

# PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008 at 2.00am

### **In attendance:**

Chair	
Tenants / Residents	x13
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
NW Police	PC Gary Robertshaw
	PCSO Chris Cheshire
WCBC Housing	Vicky Ledsham
WCBC Public Protection	Helen Cook
WCBC Public Protection	Caron McKinney
WCBC	Cllr Paul Blackwell

### **2. Apologies**

x7

### **3. Andrew Jordan – Environmental Health**

Andrew Jordan is still absent but his Line Manager - Senior Public Protection Officer, Helen Cook attended in his place along with a colleague Caron McKinney.

HC explained that the department is roughly divided between Public Health, e.g. noise nuisance / drains and Environmental Enforcement, e.g. dog fouling, litter issues.

The preferred option is to develop a “Good Neighbour Code” to make householders aware of the impacts that they may potentially have on those close by. Where this does not occur the department will take action. Where a nuisance is identified, evidence is gathered in order to serve a Statutory Notice, which requires the individual on which it is served to stop the activity that is causing the nuisance. If this Notice is breached, this is the point at which the courts can take action but often they require a significant level of evidence for a prosecution.

A summary of the process for a noise nuisance is shown below:-

Complaint – diary for 14 days – monitoring equipment installed – complaint left open for 1 month but will proceed if second instance takes place within this time – Statutory Notice served giving 28 days to comply – breach of Notice may result in prosecution through the courts.

Key terms within the overall process include “reasonable”, “excessive” and “tolerance”. Continuing the theme of noise nuisance *reasonable* may relate to the duration of the noise, and *excessive* to the volume. Tolerance has implications for the burden of proof and the sensitivity of the complainant.

HC was keen to stress that partnership working was a priority and that the Env Health Officers would for example work closely with the RSPCA over issues relating to animal nuisance.

A number of tenants raised issues about a specific property on the estate in relation to household waste. For obvious reasons the details are not minuted but HC took further information in order to make further enquiries.

One key issue that was raised was about whether or not the person making the initial complaint was kept in the loop, when enforcement action was being taken. There was a feeling that little

information was passed to the complainant meaning they were left unsure whether Notices, etc. had been served so that they could identify improvements / breaches. HC said that she would look into the provision of information to those making the complaint.

Following on from the discussions over waste the following issues were raised:-

- 1) In general recycling levels are low and more intensive support / education is required
- 2) It was felt that not enough bins were being “stickered” by the refuse collection team meaning potentially that further interventions (Recycling Education Officer Support / Notices / Fixed penalties) were not forthcoming.
- 3) Complaints from tenants about the rubbish left by the cleansing team when bins are split / spilt, etc.
- 4) Significant dog fouling at Ash Grove and the need for a bin in that location.

ADH – action to write to Chief Officer to highlight the group’s concerns.

#### **4. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Apologies from F & K H, MH and PB had not been noted.

The minutes of 2/4/08 were proposed as a true record by PB and seconded by JH

The minutes of the last meeting (30/4/08) were proposed as a true record by PCSO CC and seconded by JH.

#### **5. Matters Arising**

PB brought a further update in relation to street lighting – 1 light in Alwen had been upgraded by 3 were still outstanding and PB would be chasing this with the Lighting Engineer. A new light in Aled, where recent complaints had been made, will cost in the region of £1100. It would be confirmed at the next meeting what precept was available for this financial year.

EVA (Env Visual Audit) had taken place on 12<sup>th</sup> May and had involved the Junior Env Wardens for the first time. The main problem was litter, which was present in virtually all areas of the estate. 4 new bins had been installed around the centre green and 2 new bins had been requested from Street Scene for the footpath running between the shop and the bridge over the brook at Tegid.

Comments relating to drug misuse and pharmacy provision had been forwarded to WAG in a consultation paper on their Substance Misuse Strategy for Wales.

#### **6. Environmental Action Day**

ADH provided the newer members of the group with an outline of what the Env Action Day would encompass.

Unfortunately this item was postponed along with the date of the next EAD due to lack of representation from partner agencies.

#### **7. Police Update**

Pc R gave an overview of Operation Gruff, which had targeted loose dogs on the estate throughout the month of April. It was a joint venture between NW Police and WCBC Public Protection following complaints from the community. Morning and evening patrols took place based on feedback from residents. 10 dogs were seized and returned and the owners received a

mixture of advice / enforcement. In addition 3 fixed penalty notices were issued for fouling. Positives coming out of the Operation included improved partnership working and a message sent out to the community that action can be taken when required.

The lack of anti dog fouling signs was mentioned and it was suggested that a competition be run in the school to design posters. There were complaints over significant fouling on the centre green when there are dog shows.

In the last month (not a whole month due to date of meeting)

4 assaults

2 criminal damage

2 theft

DB spoke of an incident (details not printed here) that occurred at New Year but that was still of concern. PCSO CC to liaise outside of meeting.

Concerns were raised about under-age drinking and ASB at The Railway pub in Cefn and the impact that this had late at night as people returned to the estate from there. Pc R spoke of his involvement in the issues and that he was meeting with licensing.

## **8. Issues**

**Drugs** – “New faces” seen on estate possibly looking for drugs. Dealing allegedly taking place outside of shop.

**Youth ASB** – Occurring at a specific location mentioned in Woodward's Walk / Whalleys Way area

**Litter** – see previous

**Needles** – no issues

**Dogs** – Plans for Operation Gruff were underway, notice had been given in the local press. 2 dogs had been seized by wardens in the last 10 days, both were paid for and returned.

**Alcohol** – concern over young people serving in the shop and the potential for intimidation to secure sales. ADH gave an overview of the proposed Alcohol Control Zones that will shortly be implemented in Wrexham.

**Lighting** – see previous

## **12. AOB**

EL was concerned that the temporary fencing being used by the contractors was used by youngsters who dragged it all over the area. He proposed that the contractors be asked to secure these items more effectively.

AH welcomed the new boulders at the edge of the green near the shop but asked if another one could be provided to fill the gap next to the salt bin.

Concern over motorbikes riding through estate. PCSO Cheshire referred to the previous minutes which stated that an operation had been approved and was in the planning stage. He mentioned that the use of Section 59 powers was on going and in fact he had served a notice today.

MO asked if tenants from Woodward's Walk could keep the Estate Office informed in his absence of any further issues at a certain property following a recent meeting with the land lord.

Retrospectively added – Ongoing concern raised about the chicanes in Hampden Way causing problems for larger vehicles.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 18th June @ 6:30pm at The Opportunity Centre.

