

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 2nd April 2008 at 6:30pm

In attendance:

Chair	
Residents	x5
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
WCBC	Cllr Paul Blackwell

2. Apologies

x8

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were deferred until next meeting

4. Matters Arising

ADH apologised for the re-organisation of the meeting and its subsequent impact on the attendance.

PB wished to clarify the situation with regard to street lamps. The work agreed by Cefn Community Council was now as follows lamp no. 459 & 460 – increased in height and lantern upgrade, 462 – lantern upgrade, 465 replaced with steel post.

The cost of the work was estimated at £2990 +VAT.

It was pointed out that this still was slightly at odds with the groups understanding of the situation as 3 lantern upgrades and 1 new lamp post had been agreed with the Lighting Engineer. It was agreed that physical work in relation to The Brook was unfeasible but it had been hoped that consideration could have been given to this new lamppost being sited elsewhere.

FH asked about the potential for security lighting being fitted to individual properties. ADH responded citing difficulties in identifying funders that would be willing to pay for what would be considered “individual benefits” and reminded the group of the difficulties with the Smartwater project. However, as FH was not alone in calling for such an approach PMCF would keep an eye open for any possible ways forward, but it was likely that very strict eligibility criteria would be required. FH also suggested that in some locations, particularly Marlbrook, the main problem was trees interfering with the lights and maybe work could be done to trim some back.

The issue of the Skip Site regulations was raised again, with ongoing concern expressed about the potential negative impacts on the estate from waste. EL spoke of being refused entry with a washing machine on a trolley. FH provided the group with a copy of a letter from John Bradbury in response to the letter she wrote as agreed last time. The Tenants & Residents Group had received a very similar response. Efforts will be made to pass the main points of the response onto the wider community. PMCF would be seeking more support from WCBC in terms of recycling education.

5. Nominations / Election of Chair person

Deferred until next meeting.

6. Physical Environment in Plas Madoc

Env Action Days

Deferred until next meeting

Damage to Verges

A complaint had been raised about large vehicles causing obstructions at the shop by parking on the verges. This has been chased up with WCBC Housing, which had previously agreed to install a kick-rail fence on the verge. This kick-rail is on order but this has been delayed. During this process the Housing Manager received advice that a kick-rail may not be the best option as a reversing vehicle could cause significant damage to it, making its long-term viability questionable. The engineer involved recommended using boulders. The Housing Manager would like the group's agreement to switch from the proposed kick-rail to the installation of boulders.

The group unanimously agreed.

Graffiti Removal Day

The day took place on the 4th March and was successful in addressing approx 85% of the previously identified graffiti on the estate. There were some key locations still to be treated but the overall impact was good. A litter pick also took place during the event and a significant amount of litter was recovered. NWP was disappointed with the litter situation, which does not appear to be getting any better.

Trees at Whalley's Way

Following the recommendation of WCBC Environment to reduce the trees to a height of 5m, the Housing Manager sought consultation with the family living in the property bordered by the tree line. The family has stated its concern about the significant loss of privacy should the trees be reduced in this way and as such have objected to the work. The Housing Manager has therefore opted not to reduce the height of the trees. The Group agreed that privacy was an important factor and accepted this decision, with the proviso that efforts still be made to keep the tree line tidy.

7. Army Familiarisation Course

A full report was withheld out of deference to Cefn Community Council. ADH was keen to write to the Council, who co-funded the course, to explain the situation before going more public. Overall though, it was possible to say that the young people from the Plas Madoc area that took part had a fantastic experience and were highly commended by the Army throughout all stages of the course, for their behavior and their application.

8. Visible Police Presence in Plas Madoc

ADH read out a letter (via email) from Sgt Whibberley in response to the complaint over a decline in visible policing on the estate. The letter outlined the structure of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the difficulties resulting from sick leave among the two PCSOs. Sgt Whibberley stated that a minimum of 3 hours per shift from the Community Beat Managers was dedicated to Plas Madoc, although this does include "non-visible" but vital work. There was positive news in that one PCSO was very close to a return and was due to see the consultant that week to get signed back on. There was also an extract provided from the Territorial Inspector, confirming that Plas Madoc has been made the default location for Special Constables as a measure to improve visibility.

In signing off Sgt Whibberley requested feedback from the group in relation to identifying optimum times when a presence was desired. The responses were: High volume times, e.g. start / finish of school where more people would notice and evening times to address issues in and around the shop area.

PB informed the group that he had raised his concerns over this issue with the now Chief Supt Ruth Purdie and had made representation to this effect in his completed Quality of Service questionnaire.

9. Police Update

Pc Robertshaw provided a summary crime report in his absence.

4 Assaults

3 Burglary (other than dwelling)

5 Criminal Damage

4 Theft

1 Theft of Motor Vehicle

This was a noticeable increase from last month, influenced by crimes related to the taking of metal pipes and boilers from vacant properties on the estate.

10. Issues

Drugs – HRT's outreach and doorstep work has paid dividends with positive increases in clients receiving support.

Youth ASB – no issues

Litter – The concern raised above in relation to the graffiti days was repeated in that there seems to be a lot of litter about. PB reported that the beat sweeper had recovered 150 bags of litter in 3 days of that week. EL was concerned that school pupils under supervision had been witnessed dropping litter.

Needles – An incident involving a dropped needle, witnessed by the Open Access Play Scheme was being dealt with by Police, HRT and WCBC.

Dogs – Operation Gruff still underway.

Alcohol –no issues

Lighting – see above

12. AOB

ADH informed the Group that it had been successful in securing a Communities First Trust Fund grant of approx £1300 to support the ongoing anti-social behaviour workshops initiative.

EL brought a specific issue to the group. The details of this are not for the Minutes due to the personal nature of the matters. ADH to liaise with partner agencies.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 30th April @ 9:30am at The Opportunity Centre.