. Richard had not yet managed to follow up responsibility for issues relating to parking obstruction with the police. Although the South Essex Parking Partnership dealt with issues relating to enforcement of parking restrictions, it was not felt that they would deal with issues relating to dangerous parking in other locations. Jenny Chandler will check on the situation relating to obstruction.

3. Youth Facility

Sarah Daniels reported that the Bell Centre groups had been thriving since September. Some previous members had unfortunately left and were known to be involved in activities relating to drugs, but the police were aware of these young people. The current groups were really good and workers were trying to ensure that the younger ones realise that there is an alternative lifestyle to the drug scene. Activities include support with GCSE revision. The younger group covers Years 4 to 6 and the older group covers Years 7 to 11; long-standing members could be allowed to continue attending until they were 18.

Although Sarah reported that there were plenty of youth workers to cover the centre, including during Mike's absence, she noted later that there was a shortage of volunteer helpers. Alex reported that he does some volunteer work there. There was no regular back-up from the police, but Sarah reported that at present no need was felt for back-up on a regular basis.

Issues were raised by Dave about the safety of the Bell Centre, in particular relating to the roof and the situation regarding insurance if young people

climbed on the roof, for example to retrieve a ball kicked up there. This was reported to sometimes occur outside youth club meeting times, although there was discussion about some instances within youth club times, when it was not possible to have full-time supervision outside. Dave and Alex have met with Andy Drake from the YMCA to discuss incidents taking place outside. This matter would be followed up by parish councillors.

4. Highways and Traffic Problems relating to policing

Issues relating to parking obstruction/dangerous parking had been dealt with under Matters Arising.

Some residents in Bell Street are in contact with Stephanie Scott with regard to traffic issues in Bell Street.

5. Policing Incidents and Issues.

Richard reported on information emailed by PC Craig Bernard. He noted that drug dealing in the Meadgate area had increased, despite information provided to our previous meeting by Bob Hendrie, who had felt that the situation had much improved. Craig Bernard stated that the Chelmsford Community Policing Team was fully aware of the drug situation and actively trying their best to combat it, but not as many calls were being received as previously from the public about drug dealing activity. He wanted the group to be aware that incidents can still be reported via 101 or also now online. Richard will speak to Bob Hendrie to get his latest views on the situation. Bob Clarke felt that drug activity was rife all round Great Baddow. Jenny reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner was well aware of the situation in Great Baddow.

Craig referred to the previous incident of a police car being burnt out in Crescent Road/New Road, stating that this was believed to have been aimed at the police and that therefore residents need not be concerned. Dave and Alex were clear that the incident did relate to a previous domestic situation, but this was now under control and a non-molestation order was in force. They had also had a meeting with Sgt Perry Land and are in regular contact with him. They noted that Baddow residents they had spoken to were pleased with the new online reporting system. It was felt that this removed the necessity for Richard to try out the system.

Craig also reported that the incident in Readers Court was not a drug dealing incident, but rather two rival groups who did not like each other. This was dealt with by arresting everyone involved to send out the message that it will not be tolerated.

Alex and Dave reported that following the Neighbourhood Watch meeting held on 27th October there are now 240 members and 14 people have come forward as volunteers to help.

Richard reported that there had been an attempted break-in at the Community Association in the early hours of one morning before Christmas. A door was damaged at the rear of the building (now repaired), but the alarm went off during the attempted entry and intruders had then run off. Nothing had apparently been captured on the CCTV, and although the incident was reported to the police, Richard thought that the police had not followed it up.

6. Current Traveller Situation

There had been no further incidents since the events in Baddow Hall Park over the August bank holiday and the Section 61 order was in force. Jenny reported that the City Council was going to join the Essex Traveller Unit, which would help with dealing with problems. There was some discussion about the shortage of official traveller sites and Andrew noted that the forthcoming new Chelmsford local plan might include more sites.

7. Priorities

It was agreed that the main priority issue for the NAP would continue to be drugs issues in Great Baddow and Galleywood.

8. Any other business

None.

9. Date of next meeting

7.30 pm, Wednesday 22nd March 2017.

CS 12.1.17