

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 30th July 2008 at 9:30am

In attendance:

Chair	
Tenants / Residents	x21
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH) Clare Barnes
NW Police	PCSO Chris Cheshire
WCBC	Cllr Paul Blackwell
WCBC Economic Development	Jon Sankey
WCBC Streetscene	John Walsh
WCBC Housing	Mark Owens

2. Apologies

x4

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The date of next meeting was incorrect. The issue over large trees blocking TV signals should have been in relation to Hampden Way (although similar problems exist in Woodwards Walk). The complaint about the lamppost in Marlbrook rear car park had not been noted.

The minutes of the last meeting (18/06/08) were proposed as a true record by FH and seconded by JH.

4. Matters Arising

- a) Future Meetings – ADH explained the changes that were to be implemented following discussion in the last meeting. The room had been cleared of the main table and seating arranged so all present could be seen and see the Chair. The intention would be to ensure that the meetings finished within 1hr 30min. A 15 min “surgery” would then take place where individual complaints / issues could be discussed with the appropriate agency rep. Any significant issues would be considered for inclusion in the agenda of the following month. The Agenda would be followed closely and a reminder about not disclosing names /addresses was given.
- b) It was confirmed that PCSO presence had been increased in Dinas.
- c) A letter had been sent to John Bradbury listing a number of questions raised by the group. Although no formal response had been received before the meeting it had been announced that the number of recycling education officers would be increasing in the next few weeks.
- d) Highways had still not been contacted re: chicanes on Hampden Way but it had been determined that there would be no significant issues from an engineering point of view.
- e) Off Road Parking – covered in agenda (see below)
- f) Rented garages – Cllr Blackwell stated that in Whalleys Way the garage plots were rented from the council but that the garage structures on those plots belonged to the tenant. MO stated that the Housing Office would look at tenancies where garages were not being used to store vehicles.

- g) Ash Grove – the bin is on order but it is thought that the delivery arrived during the strike and was therefore not accepted. AH stated that the existing bin was in need of emptying. JB mentioned that dog mess was also a problem in the alley in Peris and there was also obscene graffiti on the car park barriers.
- h) Litter pickers had been ordered and a delivery was expected on Thursday 1st Aug. Volunteers were sought for the Volunteer Litter Picker Project.

5. Environmental Action Day

ADH provided a handout detailing the plan for the EAD on 6th August and the commitments of each organisation (see attached). There were no issues raised.

6. Bin Collections

ADH provided hand outs of the information that WCBC had made available through mail and website. The changes would be implemented as of 4th August. PP was concerned about what happened to bins that were put out with the wrong waste in it. ADH stated that this had been raised in the letter mentioned previously. There was also an enquiry about disposal of cooking oil. It was suggested that this be re-bottled when cool and black binned. PB said that food waste would be permitted in the green bin in mid 2009. JB was concerned about the refuse in an empty property but this was found to be being worked on by WCBC.

7. Anti-social Driving

PCSO Cheshire spoke to the group about Section 59 Powers to tackle Anti-Social Driving, which applied to driving that was the cause of fear, distress or alarm. A Section 59 Warning records the incident of anti-social driving and acts as a warning. A further incident within 12 months will result of the seizure of the vehicle being driven by the same individual, regardless of whether it is owned by that person. This could conceivably result in the seizure of a work, family or friends vehicle. Section 59s can be applied retrospectively where there is a statement made. Since the CSG in May, when Neighbourhood Sgt authorised action against anti-social driving, 11 Section 59 Warnings had been issued and 3 vehicles seized. DT and AH commented that they felt that he problems involving motorbikes in their areas had reduced.

ADH was keen to stress that these powers could be considered to be of more value to the community than a focus on speeding, as it was difficult to prove excessive speed. EL raised concerns about the lack of impact of the 20mph signs and how they could easily be missed by drivers. ADH tried to explain about the significant work that has been ongoing on this matter, but that legislation did not allow the sorts of improvements that “common sense” might suggest. It was also pointed out that regardless of individual opinion over type or style of signage, it was still the responsibility of every driver to be aware of speed limits.

8. Off Road Parking – Whalley’s Way / Woodward’s Walk

ADH had sent a template letter to Housing Office for distribution to all properties adjacent to the proposed site. This had been done and there were no objections so MO confirmed that the project could now take place. ADH will contact the residents concerned after the EAD to arrange the next steps. General concern was raised about parking issues in this area. Questions were raised about whether other areas could be reclaimed for parking. MO explained the current situation regarding budgets and that he was happy in principle to look at this as a solution but there just wasn’t enough money. ADH added that the idea behind supporting the Woodward’s Walk car park project was to “test the water” and develop a template that could hopefully be replicated in other areas. PP asked about correct use of rented garages – MO responded that if garages were found to be being used for other purposes they could be repossessed.

9. Police Update

PCSO Chris Cheshire informed the group that PCSO Tom Dewberry had deployed the speed gun over 2 days on the estate recently on a stretch of Hampden Way. There were no significantly excessive speeds recorded although a number of drivers were spoken to.

In terms of incidents – the period since the last meeting was 42 days as opposed to the usual 28. This has had an impact on the figures although there was a slight upward trend across ASB, assaults and criminal damage.

There will be a new formal action plan for Anti Social Behaviour, which was approved the week before.

Dog nuisance was reported in and around the play park at Ash Grove. CM commented on the safe return of her car which had been reported stolen.

Concern was raised by new members of the group about ongoing ASB issues in Whalleys Way, typically between 1 – 4am Friday / Saturdays and including assaults and damage. PCSO Cheshire agreed to hear the specifics of the incidents during the surgery at the end of the meeting. CM commented that coming to the CSG had resulted in changes and that issues were taken seriously. JH was concerned about the lack of visible Police Presence on the estate. There was also more widespread concern about illegal alcohol sales. Although it was made clear that the Shop on Plas Madoc had a good track record in terms of Trading Standards and NWP test trading.

PB to take forward complaints about lighting in Woodward's Walk and Marlbrook (427).

9. Issues

No issues raised other than those already covered in body of meeting.

12. AOB

FH thanked Charlie Davies and Jamie Williams for their hard work in clearing out the Brook behind Hampden Way. FH also pointed out that the footbridge over the Brook at this location was broken.

Concern was raised over trees in Woodward's Walk where a large bough had apparently been felled by the wind. MO stated that on the last visit by the Arboricultural Officer they had been given a clean bill of health but offered to arrange for another inspection.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 24th September @ 2:00pm at The Opportunity Centre.