

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 30th January 2008 at 9:30am

In attendance:

Chair	
Residents	x4
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH) Dale Stanway
NW Police	PC Gary Robertshaw Sgt Darren Whibberley Sgt John Williams PCSO Andy Browning
WCBC Economic Dev	Jon Sankey
WCBC Housing	Vicky Ledsham
WCBC Streetscene	John Walsh
WCBC	Cllr Paul Blackwell
North Wales Fire & Rescue	Neil Dorrington

2. Apologies

x2

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed as a true record by PB

The minutes were seconded by FH.

4. Matters Arising

The Army Familiarisation Course has still not been narrowed down to a specific date, although PMCF is expecting something in the first quarter of the year. Following a visit to The Venue by a Corporal from the Royal Welsh. 15 names of young people interested in the course have been collected in preparation.

Junior Env Wardens – see agenda items

ASB Workshops – following the success of the sessions in Plas Madoc the formula for the workshops has been approved and rolled out across the county.

JW to enquire with Public Protection over siting of No Fouling Signs on the estate but particularly around the Llys Madoc site. PB mentioned that one of the Public Protection Officers had distributed stickers on the estate.

The positive impact of the Parks Team was mentioned in the Plas Madoc Community News column in the Evening Leader, as proposed at the last meeting.

The trees / hedgerow at the rear of the Takeaway property had been raised as complaint and a previous action involved writing to the Env Dept to propose action be taken. This was done by PMCF and it was suggested that the hedge be laid formally (as a community-based training opportunity). This was rejected by WCBC but it did accept that the trees needed cutting back. A site meeting is to be arranged between WCBC Arboricultural Officer and Estate Office.

5. Community Engagement Strategy

The launch of the questionnaire had been delayed due to a combination of computer issues and availability of PCSOs. The questionnaire is to be web-based this year as well as door-to-door, which will offer the opportunity for people to engage in a different way. The schools have agreed that time can be given in class to allow pupils to access the PMCF website.

6. Physical Environment in Plas Madoc

Junior Wardens

A meeting was scheduled for the afternoon to clarify the finer details of how the project will run. Details will be made available at the next meeting. The Group was reminded that the Wardens would be non-confrontational and all activities would be supervised by either NWP or WCBC in conjunction with PMCF. Main roles would revolve around the Environmental Audit process.

Env Action Days

A sum of money was requested as part of the Junior Env Warden funding application to run Environmental Action Days in the areas of the estate that were not covered by the main JAG-endorsed event which took place in June 2007. The majority of the funding was to pay for skips but a sum had been ring-fenced for gardening equipment to allow people to maintain their gardens as per their tenancy agreements.

VL stated that the Estate Office could provide 2 skips before the end of March 2008 for use on the estate. FH asked that the organisers take account of Hampden Way's unique nature when selecting locations for skips. There was discussion over the pros and cons of skips vs HIABs for the job and consideration was given to using collection points rather than actual skips. However it was felt necessary to be able to cope appropriately with certain waste materials that should ideally be contained. Walk-in skips were also suggested.

JW spoke about how a recent event in Caia Park had involved the local scrap metal dealer, who took metal away in return for a payment, which was put towards the running costs of the day. DW suggested investigating the use of "Hippo" bags, which are purchased up front but include disposal. Wednesdays were identified as best from the Fire Service's point of view.

Suggested dates for the Action Days – Easter Week, Summer Holidays and Half Term (October)
ADH to liaise with partners and identify specific dates.

Damage to Verges

Following complaints by members of the community over the churning up of verges and corners on the estate by heavy vehicles. This was passed on to the Chief Environment Officer who has responsibilities for the bin lorries and a meeting was held on-site with a representative from Cleansing and StreetScene. It was clear that the bin lorries are responsible for some, but not all of the damage and Kevin Wilkins agreed to speak to all drivers who operate on the estate. However it was also clear that in most instances the drivers were left with little choice due to the road layouts and parking situations in certain areas. The priority locations are Whalley's Way, Ogwen and Marlbrook. It was agreed to run a specific sub-group to look at this problem and include NWP and Highways in relation to parking. GR pointed out that the "10m from a junction" rule for parking was only Highway Code advice and not enforceable unless the parking could be construed as dangerous or obstructive. FH spoke about the problems she has witnessed at the end of Hampden Way around the Druids House area, including within the chicanes and in the bus stops. ADH to contact Highways over Traffic Orders.

7. Road Safety

ADH shared correspondence from WCBC Highways in response to a letter sent regarding the safety on the A539. Although ADH did not feel the letter was as encouraging as the initial site meeting with the Chief Officer and AM had been, it provided for PMCF to submit a Phase II Safe Routes to School funding application. This would have to take into account non-physical measures if it was to be successful – meaning a focus on education and awareness raising. Contact had been made with Ysgol Rhiwabon with a view to getting the SRTS Group back up and running to join PMCF and the Youth Forum in working on the School Travel Plan, which would be necessary for the bid. Sgt Martin Best was suggested as a useful contact for SRTS.

8. Skip Site Regulations

PMCF had been made aware through a tenant that the rules had been changed at the skip site preventing pedestrian access. VL also mentioned that complaints were being received via the Estate Office. PB had spoken to John Bradbury on the matter and had been told that the decision was a response to safety fears and also due to inappropriate behavior from a number of youths who regularly take wheelie bins in. VL had already noticed that deserted bins were being discovered. DS was concerned at the lack of information available in relation to this change in rules. The Group was united in its concern that this decision would have implications on the estate in terms of fly-tipping, side waste and accumulation of material in gardens / homes. This would undo the progress being made through initiatives such as the EADs. PMCF would be writing to John Bradbury outlining these concerns and FH also offered to send a letter. There was discussion about the fact that consultation had taken place in 2007 in the Leisure Centre by the site operator WRG over more long-term changes at the location, however this went completely under the radar and most only found out about the consultation the week after it took place.

9. Police Update

GR informed the group that there were 16 reported crimes in January but then asked the group for its feelings and perceptions on the crime level. Tenant / Residents on the group certainly held a perception that crime felt higher than this. Criminal Damage was still responsible for the majority of reports.

There had been one robbery in the month, which had been a topic of conversation on the estate as it involved a Portuguese victim. The incident had been reported and detected and at no stage has been considered to be racially motivated. There was a secondary incident to the initial robbery, which had been well talked about on the estate. 2 robbery suspects had now been arrested and one Portuguese male had also been arrested following the second incident. DW made available the ICAD log of the incident to refute recent rumours that the response time had been in the region of 30min. The call log showed this to actually be less than 8 min.

FH asked about criminal damage to fencing and whether incidents reported to WCBC were passed on to the Police. VL and JW responded that they were and that a change in the Council's Recharging Policy whereby such incidents are now investigated more thoroughly to ascertain that the damage was caused by a third party. Where damage is found to be deliberate and caused by the tenant, or those under the tenant's control – they are liable for the repair.

DW informed the group of the formalised PCSO Reassurance Visit protocol. This is when a PCSO will visit each victim of crime (and neighbours as appropriate) within one week of a reported incident. This has been developed in part as a response to a particular issue in Plas Madoc in the last year or so. This protocol links in with a Victim Management Scheme and the CBM's Crime Analysis Template. Posters and postcards with Neighbourhood Policing Team info will be available shortly.

PCSOs are still not fully operational on Plas Madoc but it is intended that Surgery-type opportunities will be arranged in the next few weeks.

10. Extra Agenda Item – Youth Discos

ADH apologised for not including this on the original Agenda.

Dale Stanway was attending the meeting to seek support from the Group for a regular disco on the estate, which would be actively supported by a Police / PCSO presence. The aim of the project is to engage young people who might otherwise cause ASB but importantly work to improve the relationship between young people and the Police. DS had already secured support from the Territorial Insp. The Group was happy to support this initiative.

11. Issues

Drugs – 2 incidences of possession had been detected recently

Youth ASB – VL mentioned a positive relationship between the Estate Office and the Reparation Team from the YOT, who had recently painted the internal hallways in the Glaslyn flats.

JW informed the group that Plas Madoc was to host the next Graffiti removal day on 4th or 5th of March.

DW reported that PCSO Andy Browning had been tasked with arranging a youth visit to Alltcourse Prison as a follow-up to the ASB workshops.

Litter – FH spoke about an increase in litter in the front gardens of Hampden Way. VL responded that there had been a new bin installed near to this location but clearly people weren't using it.

Needles

Dogs – A similar increase in dog fouling was being experienced on Hampden Way. VL said that litter bags were available from the Estate Office, although these now had to be paid for by Housing.

Alcohol

Lighting – It was reported that the 15 lights identified by the recent audit would likely be repaired using part of the £3000 held for Plas Madoc lighting, since one of the intended lampposts could now not be installed for practical reasons. Strong concern was expressed that it was the Group's understanding that this money had been allocated for new / improved lighting, and not repairs, which fall under the Community Council remit.

12. AOB

ADH brought a funding application before the group which was to be submitted to the Communities First Trust Fund to run a project with young people to create a DVD resource for use in future ASB Workshops.

ADH informed the group that PMCF was now part of the Third Party Reporting Centre Pilot run by the Community Cohesion Unit of WCBC. The various forms were made available to the group, which would be used to record incidents of hate crime, which in the initial stages would focus on racial incidents. It was queried whether the Fire Service had a role in this process.

Following a concerned enquiry from an OAP on the estate relating to the presence of door-to-door salesmen involved in the switch over to digital TV, Pc Pete Barrett had made available a leaflet resource setting out the protocol for the change. These would be distributed amongst the OAP groups on the estate. VL stated that in terms of communal accommodation on the estate the switch over was being managed through the council and should not involve door-stepping or form signing.

CCTV was currently installed on a temporary basis at The Venue in order to deter and / or detect incidents of criminal damage. New security lighting had also been installed since the fence was erected.

Insp Paul Firth had asked PMCF if it would be happy to submit a letter of support, which would assist with a forthcoming ACPO inspection into Neighbourhood Policing in Wrexham South. ADH stated that PMCF was more than happy to oblige, and put it to the group that it could also provide a letter if agreed. The Safety Group unanimously agreed – ADH to arrange letter.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 26th March @ 6:30pm at The Opportunity Centre.

