

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 26th January 2009 at 9:30am

In attendance:

Chair	
Tenants / Residents	x8
Cefn Community Council	Ennys Hughes Malcom Hughes
PMCF	Andrew Harradine
NW Police	Sgt Darren Whibberley Pc Gary Robertshaw PCSO Chris Cheshire
NWFRS	Neil Dorrington
WCBC	Cllr Paul Blackwell
Victim Support	Barbara Roberts
WCBC Housing	Mark Owens
WCBC Streetscene	John Walsh
Safer Roads Partnership	Paul Williams
NW Probation (PYW)	Chris Higgins

1) Welcome & Introductions

2) Apologies

x6

3) Presentation – Paul Williams, Safer Roads Officer

The Safer Roads Officer is part of the NW Casualty Reduction Partnership. PW has attended following long running discussion over 20mph limit on the estate. PW clarified that Plas Madoc is actually designated as a 20mph zone, where all roads within the zone are subject to enforcement of 20mph. There are limited entrances onto the estate, all of which are signed appropriately. Recent speed surveys conducted 24/7 for a week showed average speeds 17-18mph, although it was accepted that there were cars found to be travelling faster than this on occasion. 20mph zones must be “self-policing” in that there must be physical traffic calming in place as well such as chicanes, speed humps and pinch points. The reality of this was often that drivers select low gears to navigate the traffic calming and this creates increased engine noise, which can easily create a perception of increased speed. PG asked about Oak Road, which was outside of the 20mph zone but suffers from speeding vehicles. It was explained that roads are reviewed periodically by WCBC Highways but PB felt that it would not be a priority location for any changes. PW stated that according to DoT guidelines there was no need for additional or repeater signs within the 20mph zone. NW Police and PW would deploy VAS (vehicle activated signs) in the near future – this is an illuminated sign that lights up if speed limit is exceeded. There would also be ongoing enforcement by NWP. CG explained that he felt that parking issues made the situation worse and PP was concerned about cars taking short cuts over verges and grassed areas. MO stated that there was a zero tolerance approach for vehicles found driving off road and that he was in regular contact with PCSOs over this issue. DT claimed that there were still motorbike problems in certain locations on the estate PCSO CC spoke of the positive use of Section 59 powers and it was generally agreed that the problem had definitely been reduced as a whole. FH was concerned about the chicanes on Hampden Way. PW was sure that DoT guidelines would have been implemented during construction. Problems with parking surfaces behind Hampden Way were raised.

PW was thanked for his attendance at the meeting

ACTION - JW and ADH to arrange site meeting with Highways to review traffic calming and signs

ACTION – PW and PCSO CC to arrange VAS deployment EH to be involved

ACTION – Ongoing NWP enforcement

4) Minutes of Last Meeting

Correction: The month had been omitted from the date line.

The minutes of the last meeting (26/11/08) were proposed as a true record by PB and seconded by FH.

5) Matters Arising

- PB informed the group that the lantern upgrade at the rear of Woodward's Walk had been completed but unfortunately a larger grid fault had then knocked it out 24hrs later. Scottish Power were aware of the fault.
- The CSG had a new volunteer secretary to take minutes – KH was welcomed to the group
- PG had volunteered to take a more active role within the group. PG would assist ADH on the day to day issues raised in meetings. There would be an AGM in March 2009 where all appointments would be officially confirmed.
- EL had raised a query over a seeming contradiction between 2 pieces of legislation discussed under the ASB section at the last meeting. This had been resolved after the meeting but for the benefit of the group there was no contradiction.
- Taxi Horns – there had been no progress on this issue and it was agreed that it was unlikely that much could be done short of NW Police witnessing transgressions directly.
- Parking on Whalley's Way – PCSO CC was aware and had spoken to motorists, unfortunately it was not always the same person. The area would be kept under observation.

6) Police Update

Crime Figures were provided from date of last meeting to this meeting and therefore covered 2 months of reporting.

2 Drugs, 7 ASB, 2 Assaults, 2 Burglary (dwelling), 4 Theft, 16 Criminal Damage, 3 Shop Lifting Graffiti had increased over the period as had damage to fencing, however prompt response from WCBC had already ensured most of the graffiti had been removed.

Sgt DW asked about residents' perception of crime relative to these figures. PP felt that there had been an improvement in Dinas and PG said that he thought that the estate suffered from an historic reputation that was no longer valid.

ACTION: Sgt DW will make 5 years of annual crime figures available to PMCF in late April

PP was concerned over dark areas on estate and in particular the substation in Dinas / Alwen. CH asked if there was a known correlation between dark areas and crime. Pc GR thought not for crime but where low level ASB was concerned maybe darker areas were any issues. MH was concerned about the cuts in Cefn Community Council budget imposed by WCBC and the lack of ability to therefore respond to lighting concerns.

DT spoke of an incident in his area of the estate and highlighted a number of related concerns. Sgt DW was not aware of the incident and took an action to bring details to the next meeting to respond to DT. MO was aware of the technical problem raised by DT but was confident this

would be resolved before the next meeting although it was an outside agency with direct responsibility.

ACTION: Sgt DW to respond to DT at next meeting.

7) Environmental Audits

PCSO CC outlined the Env Audit process and the agencies involved. All actions prioritised for 2008 had been completed and new priorities taken on for 2009. A copy of the most recent audit report was circulated. PCSO CC invited ND to attend in future. Members of the CSG were also welcome to attend. Sgt DW commented that the Env Audit process, as delivered in Plas Madoc was seen as a “gold standard” across the county.

ADH gave an update on an issue raised by FH over problems experienced by the Ambulance Service in reaching certain properties on the estate. The Ambulance Service had been invited to attend a meeting following a site visit by ADH and PCSO CC – to date no response has been received.

EH commented that littering and dog fouling seemed to still be a problem. ADH responded that this was one of those issues that seemed to fluctuate significantly – some audits showed virtually no litter, others highlighted it as a major concern. JW responded to comments over the litter pickers by confirming that staffing structures within WCBC had been altered since the launch of Streetscene and resources were affected in Plas Madoc. CG wanted to flag up the fact that the “litter pickers” appeared to miss out the Brook. JW encouraged all members to report problems such as this so they could be addressed specifically. PB informed the group that since 1st Jan there had been 9 fixed penalty tickets issued for dog fouling. CG was worried about the erosion of the banks around the Brook.

ACTION: EH and FH to be invited to attend Env Audit

ACTION: ADH to re-contact Ambulance Service

8) CSG Priorities 2009

ADH went through the existing NPP priorities and following much discussion the following issues were accepted as 2009 Priorities for the Group.

Litter & Dog Fouling

ASB

Supply of Drugs

Criminal Damage

Vehicle Management (inc. speeding / parking)

Communal Bin Areas

Lighting

Positive Publicity

9) Small Grants Scheme

ADH circulated the application form and guidance notes for the new Small Grants Scheme and talked the Group through the process. Grants of up to £75 can be applied for by households in Plas Madoc to address safety issues in the home / car. Applications would require a validation by NWP and WCBC Housing Office to help avoid duplication and ensure that the grants went to those most in need.

ACTION: ADH to inform the press of the new scheme

10) AOB

Extra Care - ADH gave a Powerpoint presentation of the plans for the new Extra Care Facility destined for Plas Madoc. The Group was informed that a Stakeholder Group had been formed and had met once, more members were welcome. There were safety / security issues to be considered – NWP are present on the Stakeholder Group.

11) Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 25th February 2009 @ 3:00pm at The Opportunity Centre.