

**Community Safety Group Meeting (Previously Peris Safety Group)  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2004  
The Opportunity Centre**

**Present:**

Tenants x4, Mark Owens (Estate Manager WCBC), Sgt John Williams (NWP), Pc Pete Barratt (NWP), Andrew Harradine (PMCF)

**Apologies:**

x2

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AH welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained about the change from the Peris Safety Group to the Community Safety Group and how this was due to the revitalised sub-group structure of PMCF. AH also pointed out that there were two agendas in circulation but that this meeting would follow the shorter Peris specific agenda. The longer more diverse agenda would be used to stimulate ideas for the next meeting.

JW explained that he had put the longer agenda together at the invitation of PMCF, that included the types of issues that could be discussed at a Community Safety Group, but that he would rather that it was the community that determined content of agendas in the future.

**Fencing in Peris**

AH introduced the fencing in Peris as the first point on the agenda, giving a brief history of the situation for the benefit of those not previously involved. This culminated in the status reached at the last meeting, that WCBC would provide new fencing around the car park and a new road cul-de-sac road sign.

PB clarified that the recommendations made at a site visit in Peris did not actually recommend closure of any alleys but did suggest restricting access with respect to motorbikes. PB also stated that he had measured up the area directly after the last meeting and provided this to WCBC to facilitate the ordering.

SA questioned the fact that the fence was still not in place having been told after the last meeting that it would be a matter of weeks.

MO responded that he had been in contact with the project supervisor on the 14<sup>th</sup> October and had been told that the fence would be up in 14 days. The delay had been caused by a realisation that there was a potential for the fence being damaged by reversing cars. This had meant a re-design to include a small kerb, which would not present a trip hazard, to protect the fence. The road sign had been ordered but there would be a delay as the dept. concerned would need to wait until a larger order of signs had been placed. MO suggested a mapping exercise of signage on the estate as a whole to identify other signs / locations where there was a need. Maybe then a larger order (budget permitting) could be placed. MO and Tenants Assoc will undertake a "walkabout" to map the signs.

PB added that a lot of problems were occurring on the Industrial Estate due to poor location / hidden signs. This was reviewed and signs were relocated very successfully. PB welcomed this action on Plas Madoc.

SA queried the position of the new fence in relation to the bollard and was unhappy that decisions had been made without the inclusion of the Peris Group. SA felt that there was no point in the group meeting if decisions were taken without them.

MO explained that the requirement of the kerb had resulted in a need to balance this cost with the fence, meaning that it would not go fully around the area. It would fully respond to the safety issue and would be painted the same colour.

PB added that the decision was for practical / safety reasons and was mainly a highways decision. PB advocated accepting this first and maybe looking to improve it later on.

WL agreed that it was important to deal with the safety issue first.

JW asked whether the fact that the fence did not go fully around the area meant that safety would be compromised.

PB said no. The kerb would help prevent cars tipping through the fence. The crash barrier would also be remaining, and even though it looks awful, its function was necessary. It would be painted the same colour as the fencing. It is important to let the residents know that the decisions have been taken for Health and Safety reasons.

JW wondered what the options would have been if this had been brought back to the group for discussion and could only see a resulting delay in the work going ahead.

SA again pointed out her disappointment in the lack of communication with the residents group.

WL suggested that PMCF looked at match funding to complete / further enhance the fencing.

MO mentioned that if funding became available through WCBC the fencing could be re-visited.

AH offered to help SA with relaying this info back to the Peris Group and mentioned that funding could theoretically be obtained if the Peris Group got together.

### **Lighting in Peris**

There was a general consensus that the overall lighting was poor. There were some news lights but the existing ones did not work properly.

MO answered that he was not aware of any lights out in Gwynant / Glaslyn but did know about one in Peris.

SA replied that the lights in Peris are all old ones and they are not very effective.

PB stated how important is it to have decent lighting from a crime reduction point of view. Poor maintenance / lack of lighting often results in fear and avoidance of certain areas.

MO asked if it is a change of lighting that is most wanted.

WL had been involved in a project in the past which had supplied sensor lights for houses.

PB doesn't recommend the PIR lights. They are halogen and therefore expensive. The better option is a low energy photocell that comes on when the light levels fall. In actual fact the PIR lights can often result in panic as they come on so quickly and so bright.

EH agreed about the brightness and asked if they really needed to be so high intensity.

JW suggested that lighting be made a specific agenda point for the next meeting.

### **AOB**

AH informed the group about the planned Community Safety Day on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November, giving an idea of the kind of topics that would be covered. AH suggested that the next meeting should receive more detailed plans of the day and have a chance to input their own ideas. AH also mentioned the fact that Pc Dave Roberts was about to commence community surgeries at The Opportunity Centre.

PB wanted to let the group know about the "Safe in the Home Scheme", which provides support for people who have been victims of bogus callers, burglary or rogue traders. There can be grants of £500 available to install security measures.

JW also wanted to mention that there are packs available relating to Distraction Burglaries and it was intended that the CBM would host presentation sessions to distribute the packs.

WL welcomed this and pointed out the importance of council staff, etc. displaying their id badges prominently at all times.

JW agreed and mentioned the fact that the pack contains all the contact numbers for statutory agencies, etc. so people could always ring up to check if required.

### **Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place in 1 month from now following a meeting between JW and Miriam Beard. WL asked to avoid the 17, 18, 19 November.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2pm at The Opportunity Centre



**Community Safety Group Meeting**  
**(Previously Peris Safety Group)**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2004**  
**The Opportunity Centre**

**Present:**

Tenants	-	x2	
North Wales Police	-		Sgt John Williams
Communities First	-		Miriam Beard, Andrew Harradine, Andrea Price, Natasha Williams

**1. Apologies:**

x3

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

WL inquired about a light in Peris that was not working; she informed the meeting that it was a new light that had not been working, not an old one.

**3. Safety Day**

NW distributed information sheets to everyone present, concerning who attended the safety day and the questionnaire that people filled out on the day. The day was well attended by a variety of agencies, but was not well attended by residents. ADH explained how the safety day had come about. Several dates on which to hold the event had been discussed, and it was decided to hold it on a Saturday so that people who work and children of school age could attend, unfortunately this did not seem to make a difference. WL asked if the Leisure Centre was a viable venue. WL pointed out that signs advertising events at the Opportunity Centre were not visible from the road, she suggested putting the signs in a more visible place. JW asked whether the event was advertised properly, whether the right people are being reached. Posters had been put up, several pieces had been written in the weekly newspaper column in the Wrexham Leader, and personal invites had been sent out, it seems that a week day probably would be better as the recent Environmental Awareness day was more successful and was held on a Friday.

JW suggested holding another event and maybe calling it a 999 day, and arranging a visit from the police helicopter. JW would like to see more of the older people from the community attending as the Police have information packs concerning bogus callers and distraction burglaries. AH informed the meeting that the chair of the 60 plus group who is also a director of CF would be approached to promote the day to the 60 plus group.

AH – Arranging another safety day this will be looked at for about April time. JW suggested that other events like Street Theatre have been successful in areas like Flintshire in bringing the community together, WL suggested Market Day would be a good time to organise something like that.

MB suggested that different areas on the estate have different problems, JW suggested pinpointing these areas and the problems so CF know which groups need to be involved in what. Further discussion took place.

#### **4. Peris**

The fence has been erected in Peris; the work took longer than expected but was quite a short space of time. MB thanked JW and his team for all the work they put in. ADH – it is a positive example of what can be done when residents take action themselves.

#### **5. Halloween/Bonfire Night**

MB reported that Halloween and Bonfire Night went smoothly, without any major incidents. ADH called the fire brigade at 9.15am on 5<sup>th</sup> November to extinguish a bonfire that was close to the children's play area on Ash Grove. WL suggested that there is a need to advertise new rules regarding fire works. ADH asked JW to explain Trading Standards on Fireworks. JW proceeded to explain the different laws and the 3 classifications. Organising something for next year will be looked at in the middle of 2005.

#### **6. Street Lighting**

ADH passed around maps, which were marked with the positions of all the street lighting and the CCTV cameras. MB – CF have had a lot of complaints about poor and the lack of street lighting. ADH – a major concern is the path on Tegid leading up to Peris. WL informed the meeting that lights have been repaired there, and that it is a lot better now.

ADH has found information on the WCBC website Street Lighting Department at WCBC, that stated that the lights were inspected every fortnight. ADH will contact the lighting engineer about maintenance, and Cefn Community Council who are responsible for some of the lighting. WL suggested that the bulbs be changed. MB suggested writing a piece for the newspaper column asking people to contact us if they have a problem with street lighting by them.

ADH is concerned about the lighting around the CCTV cameras that it is sufficient enough for the cameras to be effective, he has emailed the engineer but as yet not had a response. JW suggested contacting Dave Hyland at WCBC. ADH is also concerned whether the Plas Madoc CCTV cameras are checked regularly, as the town centre seems to be the priority. Andrea Price (AP) read a letter in the leader last week voicing concern from a resident that

damage was occurring to cars, and that the camera footage was going unmonitored.

## **7. Alley gating**

Consultation is taking place at present. A postal survey has taken place and Groundwork will now go door to door, hopefully with members of BBRAG in support.

## **8. Youth Provision**

Funding has been provided for the youth provision on Plas Madoc, this will include outreach workers who will be out and about on the estate. WL felt that this would be a good idea as they can engage the youths rather than just moving them on. MB has put in the Newspaper column asking for the youths on the estate to get involved in setting the club up.

JW informed the meeting of a truancy hotline and that there way a truancy week coming up soon. WL expressed concerns about the lack of support from schools regarding truancy and excluded pupils.

## **9. Any Other Business**

ADH informed the meeting that a committee needs to be elected for the Community Safety Group will require a chair and vice chair ADH asked everyone present if they had any nominations and to bring them to the next meeting, and also to ask other people who might be interested in joining the group if they would like to attend the next meeting as we need more members of the community to be involved. ADH to ask a member from the bail hostel to join.

WL asked about the land at the hostel. ADH talks have started again concerning the land with several agencies ADH to report back after meeting with them.

JW informed the meeting that PM's CBM Dave Roberts is off on long term sick and that Gwyn Douthwaite will be covering until January when PC Cath Jones will be taking over while Dave is off. The community warden and the PCSO's will be taking up their posts in the New Year. ADH has been given a date when there are coming into the Opportunity Centre to introduce themselves. WL asked what their roles will be; JW explained their role and which groups they will be linking in with.

ADH raised the issue of the condition of pathways on the estate particularly in Alwen, photo's of path in Alwen were passed around, action has been taken on this particular path, but there are other paths that need attention and will be looked at. WL requested that pathways are put on the agenda for the next meeting.

JW explained a new scheme called Smart Water that he would like Plas Madoc to take part in, packs cost £10 and each pack has a unique DNA code that can be identified to each household. The project has proved successful in other areas and acts as a deterrent. JW is to meet with Smart Water to discuss the pros and cons he will report back next meeting. The group agreed to use the Trust Fund to purchase Smart Water for Plas Madoc.

JW asked whether the talking sign was up and running in the leisure centre car park, Natasha replied back that it was, warning people to 'lock up valuables'.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 3pm at the Opportunity Centre