



BUSHEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 May 2010 at Queens School, Bushey

Attendees:	Paul Toomey	Hertsmere Leisure
	Ed Sandham (ES)	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Lily Bradshaw	Neighbourhood Watch
	Nita Derrick	Neighbourhood Watch
	Councillor Steve O'Brien	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Christopher Pittuck	Resident
	Len Harvey	Resident
	Pat Whelan	Resident
	Taff Thomas	Resident
	Ann Hodgins	Resident
	PC Gerard Handscombe	Hertfordshire Constabulary
	Amy Jeffrey (AJ)	Hertfordshire Constabulary
	Derrick Sweeney	Hertfordshire Constabulary
	Mrs Ridsdale	Resident
	Mr N Ridsdale	Resident
	Councillor Linda Silver	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Paul Morris	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Brenda Batten	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Gerry McCormick	North Bushey Neighbourhood Panel
	Nora Walker	Resident
	Barbara Ladmore	North Bushey Neighbourhood Panel
	Councillor Roger Kutchinsky	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Sharon Savage	Aldwyck Housing Group
	Robert Gamble	Vice Chair and resident
	Valerie Kane (VK)	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Councillor Anita Gamble (AG) (Chair)	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Sergeant Dave Simkin	Hertfordshire Constabulary
	Brenda Griffiths	Hertfordshire Police Authority
	Loran Kingston (LK) (Minutes)	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Lynne Hodgson	Resident
	Chris Chewett	Watford Observer

Apologies for absence:	Sue Hardy	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Paul Sawyer	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Kevin Fenton	Resident
	Spencer Bell	North Bushey Neighbourhood Panel
	Councillor Jane West	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Roy Hotchkiss	Bushey and Oxhey Churches Together

1. **Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and all those present introduced themselves.

2. **Actions and updates from the previous minutes**

The group were given an update on the following actions:

- Councillor Brenda Batten has spoken to the new contact at Community Action Hertsmere (CAH), regarding the Rolling Base being used in King George's recreational grounds. She has been reassured that the Rolling Base will be at King Georges in the near future.
- Gavin Burns, Principle Environmental Health Officer has provided the following update with regards to the Otter public house. The site was visited on Wednesday 10 February 2010 and the car park was clear, although there was some rubbish at the rear of the property and some broken glass. Environmental Health will not be taking any action at this point.

PC Ruth Cash has spoken to the Land Director and he gave the following update: the first planning application was refused and he is currently going through the appeal process. A second revised planning application for four houses and 10 flats has been submitted. When planning consent is gained the building will be demolished. It is unlikely that it will be demolished before planning permission is granted. They will be looking into further security for the site.

Gerry McCormick told the group that the panel had an update and they were told that the building would not be boarded up, as it would attract more problems.

- Councillor Steve O'Brien told the group that he had visited the resident who had had a vehicle crash into her front garden. Hertfordshire Highways have been made aware and will be visiting the resident to discuss this issue further.
- The security of the fence near to the play ground and scout hut will be completed by the end of June. At present it is not secure. Councillor Steve O'Brien told the group that he had taken photos of a person putting water into the trough where the horses are being kept. This evidence has been passed onto officers at Hertsmere Borough Council.

3. **Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

7. District Children's Trust Partnership (DCTP)

Ed Sandham gave an update to the group. Please see attached.

Several questions were asked and answers were given as below:

- Young people are involved in a variety of consultations and research is done to find out what they want.
- The aim is to raise awareness of the DCTP and develop a co-ordinated approach to services delivering youth activities to young people in Hertsmere.
- Several issues were raised, including the lack of activities provided by Youth Connexions and that past research has shown that young people don't specifically want youths clubs.
- Hertsmere Leisure still provides a discounted scheme to residents, called the Herts Card. This scheme is promoted and offered in schools. The number of young people participating in the free swimming programme has increased.
- The DCPT does not have a specific budget, although agencies within the partnership have their budgets, which are used to provide activities for young people.

The Chair discussed some email conversations she had had with Andrew Simmons at Hertfordshire County Council. She asked for Ed to comment on the response she had received with regards to youth activities in Bushey.

AG/ES

Valerie Kane informed the group that the Home Office wrote a letter/publication to all Chairs of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP's) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) to inform them that they would no longer refer to CDRP's and they would now refer only to CSP's.

This was discussed at the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) meeting, which comprises of the police, council, health, fire and rescue and probation and they decided to change to a CSP.

With that in mind the RAG also decided to change the name of the Crime Reduction Groups (CRG's) to CSP's like Bushey CSP, Borehamwood CSP etc.

The Terms of Reference will be updated and are available upon request from Valerie Kane, Community Safety Officer 020 8207 7801 or email

Valerie.kane@hertsmere.gov.uk

4. Hertfordshire Constabulary update

4.1 Local crime statistics

Sergeant Dave Simkin gave an update to the group and talked through the crime statistics. Please see attached.

The number of robberies has increased and this is due to offenders from Watford and Edgware travelling into Hertsmere and committing offences.

The number of thefts from person, which is when no threat is made, has also increased. This could be due to a rise in pick pocket offences and people misplacing items.

However since 1 April 2010 there have been no further offences committed.

The team has recruited an extra police officer called James Simpson, to help deal with the current burglary problem.

The group were informed that when a burglary is committed several houses near to the victims will be visited and officers will carry out house to house enquiries. The officers record all the details of their enquiries on the crime report.

Sergeant Dave Simkin told Len Harvey that he would ask his officers to knock on his door when they are patrolling in the area.

The group discussed the non-emergency number and reporting incidents to the police and the time it takes for calls to be answered and the time it takes for officers to arrive at the scene.

The group were advised to only call the following numbers:

- 999 – in an emergency
- 0845 33 00 222 – non-emergency number

Councillor Kutchinsky raised concerns about a burglary at the jewellers. *Update received from PC Gerard Handscombe: Following on from the CSP meeting on 11 May 2010, I have had a look at the log with regards to the robbery at The Jewellery Shop on the High Road in Bushey. There was a total of 10 Calls made to police from members of public relating to the robbery. The main report was received at 10.48am. A total of 37 officers were deployed to the incident including local police officers and PCSO's and officers from the traffic unit, the dog section, firearms and the police helicopter was deployed along with nine officers from Watford. The first unit arrived at the incident at 10.55am and the other officers arrived in the area and searched for the suspect(s). This is 7 minutes from the initial call to the first officer arriving.*

It was noted that intervention officers are based at Borehamwood police station and that if the neighbourhood teams are on duty they will try to attend incidents.

Specialist officers who deal with crime prevention, investigations and downloading CCTV are based in different areas within the county.

Dave Simkin acknowledged that there will be occasions when call handlers at the County Control Room (CCR) don't record calls accurately.

A resident asked if it was possible to have the number of arrests that lead to prosecutions as it would be helpful.

The resident was informed that the charging of an offender may not be done by the arresting officer and that it gets handed over to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Details of prosecutions are available on the Police Authority's website www.hertspa.org

A resident who had unfortunately become a victim of a burglary gave her thanks to PC Sue Taylor for the way in which she dealt with the incident.

Lynne Hodgson thanked the neighbourhood team for their quick and brilliant response to an incident she recently reported.

4.3 **Anti-social behaviour update**

Amy Jeffrey gave an update to the group.

Ward	Increase/decrease in ASB incidents compared to the period 01/02/2009 and 30/04/2010
Bushey (Whole)	Reduction of 175 incidents
Bushey Heath	Reduction of 17 incidents
Bushey North	Reduction of 76 incidents
Bushey Park	Reduction of 34 incidents
Bushey St James	Reduction of 48 incidents

The most reported type of ASB was rowdy/nuisance behaviour, which include fights, neighbour nuisance, road rage and adults becoming aggressive at shops and parties. Followed by vehicle related nuisance, including parking over driveways, abandoned vehicles, cars parked on yellow lines, young people on off road bikes and criminal damage.

The hot times for ASB were Saturdays between 1pm – 8pm.

An Alcolpop programme will be run for six weeks during June and will be held at Falconers School.

Dave Simkin informed the group that Operation CARM will be run over the weekend and people using off road vehicles will be targeted across the borough.

Amy Jeffrey to provide the hot locations for ASB at future meetings.

AJ

4.4 **Neighbourhood Watch update**

Derrick Sweeney gave an update to the group.

Ward	Number of roads	NHW schemes	% covered
Bushey North	53	28	53%
Bushey St James	76	54	71%
Bushey Park	55	29	53%
Bushey Heath	155	60	53%

The neighbourhood team in Bushey are constantly trying to increase the number of neighbourhood watches. Since the last meeting several roads have been launched and more launches are planned for the future.

The neighbourhood team were thanked for their efforts and support.

A quick lesson has been developed to help and encourage co-ordinators to log on and use the OWL system. There is also a template which has been devised to make it easier to add residents to watches. To request these forms please contact Derrick Sweeney derrick.sweeney@herts.pnn.police.uk

4.5 Neighbourhood priority setting

PC Gerard Handscombe talked the group through the recent results of the community safety surveys. Please see attached.

The group discussed the priorities at length.

The following issues and questions were raised:

- Parking on the Heath and outside the school on Elstree Road. At both locations where vehicles have parked on the pavement, causing an obstruction, they have been issued tickets. Now the vehicles are parking off the pavement this has reduced the speed of passing traffic. However work still needs to continue in order to improve the parking issues.
- How are the survey results collected and how do members of the public know that the priorities are based on the results of the surveys? – The survey's have been reduced to a few questions and will be kept and are available for residents to view. The results of the survey are recoded on a spreadsheet, which allows the officers to produce statistics and identify what the priorities are.
- Work is being done with the police and Hertfordshire County Council to resolve the speeding issues outside of St Margaret's School. Councillor Linda Silver suggested that she arrange a meeting for the partners involved and the head teacher of the school.
- PCSO's are using the speed boards to collect data on the speed of vehicles and then the officers use the laser guns to enforce against those who are exceeding the speed limit.
- The Chair informed the group that the fixed penalty notices that are issued for littering will soon be issued for dog fouling.
- Gerry McCormick informed the group that the panel normally puts forward three priorities for their ward that they want the police to help deal with and questioned why there would only be three priorities per two wards. Dave Simkin told the resident that there

are only three priorities as this is a manageable and achievable amount. PCSO's will be completing three community engagement surveys a day, which will help to establish if there are any local concerns. The mobile police station will be out in different locations across the area and will be used as an opportunity to engage with residents.

- Updates on the priorities will be given at the mobile police station events, on the website and at the future CSP meetings.
- Brenda Griffiths told the group that each CSP would develop a mechanism for selecting their priorities and the main aim of this is to ensure that priorities are dealt with efficiently.
- Gerry McCormick informed the group that the parking issues outside Highwood School were still on going and has been a priority for the panel over the past two years. However it is not featured on the neighbourhood teams list of priorities. Brenda Griffiths explained to the resident that the change in the way in which the priorities are selected does not have an effect on the North Bushey Neighbourhood panel. The panel can still meet and discuss their local issues and then pass them onto the police or at these meetings. The Chair of the North Bushey Neighbourhood Panel has written to the Chief Superintendent to express their concerns and seek some clarification on the matter.
- Taff Thomas commented on the number of surveys that had been completed as he felt this was not enough to gather meaningful priorities. Dave Simkin explained that the PCSO's will be targeted to complete at least three community safety surveys a day, which will enhance the amount of community engagement and will increase the accuracy of the priorities. Brenda Griffiths told the group that she felt it was important for the neighbourhood officers to be able to get on with their police roles within the community.

It was noted that the majority of the people surveyed in other areas of the borough have no local issues of concern.

The group agreed to add the Highwood School parking issues as a priority.

5. Police Authority update

Brenda Griffiths tabled copies of the Police Plan 2010/2013.

Councillor Roger Kutchinsky advised the group to contact their ward councillors, as they can pass information to the police.

6. Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Peter Cargill was not present at the meeting. However the following update was provided showing the fire statistics between April 2009 and March 2010.

Offence	2008/2009	2009/2010
Arson	6	16
Primary	0	7
Secondary	6	9
Primary fires	20	26
Dwelling	10	11
Buildings	4	4
Vehicles	6	8
Other	6	8
Road traffic Collisions (RTC's)	8	11

8. Local issues

8.1 North Bushey Neighbourhood Panel

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

During 2009/2010 4621 fixed penalty notices (£60) and three points were issued to drivers who were using their mobile phones whilst driving.

9. Community Safety Partnership update

Valerie Kane gave an update to the group.

The Partnership Plan Review 2009/2010 and Safer Hertfordshire leaflets were tabled.

The group were informed that the remanding £380 in last years budget 2009/2010 was given to the Hertsmere Volunteer Police Cadets (HVPC). 24 young people have now been selected from across the borough and meet every other week for two hours.

The cadets will be having their first passing out parade on Wednesday 28 July 2010.

The Chair informed the group that she had received a letter of thanks form HVPC.

The group were reminded that there is £1,000 for the group to spend on community safety issues during 2010/2011. The group were asked to forward any suggestions or ideas to Valerie Kane on 020 820 7801 or email valerie.kane@hertsmere.gov.uk

PC Gerard Handscombe asked for some funding for PCSO Susan Lowther, to purchase UV pens for the 'Crime Busters' initiative she is running in schools.

The group agreed that they would to fund £250 towards this initiative.

Valerie Kane to liaise with PCSO Susan Lowther and order the UV pens with the CSP logo on it.

VK

10. Any other business

Horse Watch will be launched in Hertsmere on Thursday 13 May 2010 at the Civic Offices at 7.30pm. All horse owners/riders are welcome to attend.

The group were informed that there would be a talk from a representative from the Crown Prosecution Service (CSP) at the next Hertsmere Community Safety Partnership meeting, which will be held on Monday 19 July 2010 at 6.30pm at the Civic offices, Borehamwood.

The group were told that there are several false charities asking for donations or clothing. Members of the group were urged to make sure the charities are legitimate, through Trading Standards or donate money or clothing directly to a charity shop/ hospice.

The group agreed that they would like to have a presentation from Yvonne Bartlett, from Trading Standards at the next meeting.

LK/YB

11. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 September 2010 at 7pm at Queens School, Bushey.

The Chair thanked all those present for attending the meeting.