

Notes on NAP Meeting for Great Baddow & Galleywood held in the Millennium Centre, Great Baddow, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 28th June 2017

Present: Richard Beck (Chairman), Maureen Miller, Trevor Miller, Chris Shaw, Andrew Sosin, Bob Clarke, Jenny Chandler, Ben Gibbons, David Stevenson, Anthony McQuiggan, Bob Hendrie.

1. Apologies: Dan Glading, Gill Smith.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 22nd March 2017 were agreed.

Matters arising.

Travellers. It was noted that travellers had returned to Jubilee Park last week, but Section 61 was used immediately to require them to leave and Chelmsford City Council cleaned the park straight away. The park was re-opened within 48 hours of the incursion.

3. Youth Facility

Ben Gibbons, Chelmsford YMCA Youth Services Manager, reported that he would be attending meetings in future in place of Mike Humphrey; however, Mike was still leading the youth facility in Great Baddow.

There are now no issues outside the Bell Centre and a youth worker had been placed out on the street to ensure this. There have also been no further issues regarding young people going on to the roof. Ben and his deputy have spoken to residents in Bell Street and found them supportive of the work being done. Residents have been invited to a summer barbecue to meet the young people. Attendance is about 30 per night.

Staff have attended training on gangs and are doing a lot of work with the young people about this. Other subjects covered have included CVs and relationship building. This includes training on the consequences of sending inappropriate pictures of themselves to others.

4. Highways and Traffic Problems relating to policing

Chris had received a complaint regarding speeding in Rothmans Avenue, but it was felt that this was unlikely to be a major area needing speed checks. David Stevenson reported ongoing speeding problems in Barnard Road and Well Lane, including problems with small motorbikes, and police had been called out. There were also problems in this area with inconsiderate parking, including on corners, which had obstructed buses. There had been a Community Speedwatch exercise in Watchouse Road.

Richard reported that there had been more speed checks along Maldon Road, which were very welcome. Andrew reported that Great Baddow Parish Council was still extremely concerned about the continued flouting of the speed limit there by motorists and the clerk was investigating the possibility of making the 30mph signs more prominent on the approach from Danbury by placing them on larger rectangular backgrounds.

5. Policing Incidents and Issues.

No information had been received from the police, although Bob Clarke had received a summary from Adam Pipe, Casualty Reduction Manager, about road traffic casualties, offences and arrests in May. These included four people killed in traffic collisions and 697 seatbelt offences. There are concerns that road policing has been cut back and that although there were occasional blitzes, there is no longer the regular presence there was in the past. It was noted that criminals had often been found travelling when stops had been made in the past, playing a role in reducing criminality. Beehive Lane and Baddow Road are still regular sites for speed checks.

Bob Hendrie reported that drug dealing was still ongoing in Meadgate, with pushbike dealers and one on a mini motorbike. Needles are found in the service areas and a concerned resident still regularly reports incidents to the police. There were concerns that the 101 system was down for two days when she was trying to make reports.

Ben noted that there were a few gangs around Chelmsford, with some turf war between ones in Galleywood and Baddow. Most dealing was in cannabis and young people were being picked as low-level dealers. Jenny reported that Rev Tim Ball of Meadgate Church had also noted that drug dealing was very blatant in Meadgate. The police are known to be still working on the problems, but members expressed some dissatisfaction with the perceived police approach of concentrating on trying to catch the dealers higher up the chain, leaving the low level dealers to continue their activity, which impacted on local residents.

Anthony noted that police were responding quickly when called out recently. He also noted that camera surveillance by the community helps to reduce the number of hidden areas where dealing can take place.

David was concerned about the lack of official support for people who have been abused or raped.

It was agreed that Richard Beck would write to the Chief Constable, with a copy to the PCC, about our concerns in relation to drug dealing. It has been a concern for a long time, including its impact on local people and crimes generated by drug habits.

7. Priorities

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

8. Any other business

None.

9. Date of next meeting

7.30 pm, Wednesday 30th August 2017.

CS 3.7.17