

ST NEOTS NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MONDAY, 25 JULY 2011

GREAT GRANSDEN READING ROOM, GREAT GRANSDEN, FOX STREET, SG19 3AA

ACTION SHEET

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C Hutton - Cambridgeshire County Council (Chairman)
Mr G Hammond - Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
(Vice-Chairman)
Mr P Chatterton - Luminus Group
Councillor R S Farrer - Huntingdonshire District Council
Inspector M Greenhalgh - Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Councillor A Ruck - St. Neots Town Council
Councillor J Wisson - Abbotsley Parish Council

FORUM: 27 Members of other authorities, organisations and the public sector.

ITEM NO.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
1	Welcome and Membership Councillor Mrs C Hutton, Chairman of the Forum welcomed everyone to the meeting and with the assistance of a power point slide introduced those partner representatives who would be members of the Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year 2011/2012.	All To Note
2	Notes of previous meeting held on 11th April 2011 The Notes of the meeting held on 11th April 2011 were agreed as a correct record.	All To Note
3	Progress Report Having observed that all matters raised at the previous meeting were likely to arise again during the presentation from Inspector Greenhalgh under Item No. 4, the progress report was noted.	All To Note
4	Neighbourhood Policing Profile Inspector M Greenhalgh introduced himself to the Forum as the Senior Inspector for the Area and gave a presentation on the work of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the April – July 2011 profile for the St. Neots and Eynesbury Sectors. Inspector Greenhalgh was accompanied	

ITEM NO.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
	<p>by the Rural Team Leader, PC A Martin.</p> <p>Copies of the presentation were circulated at the meeting and are now available to view on the website of Cambridgeshire Constabulary.</p> <p>In terms of the response to the Policing Priorities set by the Panel for the period April – July, Inspector Greenhalgh reported on action taken in respect of anti-social behaviour/ the night time economy in St. Neots Town Centre. He added that fifteen key individuals had been banned from pub watch premises and that increased visible police presence in the Town Centre had been positively received by both late night venues in the town. Statistically 6% of anti-social behaviour was youth related, 8% was violent crime or night time economy related and 40% was domestic violence or alcohol fuelled violence. Notwithstanding these figures, St. Neots Division recorded the lowest percentage of violent crimes in the quarter.</p> <p>Regarding overall crime figures for the quarter, the Forum was advised that there had been a reduction of 17.7% or 109 crimes in comparison with the corresponding period in 2010 with fewer offences involving criminal damage, vehicle crime and burglary (other). Similarly, the incidence of anti-social behaviour had fallen by 15.1% equivalent to 80 individual occurrences across all wards with the exception of Gransden and the Offords. Although there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour in Gransden and The Offords these occurred in the Loves Farm/Cambridge Road area which now were included within the ward following boundary change.</p> <p>Inspector Greenhalgh concluded his presentation by referring briefly to the decision by the Constabulary to form a three force strategic policy alliance with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary. He explained that proposed collaborative working was seen as a way to achieve the savings demanded by the Government yet still maintain a wide range of policing functions including meeting the needs of local communities. The Forum would continue to receive updates on progress of this initiative.</p> <p>In response to questions, Inspector Greenhalgh indicated that there had been less cross-border crime as common offenders had been sentenced to the end of the year. In terms of the future identity of the force, the Inspector explained that the Strategic Alliance would take responsibility for protective services which would cover major serious and organised crime.</p> <p>Drawing attention to an incident on the recreation field in Little Paxton and the time taken by the Police to respond to emergency calls, the Rural Team Leader explained that technical difficulties had been experienced recently with telephony due to system changes but calls should be answered within 2 minutes and that she would report the dissatisfaction back to those responsible.</p> <p>The Chairman of Great Gransden Parish Council raised several issues of concern in the Parish. These related to loss of village signs, speeding and problem parking particularly in the vicinity of the school at the</p>	

ITEM NO.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
	<p>beginning and end of the school day. Inspector Greenhalgh was of the view that the school needed to take greater responsibility for the control of parking near their premises and he undertook to take the matter up with them directly.</p> <p>In terms of other initiatives, Councillor Mrs Hutton mentioned that Middlefields School in Eynesbury had adopted the “Safer Routes to School” Programme. Similarly, Inspector Greenhalgh mentioned ‘the safer cycling for schools initiative’ which was designed to raise traffic awareness and is organised by Cambridgeshire County Council in conjunction with host schools. Any suggestion that bikers were riding on pavements at high speed needed to be supported by evidence before he could pursue it.</p> <p>In response to the issue about speeding in the village, Inspector Greenhalgh undertook to take action to survey speed and particular mention was made of two routes – Meadow Road to Gamlingay between 9am and 3 – 6pm and from Caxton to Gransden.</p> <p>Having regard to the theft of metal signs, PC Martin reported that because this had become a problem locally it had been referred to an intelligence team. In response to a complaint regarding speeding tractors in the Offords, PC Martin was aware that both the NFU and Countryside Watch were encouraging farmers to exercise courtesy on the road.</p> <p>In terms of the crime statistics and the inclusion of incidents arising at Loves Farm, it was reported that a boundary review by the District Council had resulted in the inclusion of Loves Farm in the Priory Park Ward.</p> <p>It was also suggested, in discussion, that a traffic management scheme in St. Neots Town Centre had been delayed given concerns from the Town Council that the proposal would only exacerbate current traffic problems. Mention also was made of several assaults in the market square in St. Neots involving door staff and Inspector Greenhalgh explained that the incidents were under investigation and if appropriate, the offenders would be charged.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Hutton urged Inspector Greenhalgh to keep an eye on the possibility of teenagers jumping from the new willow bridge.</p>	
5	<p>Community Alcohol Project</p> <p>Mrs Maija Bissett, Licensing Officer at Huntingdonshire District Council gave a presentation to the Forum on the community alcohol partnership which was commended by the Home Office and first founded in St. Neots in 2007/2008. She explained that it involved key partners working together to prevent and discourage under-aged drinking. The efforts made to transform the skate park in the Riverside Park, St. Neots was used as an illustration of the type of project in which the Partnership had become involved.</p>	

ITEM NO.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
	<p>It having been suggested that parents appeared in some cases to be providing alcohol for their teenage children, Mrs Bissett explained that the Partnership had, with the help of the Police, tried to encourage parents to take an interest in the problem but that this had proved difficult to achieve.</p> <p>Mrs Bissett invited the Forum to contact her with any suggestions they might have to help discourage under-aged drinking.</p>	All To Note
6	<p>Proposed development of a youth drop in centre for St Neots</p> <p>Mrs Christine Stocker-Gibson addressed the Forum on her proposals to establish a youth drop-in centre in St. Neots. She described when she first moved to St. Neots she found that there was little for young people to do. As a result, Mrs Stocker-Gibson had set up an organisation which invited people to come forward and act as volunteer mentors. There were now 20 mentors working with young people but the project had no venue to work from and required funds to operate in a more structured way.</p> <p>County Councillor Mrs Hutton was aware of similar projects which operated independently of each other in the town and suggested that Mrs Stocker-Gibson seek to link up with these groups and contact the Hunts Forum for help in identifying sources of funding and support.</p>	
7	<p>Proposed Local GP consortia</p> <p>Mr A Vowles, Director of Strategy and Delivery, Cambridgeshire NHS addressed the Forum on developing clinical commissioning in Cambridgeshire. The Forum were reminded of the current health structure nationally and advised of what was proposed to take its place. It was the intention to establish a single clinical commissioning group covering most of Cambridgeshire but possibly including some practices from Hertfordshire. There were currently 76 GP practices in the County.</p> <p>In discussion, Mr Vowles confirmed that consideration still was being given to how to manage the “drop in surgery” at St. Neots, that the clinical commissioning board comprising 2 lay members would undertake a scrutiny role, that GPs were better placed and sufficiently experienced to understand health issues at local level rather than at more remote PCTs, that patient groups would be expected to continue but that arrangements for ensuring their operation was still under consideration, that clinical groups had been discouraged from crossing county boundaries, that existing GP groups had been encouraged to become involved in the franchise process at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital although it had been confirmed that Circle was now the preferred bid.</p>	
8	Panel Prioritisation	

ITEM NO.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
	<p>The Panel agreed the following priorities for the three months to October –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ update on establishment of skate park user group (non-police led); ◆ high street/market square – violence and thefts (shop lifting); ◆ speeding in villages with specific reference to Great Gransden and Little Paxton, Great North Road/Mill Lane. 	<p>Darryl McMurray, Youth Service Cambs Constabulary “ “</p>
9	<p>Future Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Parking in the Longsands Road/St. Neots Railway Station area; ◆ Proposed traffic lights scheme, High Street, St. Neots; ◆ Visit from skate park user group (when the forum next visits St. Neots). 	<p>Cambs County “ “ Darryl McMurray, Youth Service</p>
10	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>24th October 2011 at Ernulf Academy, Barford Road, St. Neots.</p>	<p>All To note</p>
11	<p>Current Consultation/information</p> <p>The Forum noted details of current consultation on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Business Link workshops; ◆ The future of Cambridgeshire Police; ◆ Highways and Transport Services. 	<p>All To Note</p>
	<p>The meeting ended at 8.50pm.</p>	