

Notes on NAP Meeting for Great Baddow & Galleywood held in the Millennium Centre, Great Baddow, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 30th August 2017

Present: Richard Beck (Chairman), Maureen Miller, Trevor Miller, Chris Shaw, Andrew Sosin, Jenny Chandler, Dan Glading, Norman Taylor, Bob Clarke, Anthony McQuiggan, Bob Villa, Bob Hendrie.

1. Apologies: Gill Smith, Stephanie Scott, Liz Ahmed, David Stevenson.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 28th June 2017 were agreed.

Matters arising.

None.

3. Youth Facility

No report had been received. [*Confirmed subsequently that Ben Gibbons of the YMCA had been omitted from the circulation list for the agenda.*]

4. Highways and Traffic Problems relating to policing

There had been no significant change in the situation regarding problems with small motorbikes in Galleywood. Problems were still occurring now and then and police were informed. There was no known problem with this in Great Baddow.

Richard raised the issue of vehicles parking on pavements, obstructing passage by wheelchair users, people with pushchairs etc; this has been given some prominence in reporting by some police forces. Anthony reported that he had achieved some success in Tile Kiln, where a resident had taken photographs showing registration numbers, which he had then passed to the police. The police then spoke to the vehicle owners.

Andrew reported that he believed that the signpost from Church Street down West Hanningfield Road now included both Pontlands and Baddow Hospital, but was not certain. There had been a long campaign to include signage to the hospital, as its location was not well known.

Bob Villa reported that the VAS signs on Watchouse Road had finally been repaired.

5. Policing Incidents and Issues.

No information had been received from the police and Richard reiterated regrets that there was now little interface with the public, councillors or Neighbourhood Watch. Locality meetings took place, but these were widely scattered and ones local to any individual area were infrequent.

Richard reported that he had written to the Chief Constable about local problems, particularly drug dealing, as agreed at the last meeting, and was awaiting a response. The letter had also been copied to the Police and Crime Commissioner. He also noted that a meeting had recently taken place at the request of the Parish Council between parish councillors, the local police

sergeant and public protection staff from Chelmsford City Council, which he had also attended. Andrew reported that the police and public protection department of the City Council had briefed the Great Baddow East Neighbourhood Association a few days before their meeting with parish councillors. The publicity given to problems in The Chase and The Vineyards in Great Baddow was also discussed.

Bob Hendrie reported that drug dealing was still continuing in Meadgate and it was noted that gangs were spreading out from London into Essex and other areas, as London was becoming saturated. There were many complaints about difficulties with reporting issues via 101; most people reported long waits for any response when calling that number. The police were now placing a lot of emphasis on social media and encouraging people to make reports via their website, but members agreed that other means of contact still needed to be available and efficient. The danger of possibly exaggerated reports of local problems leading to high levels of fear amongst residents was also mentioned. The police were trying to provide some reassurance to residents by visiting venues such as the Coffee Pot in Baddow.

Jenny noted that she was still awaiting a briefing promised by the PCC, Ronnie Egan and Spencer Clarke.

Although members were concerned about the lack of direct information from the police, Bob Clarke reminded members about the details of crime statistics that were available online, although these are always two months behind. These statistics were concerning, as they showed crime levels in Great Baddow and Galleywood rising over the last 12 months. There was a high percentage of 'no further action' (63%) and 'investigation complete – no suspect identified' (41%) and only 6% of cases going to court. Although the reduction in police numbers/resources was a major problem, he voiced concern that organisational issues as well as police numbers led to problems, with time not being used effectively.

Norman reported that Neighbourhood Watch received a weekly list of crimes.

Chris reported that the Parish Council had been promised a monthly update on issues from City Council public protection officers.

The problems of reliance on social media were discussed. Anthony noted that the police monitored postings on some Facebook groups and utilised information posted by trusted sources. He regarded this as a quick and efficient way of providing intelligence to the police, although it was not a substitute for formal reports of crime. People could also email their local police and it was his experience that reports made via the website do receive prompt feedback from the police. He reports suspicious behaviour via email very successfully and reminded everyone that we must provide intelligence when we notice things. It was agreed that the NAP should be proactive in reporting intelligence to the police.

Bob Villa proposed that we should advertise the right email address to contact the police in our local publications, such as parish magazines, and ask all residents to contact the police with any intelligence they may have.

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

1. Bob Clarke reported that he had been inundated with offers from tree surgeons and warned that some of these are likely to be scams. He noted that it was no longer possible for consumers to phone Trading Standards direct. Calls are answered initially by the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline.
2. Richard noted that a Which report on home insurance had found that the existence of a Neighbourhood Watch in an area and installation of CCTV on an insured property made no difference to premiums.
3. Norman reported that several Speedwatch points operated regularly in Galleywood.

9. Date of next meeting

7.30 pm, Wednesday 1st November 2017.

CS 31.8.17