

# PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006

### **In attendance:**

PMCF	Andrew Harradine, Joanne Povey, Dale Stanway
Residents / Tenants	x2
WCBC	Mark Owens, Llinos Jehu, Catherine Thomas, Joanne Morris
North Wales Police	Gwyn Douthwaite, Jim Staunton,
North Wales Fire Service	Richie Westwood
Youth Offending Team	Graham Minniss
BITC	Paula Griffiths

### 1. **Introductions**

WL welcomed everyone to the meeting and each member of the group introduced themselves.

### 2. **Apologies**

x3

### 3. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

ADH discussed the minutes of the last meeting with the group. These were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

### 5. **Priority Topics**

ADH told the safety group about the two focus groups held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of February. The Plas Madoc Communities First Safer Living-Better Living Action Plan was shown to the group and ADH also addressed the table to see if there was any information missing.

**a) Drugs-** Councillor Paul Blackwell has expressed concerns over drug dealing. WL proposed to get drug and alcohol posters up and running. ADH agreed but expressed concerns over money. ADH recommended using the action plan to put forward to apply for money. JAT and SMAT will be contacted next month to request information on current drug enforcement. Alan Youens (PM neighbourhood warden) will be a useful link for a roaming stall to 'reach out' to the community.

**b) Needles-**The PM residents are dissatisfied with the way the pharmacy deal with the needle exchange. It has been reported that methadone has been given in public with family around. ADH was concerned. DS explained that a separate room is needed.

**c) Litter-** WCBC have been forthcoming with bins in the past and they are often installed within a couple of weeks. Fly Tipping is a concern. There have been 33 cases reported in 6 months which is mainly refuse and left over's from the bin pickup. LJ will contact recycling; she will also look into recycling cardboard. LJ will contact Recycling Education Officers and follow up on the RWM scheme to access the current situation. MO will ensure good publicity is given to the new recycling centre and that Recycling Education Officers are around to launch the facility. LJ has agreed to look into the current situation with warning letters going out for littering.

**d) Alcohol-** A detached youth worker witnessed an underage sale of alcohol. Trading standards and the police have been informed. Concerns were shown over adults buying the children's

alcohol. DS said youngsters from the Venue can design posters to help combat this offence. ADH agreed to this short-term solution. 30 posters will be needed initially. GD and JS will arrange an educational visit from Trading Standards to the shop; a test sale will also be set up. ADH will contact Housing Enforcement for information on under age drinking problems. GM informed the group that voluntary referrals can be made through YOT. JT asked about the information shop. DS said it was going well in the Venue. ADH will make contact with domestic abuse charities and support groups.

**e) Youth Anti Social Behaviour-** AH will provide more public information on the intervention services available to reassure and keep the public informed.

6. **Local Policing update**

Gwyn Douthwaite (GD) gave feedback on crime levels in Plas Madoc. Last year there were 250 crimes which included 9 burglaries and 86 minor criminal damage cases. In January 2006 there were 20 incidents reported 8 of which were criminal damage. February 2006 there were 14 reported crimes, 2 were household burglaries.

GD is happy to continue to provide monthly figures. ADH said we need to see if the group's efforts have any effect on whether it peaks or dips. WL questions, are we helping to reduce crime in the area? JS thinks it would be beneficial to ask the residents what they think rather than relying solely on figures.

7. **Projects Updates**

Smart Water – ADH confirms 11 Bilingual signs were ordered yesterday to warn off burglars. Each sign displays the Community First and Welsh Assembly logo along with the North Wales Police Crest. Smart water packs have been given to the PM community via GD, following burglaries. ADH showed pictures of the sign in Flintshire. The plan is to have one sign per street.

Alley Gating – Councillor PB has had a complaint that no consultation has taken place in the Bodlyn and Bran area. ADH was under the impression that Groundwork had done so and agreed to make enquiries. WL expressed concern over blocking off access, asking what if mobility scooters need access. ADH's intention is to get away from outright blocking but felt that there were several community safety issues that would require some forms of restricting access. A balance needed to be struck between stopping motorbikes racing through and allowing access to wheelchairs, push chairs and street sweepers.

Safer Route to School – Formal plans were shown to the group. CT talked about the plans to put traffic calming signs up in Hampden Way. The work will hopefully start in 2 weeks time. Children on the estate have come up with an improved route to school. There will be a new footpath through to Ruabon High School. The new route will ease bus problems and teach the children personal responsibility. At present there have been no objections, and there has been between 15-20 letters of support.

Plas Madoc Lighting – PB had said at the recent board meeting that there is no money from WCBC. CT confirmed that we can use Welsh Assembly money for some of the lighting. DS asked about maintenance, CT responded that the maintenance could be adopted by WCBC's department for lighting.

The plans provided by the WCBC were endorsed by the Safety Group.

8. **Any Other Business**

Druids House – MO confirmed plans to set up a police and neighbourhood warden base. It will go ahead from next month. There have been complaints and minor set backs over people not

wanting police based there. The police base will only be open if a police officer or neighbourhood warden is present, and as such it is not a Police Station. GD verified that it is a base to save time on travel to Cefn. WL stated that we need to keep the community updated on what is happening with Druids house and the fact that it is not a Police Station. MO will inform GD and JS and the information will be publicised.

ADH will be making the Safer Living Better Living notes publicly available.

9. **Date of next meeting**

29<sup>th</sup> of March 2006.

# PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2006

### **In attendance:**

WCBC Trading Standards	Lise Mitchell
WCBC Highways Engineer	Catherine Thomas
PMCF Detached Youth Worker	Paul Griffiths
North Wales Police	Pc Gwyn Douthwaite
WCBC Neighbourhood Warden	Alan Youens
Resident	x2
WCBC Economic Development	Joanne Thomas
WCBC Environment Dept	Llinos Jehu
Chair of Group	
Councillor	Cllr Paul Blackwell,
PMCF Development Officer	Andrew Harradine

### 2. Apologies

x5

### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed as a true record by CT and seconded by FR.

### 4. Matters Arising

LJ asked to address her action points under the next section.

PB queried the section referring to the adoption of lighting by the council. AH clarified that this was only for the proposed additional SRTS lighting and not in general. WL asked whether the Police and Wardens were operating out of Druids House yet, GD stated that they were not and AY explained that there was still refurbishment work to be completed. PB to chase this delay up. JM reminded the group that Alison Smallwood would keep Communities First up to speed with a view to a public launch event.

### 5. Priority Topics

- a) Drugs – PMCF has secured £900 from Crimebeat to be used on drug awareness raising and education, this will involve a peer education programme. £750 had also been awarded by the SMAT and this would be used to purchase a “drugs box” and a series of posters to be used in the SLBL poster campaigns. There is an issue with the requirement for planning permission for the display of these posters MO has offered to enquire in to this situation.
- b) Needles – Recent problems with needles at Alwen Flats (inside flats and some communal areas), an old building by the Hostel and the playground adjacent to The Venue. PMCF had received complaints from the young people at The Venue about the needles (2 lots of 5 needles) who had asked for the bushes at the park to be removed. At the request of PMCF, MO had visited the site to assess this option and thought that the bushes could be trimmed back but their removal would not make a significant difference to the problem of needles as it was more the attitude of the user / lack of appropriate disposal facilities that was the problem. WL pointed out that the bushes should already have been cut back anyway. There was discussion about public sharps bins – FR was concerned about users taking needles out to re-use them. AH to contact Jerry O’Keefee for information.

- c) Litter – LJ explained about the fixed penalty scheme, which was under going a review by WCBC to determine how the penalties should be issued. WCBC was looking for a reduction in side waste problems following the return to the normal kerbside timetable following the Christmas break. FR expressed concern about the plight of large families who by their nature create more waste and struggle with their bins. WCBC would not support a skip day unless it was geared towards recycling. This was because of their commitment to reducing landfill. FR asked about furniture recycling operations – AH to pass on contacts for New to You and Second Circle. LM pointed out the need for care with upholstered furniture that might not meet modern standards.
- d) Alcohol – LM informed the group about a joint Trading Standards / North Wales Police educational visit to the “Top Shop”. This visit was very worthwhile and the licensee was positive. A test purchase will now take place once a child from out of the area can be recruited. There are also discussions under way about making the Proof of Age scheme more accessible on the estate. There is about to be a bottle marking pilot scheme taking place in Penrycae. Shop owners agree to have their stock forensically marked. Any bottles confiscated from juveniles can then be traced back to source. Trading Standards only deals with the direct sale to juvenile.
- e) Youth ASB – PG had concerns about the perceived victimisation of young people on the estate following feedback from his “group” at Ash Grove. There is apparently a NW Police Newsletter in circulation stating that groups of more than 2 people can be moved on by the Police. GD countered this by explaining that a dispersal order could only be invoked by the Chief Supt, and that none were in place in Plas Madoc. PG continued with concerns about the constant policing of groups of youngsters and the resulting attitudes created. The main issue revolves around the officers from the Area Car rather than local officers. GD explained the difference in role between the response car and CBM. PB pointed out that the presence of the Police could only be due to the fact that people were making complaints, so there must be something going on. PG requested a meeting between young people and CBM to discuss. This was agreed to in general terms but it was also pointed out that it must be handled very carefully and that ground work was required prior to any meeting. GD explained that a new directive from the Chief Supt now means that all yellow cards issued are reported to the CBM, who is then responsible for the follow-up. This ensures that local issues can be dealt with by local officers. This was welcomed. FR asked for the involvement of young people in the meeting. AH apologised for the lack of progress on this and stated that it was an aim of the group to include youngsters but the mechanism for making it happen was complicated and not yet determined

## 6. Policing Update

There were 19 crimes reported in the last month including:-

- 1 burglary dwelling
- 5 criminal damage
- 5 thefts
- 5 assaults

## 7. Project Updates

Safe Routes to School – CT explained that the work has been slightly delayed due to the contractor being committed to other projects. It would be timetabled as soon as possible. WL hoped that it would take place during the Easter Holidays to minimise disruption and was assured that access would be maintained during the work.

Smartwater – A total of 38 packs have been distributed by the Warden, and 19 by PMCF. AY will help distribute further packs on his patrols.

Dogs Trust – Over 70 dogs have been registered for the full package of treatment (inc. neutering). A further 30 are booked for the next micro-chipping day and 15 for the healthcare package. This is a fantastic success so far. FR was concerned that dog fouling appeared to be on the increase on

Hampden Way and that some of the Dogs Trust leaflets had been thrown on doorsteps. AY informed the group that he now has new powers for issuing fixed penalties for fouling.

Alley Gating – The project had been a disappointment and a written complaint had been received from a section of the community affected by the development. Groundwork has covered themselves in terms of the legalities required for the project but there is a feeling that the project was never adequately explained to the community for everyone's benefit. There are also issues over the workmanship on some of the gates. PB has visited the author of the complaint letter to hear their views.

- Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2 pm

9. **Date of next meeting**

29<sup>th</sup> of March 2006.

# PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006

### **In attendance:**

WCBC Leader	Aled Roberts (AR)
WCBC Youth Offending Service	Graham Minnis (GM)
PMCF Co-ordinator	Miriam Beard (MB)
North Wales Police	Insp Paul Firth (PF)
North Wales Police	Sgt Jim Staunton (JS)
WCBC Neighbourhood Warden	Alan Youens (AY)
Residents	x9
WCBC Economic Development	Joanne Thomas (JT)
WCBC Environment Dept	Llinos Jehu (LJ)
Chair of Group	
Councillor	Cllr Paul Blackwell (PB)
PMCF Development Officer	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
Wrexham Response	Bethan Watson (BW)
CAIS Area Manager	Chris Dukes (CD)
NWPA	Chris Higgins (CH)

### 2. Apologies

x6

### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

ADH pointed out the date of next meeting was wrong, the rest of the minutes were proposed as a true record by FR and seconded by PB .

### 4. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

### 5. Neighbourhood Warden Scheme – Cllr Aled Roberts

Cllr Aled Roberts (AR) explained the Local Authorities (LA) position. The Neighbourhood Warden scheme (NWS) has been running for two years. The role has been reviewed and it is up to the scrutiny committee to make recommendations about the continuation of the scheme. There are four options available and the LA support the fourth option. The four options are:

- Option one – Maintaining status quo in terms of current level of 13 NW (11 currently filled and with 2 vacancies).
- Option 2 – Limited increase in the number of NW's utilising the £100,000 headroom funding.
- Option 3 – Maintaining status quo (as in Option 1) and limited investment in PCSO development utilising the £100,000 headroom funding.
- Option 4 – Bring the WCBC NWS to a close in 2006/07 and realigning resources to invest in agreement with Eastern Police Division to provide 25% contribution to PCSO development (in region of 48) in Wrexham County Borough.

No decision has been made the Scrutiny committee will be meeting again in June, to decide which option to recommend. The current position is that North Wales Police (NWP) will employ 48 new

PCSOs. Recruiting has already begun to hire some PCSOs. If Option 4 is put into place then the wards that already have NW's will be the first wards to have PCSOs. The LA would like some control over the deployment of PCSOs. The community will also have a say in the duties to be undertaken by the PCSOs.

Further discussion took place on the issue.

WL asked if the Tenants Working Group can make recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee, PB will bring it up at next the next Scrutiny Committee meeting.

MH asked about long term funding – AR explained how the funding works, and that there would be no other sources of funding for the scheme. JH was concerned that something had been started that couldn't be finished.

AH informed the meeting that the NW had made a huge difference to the community, AR responded that it would make more sense to keep the current wardens in the same wards that is if they apply and are accepted as a PCSO. PF added that the Police would be keen to maintain existing Wardens in their current wards if successful in becoming PCSOs. The PCSO will work to the Neighbourhood Policing Plans for each area – in Plas Madoc this is effectively the Safer Living Better Living Plan, meaning the community has a strong say in how the post will work. JH asked about how this would affect the current PCSO and commented that he isn't seen on the estate very much. PF answered that the PCSO, Warden and other Police Officers work different shift patterns.

EH asked why Communities First (CF) couldn't fund the warden's post. AR explained the reasons why this would not be feasible.

MH expressed that if the scheme is successful then money should not be an issue.

EL added that it would be detrimental to the community if the scheme is taken away.

MB thanked AR for his attendance and his general response to PMCF over the Warden Scheme.

WL thanked AR on behalf of the CSG.

## 6. **Priority Topics**

e) Youth ASB – this item was discussed out of order

PF introduced to the group a proposal for a Virtual Bank project, which would effectively be a means by which young people could earn rewards through positive contributions to community life, schooling, etc. This would be formally set up with support required from High Street Banks to give the scheme credibility. Each individual would have an account of "Points", which they could manage like a real bank account therefore gaining life skills. Rewards could be traded in for vouchers for things like driving lessons, trainers, etc.

There was discussion about who the scheme was targeted at, JH was concerned it was just for the "naughty kids". PF argued that the project was for everyone but it would hopefully have the benefit of reducing negative behaviour across the estate. Discussion followed about the role of parents in the scheme, PF hoped that the parents would be drawn in by the involvement of their children. CD thought that The Principality Building Society might be a good contact. CH suggested Barclays as they already have a schools programme. CH was also keen to point out that positive reinforcement was just as important as rewards, the community can play a role by recognising contributions from young people just by saying "you're doing a good job".

a) Drugs – Held meeting with Response. Youth workers have undertaken training, so they can help identify young people at risk or with drug related problems. Some drug information kits have been purchased and will be used as part of the peer education program. JS requested that the community report any suspected activity involving drugs, as the police need as much evidence as possible, all reports are logged and is used to obtain warrants.

b) Needles – historically have been a problem near the hostel, The Venue and the skip site. Meetings with the harm reduction team – will have to work with addicts to solve problem. CD spoke of the "Don't Touch Tell Project" that visits primary schools, it is hoped that its success will ensure re-funding.

- c) Litter – Looking into holding a skip day, with manned skips one per street (19), will coincide with Keep it Tidy day. AY informed that 6 tickets have been issued for fly tipping in the last week. EH children should be taught at school not to be a litter bug! AH pointed out that skips in streets could easily be mis-used by people from outside of the area. ADH pointed out that the partnership working approach would ensure that there was adequate supervision on the day to ensure this did not happen.
- d) Alcohol – The owner of the top shop is working with his staff to make sure they are not selling alcohol to under eighteens. Situation seems to be improving. JS talked about a bottle marking scheme so that it can be identified where alcohol was purchased. AH added that the main problem was in the evenings over weekends when the owner of the shop is not on the premises.
- f) Update to the Safer Living Better Living Action Plan – see attached.

## 6. Policing Update

There were 29 crimes reported in the last month including:-

11 criminal damage

9 assaults

1 murder

0 burglaries

## 7. Project Updates

Lighting – PMCF has approached Cefn Community Council for more lights on the estate. ADH has asked Estate Office for locations of the sites that has had complaints of no/poor lighting – these will be passed to Cefn CC for consideration. The Leisure Centre is to re-instate lighting that they own.

Smartwater – Most of the packs have been distributed now. ADH has received the signs (shown at meeting) but now have to go through planning for permission to erect the signs.

Dogs Trust – Over 105 dogs have been registered for the full package of treatment (inc. neutering). A further 30 are booked for the next micro-chipping day and 15 for the healthcare package. AP is doing an evaluation on the project at the moment, and has sent out questionnaires to all participants she has had some back, but will report the results at the next meeting.

OAP Bungalows – JB raised concerns about the alarms and lighting on some of the bungalows, as some of the residents are switching them off due to concerns about electric bills.

## AOB

There was concern about the perceived increase in ASB on Friday and Saturday evenings. PMCF had received reports from residents for the last 2 weeks. AH back this up saying that there was more trouble on these nights, and often after the NW was off duty. JH spoke of a case involving a relative, whose house was damaged by a group of drunken individuals in the early ours, which threatened to gain access to the property. JH complained about the time taken by the Police to respond and also the attitude of the Officer involved who allegedly discouraged the victim from making a statement. JS responded that there had been a major incident in the nearby area that night, which had required Police resources and therefore had a knock-on effect on response times. Both JS and PF were concerned about the second point and agreed to investigate further. ADH asked if the Police could monitor the situation on Friday / Saturday nights to establish any pattern.

## Date of next meeting – THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE PREVIOUSLY PRINTED DATE

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at 2pm in The Opportunity Centre  
**Plas Madoc Community Safety Group**

## **Safer Living Better Living Action Plans Updating Procedure**

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- As agreed at the Community Safety Group on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May the following procedure will be adopted to facilitate the updating of the Safer Living Better Living Action Plans.
- The Action Plan Table will be sent to all partners 10 days before the each of the following Community Safety Group Meetings.
- Partners will update the plan as necessary
- Partners will return the plan to PMCF where all updates will be compiled and a new version of the Action Plan will be created.
- PMCF will make the new version of the Action Plan available at the Community Safety Group.
- There will be no CSG in August so the following meeting in September will be focused solely on the Action Plans. The CSG will address each action in turn and determine whether the action is “Closed”, “Ongoing” or in need of “Revision”.
- For each Closed Action, a new action will be promoted from the Safer Living Better Living Consultation, or alternatively from more up to date consultation.
- This review process will then be repeated every 6 months.

### **Dates for Action Plan Updates**

<b>Date Issued to Partners</b>	<b>Date Returned to PMCF</b>	<b>Community Safety Meeting</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	30 <sup>th</sup> June	5 <sup>th</sup> July (Re-arranged June meeting)
14 <sup>th</sup> July	21 <sup>st</sup> July	26 <sup>th</sup> July
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept
13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	25 <sup>th</sup> Oct
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	29 <sup>th</sup> Nov

# PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2006

### **In attendance:**

WCBC Youth Offending Service	Graham Minniss (GM)
WCBC Neighbourhood Warden	Alan Youens (AY)
WCBC Economic Development	Joanne Morris (JM)
Tenant & Chair of Group	Wendy Loton (WL)
Councillor	Cllr Paul Blackwell (PB)
Wrexham Response	Bethan Watson (BW)
WCBC Housing	Mark Owens (MO)
North Wales Police	Pc Gwyn Douthwaite (GD)
WCBC Highways	Catherine Thomas (CT)
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (AH), Andrea Price (AP)

### 2. Apologies

Sgt John Williams, Sgt Jim Staunton, Phil Owens (Fire Service), Sandra Hughes, Arthur & Joan Hopwood

### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Error – Joanne Morris was incorrectly named in the minutes as Joanne Thomas.  
Error – Andrea Price was omitted from the list of attendees.

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Blackwell and seconded by Graham Minniss.

### 4. Matters Arising

AH apologised for the failure to send out the action plans as agreed at the last meeting. The protocol would be commenced from the July dates.

### 5. Neighbourhood Warden Scheme – Update

The WCBC Scrutiny Committee voted to keep the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme in place and invest in new wardens. This now goes before the Executive Board on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The normal procedure is that the Executive Board ratifies the decision made at Scrutiny, however this was questioned as in this instance the Scrutiny vote had not gone as “expected”.

PB apologised for not raising the issue of the involvement / consultation of the Tenants Group. This would now be done in advance of the Executive Board.

### 6. Strategy & Action Plan

AH introduced the new PMCF Strategy & Action Plan and provided the group with copies of the Community Safety Section. Full copies can be requested from the PMCF office. Email distribution is preferable and a version has been produced at an appropriate resolution. JM explained the process for gaining WCBC “buy-in” for the document.

## 7. Damage to Rhosymedre Junior School

AH had received a request for help from the headteacher at the Junior School who was concerned about the level of criminal damage being suffered over recent months. The main issue is the lack of any lighting / CCTV at the rear of the school, which is not overlooked. The issue of damage to schools is one that the Police and the JAG have been dealing with. Operation Gingerbread is a scheme to help protect vulnerable schools over holidays using increased patrols of Police, PCSOs and WCBC Security Guards. Ysgol Rhosymedre Juniors is now included in the Operation Gingerbread scheme. The Police are looking at a wireless, portable CCTV system, which costs about £10 000. This could be a valuable tool and the CSG will look in more detail at the concept. GM mentioned that similar equipment had been used in Caia several years ago in response to specific ASB issues. There was discussion about the need for appropriate lighting to compliment any CCTV provision. There was concern from WL about the footpath to Rhosymedre, and GM warned about displacing the problem to a new area. GD stated that a contributing factor to the problem was the lack of maintenance and repair of previous damage, which allowed perpetrators to gain access to other areas of the school. The head teacher had been putting pressure on the authority to get repairs done but to little avail. CT offered to make an initial approach to the appropriate section of the authority to discuss repairs. PB was critical of the Governing body at the school over this issue and suggested that they should be more determined in their efforts.

AH suggested that the CSG should consider adding the school to the Safer Living Better Living Action Plan during the review process.

## 8. Priority Topics

### a) Drugs

Wrexham Response has linked in with the Thursday Drop-in project at The Venue and is accessing young people.

PB had received complaints about a property (House X) and the fact that as many as 20 individuals were frequenting the address. The details of House X were passed to the appropriate authorities, but the address was not previously known as a problem property.

### b) Needles

The Harm Reduction Team is now operating on the estate offering an on-foot outreach service. The HRT has worked with PMCF, which has in turn liaised with partners to identify key areas for targeting purposes.

### c) Litter

PMCF's Environmental Officer has returned from maternity leave and it is hoped that she can revisit the Skip Day project alongside WCBC Housing as previously discussed. AY was looking at targeting young people at the shop around school start / end times as there seemed to be associated litter problems. PB spoke of a litter problem on the estate and the fact that the litter picker from WCBC can collect about 20 bags per day. It was asked whether this was "untypical" of other areas, as the CSG focus on litter has so far been on fly-tipping.

### d) Alcohol

PMCF had heard of one alcohol related assault at the shop. AP spoke of issues in Gwynant relating to families using the grass banks for drinking in the sunny weather. There had been a number of incidents following prolonged drinking. The Group agreed that this was a difficult one because of the fine line between legal drinking and the point at which it turns to trouble. It is also taking place in an area that does not tend to report incidents, particularly family related ones. GM suggested that for individual cases there should be referrals to the ASBO group.

e) Youth ASB

AY had received complaints at Ash Grove.

AH updated the group on the World Cup Football Competition arranged by the Police. PMCF will be entering 2 teams.

9. **Policing Update**

There were 20 crimes reported in the last month including:-

10 criminal damage (4 at school)

8 assaults

0 burglaries

GD also provided PMCF with a year's worth of figures to be used in the Smart Water report (see below). There appears to be a 25% reduction in reported crime for the Jan – Jul period compared to last year.

WL asked what the local response had been to the knife amnesty. GD responded that the nearest police station offering this facility had been Rhos and he would check on the results. WL also asked for info about handing in knives now that the amnesty had ended, and whether there was a risk of arrest.

10. **Project Updates**

Smartwater – PMCF has received a request from the CFTF for a final project report to account for the funding received. PMCF had requested and received crime figures from the Police to assist with this report. The Smart Water signs will soon be erected now MO has discovered that an exemption in planning regulations is available. The brackets supplied are not the correct size for the lampposts – AH is addressing this with support from MO. CT stated that signs must be positioned at least 2.1m above ground level for safety purposes.

No Motorbiking signs have been erected on the estate but there had been no official confirmation of this.

Safe Routes to School – CT updated the group on progress to date, including the installation of new speed humps, modifications to the kerbs and chicane structures. There was more physical work to be carried out. Discussions have been held with the lighting department over the need to upgrade on certain stretches as part of the proposed designated safe route through the estate.

11. **AOB**

AP informed the group of her plans to develop a Dog Owners Group on the estate on the back of the successful Dogs Trust / PMCF / WCBC project.

WL asked the group for support in making a strong presence at the August Fun Day on 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. CT offered to look into the IMPACT demonstration and the Arrive Alive educational vehicle.

12. **Date of next meeting** **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2pm at The Opportunity Centre**

# PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2006

### **In attendance:**

WCBC Youth Offending Service	Graham Minniss (GM)
WCBC Neighbourhood Warden	Alan Youens (AY)
WCBC Economic Development	Gary Brown (GB)
Chair of Group	
Councillor	Cllr Paul Blackwell (PB)
Wrexham Response	Bethan Watson (BW)
WCBC Housing	Mark Owens (MO)
North Wales Police	Sgt James Staunton (JS), Sgt John Williams (JW)
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (AH)
Business in the Community	Paula Griffiths (PG)
Probation Service	Chris Higgins (CH)
Fire & Rescue Service	Richie Everall (RE)
CAIS	Kirsten Walling (KW)
Resident	x1

### 2. **Apologies**

x6

### 5. **Fun Day Planning (discussed out of order by request)**

AH reported that the IMPACT display was not able to attend the event, and that to date there was nothing available from the emergency services. RE offered a car rescue display by the Fire & Rescue Service, which was welcomed but AH pointed out that this is what was provided last year and it would be nice if a different display could be put together. RE to enquire re: arson theme.

Discussion was held around dog shows but reasons were given as to why this was not going to happen (mainly on safety and “mess” grounds). Reference was made to the new dog group meeting in mid-August, which will co-ordinate dog shows as stand-alone events.

JS suggested the Neighbourhood Watch as a good contact for leaflets, etc. they also have a gazebo.

AH asked about any news from the Wardens. AY had yet to receive confirmation from management as to their availability.

Smart Water packs will be distributed during the day.

### 3. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes were proposed as a true record by AY and seconded by MO.

### 4. **Matters Arising**

PB pointed out that the phrase “normal procedure” in relation to the Executive Board was not appropriate. PB also stated that his understanding was that the Warden decision may not now even get to the Executive Board.

PB reported back following the request for info on whether the amount of litter collected previously was “untypical”. PB said that his investigations had discovered that it was not untypical compared to other areas, but that the small size of Plas Madoc made it a large figure. AH responded that surely this meant it was “untypical” as more bags were collected from a smaller area.

6. **School Damage – Update**

AH updated the group on feedback from the head teacher at Ysgol Rhosymedre Juniors, who was pleased to learn that the school would be included in Operation Gingerbread. JW recapped for the group on the aim of Operation Gingerbread and announced that there was to be a launch on 28<sup>th</sup> July at Hafod Y Wern School. Wireless CCTV was discussed again and attempts will be made to arrange a demonstration in the October meeting. JW provided literature on the system currently of interest to the Police. Dummy signs were discussed as a deterrent. The intention is still to have Schools included in the revised Safer Living Better Living Plan.

7. **Feedack on updating of Safer Living Better Living Plan**

Only one updated plan had been received following distribution of the plans and the updating protocol. Members were encouraged to make PMCF aware of any updates that that have been involved in so the plan can be kept as current as possible.

AH worked through the plan quickly.

JW informed the group that lots was being done in the JAG re: under age drinking and ASB. There is a campaign “Don’t Walk Away” which aims to encourage greater responsibility among friends when out and about. JS was not surprised by the negative result of the test purchase, as the greater problem is proxy sales.

MO stated that the revised tenancy had not been issued yet. JW asked if domestic abuse featured in the tenancy agreements in terms of being grounds for demotion as in Flintshire. WL started debate about care of being overly specific in the tenancy agreements and thought that most scenarios were already allowed for in broad terms.

8. **Priority Topics**

a) Drugs

JS stated that activity against drug dealers had increased recently but that the Police were still keen for increased information from the community. JS pointed out that information that appears insignificant at the time can often make a huge contribution to the granting of warrants, so it was important that the Police were made aware. WL suggested promoting CrimeStoppers on the Fun Day.

b) Needles

AY reported that he had referred 6 needles in a drain to the appropriate authority for removal near to Druids House. WL raised concerns about the gates in Druids being left open allowing free access to the building. MO responded that the manufacturers had been recalled to make alterations. PB was concerned about drug dealing with the gates being open and wanted the CCTV to be monitored closely. MO and JS spoke about the actual reduction in ASB at Druids since the changes and that there was now a waiting list for properties.

c) Litter

AY had spoken to one youngster re: litter. MJ asked about the age of responsibility for litter dropping. JW gave information on the general legal age of responsibility and the grey area around it in real terms. AY would deal with parents where appropriate.

d) Alcohol  
No comments.

e) Youth ASB

JW updated the group on the Mini World Cup tournament organised by WCBC Sports Development and NW Police. AH added that Plas Madoc were represented and spoke highly of the project and the fact that it was being well received, and that the Plas Madoc teams were progressing strongly in the competition. MJ asked how Plas Madoc had become involved. JW and AH replied that it was through invitation but that the youth workers had then helped young people form their teams.

9. **Policing Update**

JS reported that there had been a rise in violent crime over the last month but this was only by a couple of incidents and that arrests had been made in all cases.

No burglaries had been reported. JW told the group that Smart Water cards had been produced which would be mailed to known criminals warning them about the scheme.

Minimal Youth ASB this month.

All crime appeared to have fallen by 4% but criminal damage was an ongoing concern countywide and JS asked for ideas in how this could be tackled.

10. **Project Updates**

Smartwater – Still awaiting replacement brackets. End of project report submitted to Communities First Trust Fund.

11. **AOB**

AH read out the main points of a letter received from MJ. AH had already responded in detail in a letter but recapped on the main issues, which were dogs, speeding cars, and adults with young children using the fair ground rides at the fun day. MJ indicated that she was satisfied with the progress being made.

WL has moved to Rhosymedre so informed the group of this fact. PMCF was happy for her to continue in her role as Chair due to her experience of the estate and its issues – as long as there were no objections from the group. No objections were raised.

12. **Date of next meeting**

**NO MEETING IN AUGUST**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2pm at The Opportunity Centre**

# PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2006

### **In attendance:**

WCBC Youth Offending Service	Graham Minniss (GM)
WCBC Neighbourhood Warden	Alan Youens (AY)
Chair of Group	
Councillor	Cllr Paul Blackwell (PB)
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
Business in the Community	Paula Griffiths (PG)
Resident	x3
N W Police	Pc Gwyn Douthwaite (GD)
WCBC Highways	Catherine Thomas (CT)
Resident / Cefn C Council	Graham Rowlands (GR)

### 2. Apologies

x8

### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed as a true record by GM and seconded by GD

### 4. Matters Arising

Neighbourhood Wardens - A brief update on the recent Executive Board vote was provided for the group. The decision is to disband the Warden Scheme by April 2007 in favour of supporting the Police's plans for 48 PCSOs. WCBC would then fund an additional 12 PCSOs to act as a "rapid reaction" team and also some limited funds for interventions. Existing NWs will be offered posts within the Env Dept at WCBC. Plas Madoc would be the only ward in the county to receive 2 PCSOs. This is taken to be recognition of the debate initiated by members of the community and supported by PMCF.

Litter – PB is still concerned about the amount of litter on the estate. AY has issued 9 fixed penalties for fly tipping recently. PB was worried that the PCSO would not take on the litter problem. ADH pointed out the explicit undertaking from the Chief Supt that the PCSOs would respond to the Neighbourhood Policing Plans (the SLBL plan in Plas Madoc). GD agreed that if littering was identified in the plan as a community priority then Police and PCSOs would have to respond. WL and JH raised concerns over litter from both a fire and a vermin perspective.

### 5. Youth Forum Publication

Unfortunately no-one from the Youth Forum was in attendance. ADH summarised their intention to produce a safety-related document for young people and that they had been asked to keep the CSG informed. GM offered help with information that might be relevant to this publication.

### 6. Review of Safer Living Better Living Action Plan

ADH gave an overview of how the review process would work. Firstly the current SLBL plan would be worked through by the CSG to identify any closed actions, which would be removed.

This would leave a skeleton plan containing any outstanding issues for the CSG to deal with. Secondly, the Safer Living Better Living Consultation exercise would be repeated in November 2006 – 1 year on from its initiation. Survey forms would be distributed door to door asking the same questions as 2005. This would allow for any progress to be identified and also for any new issues / priorities to be identified. These new issues would then be incorporated into the SLBL plan in early 2007.

The action plan was amended by the group on an action by action basis, and is provided along with these minutes.

Additional points raised in the discussion include:-

Youth ASB – AH stated that from his experience the behaviour of young people had improved over the last year and vandalism was down. GR mentioned that there had been sharp criticism of PMCF at the last Community Council Meeting, and particularly in relation to the locations worked by the detached youth worker, with the accusation that this post was not adequately serving the whole estate. Cefn CC was also working on a funding bid to provide a mobile youth shelter. ADH pointed out that PMCF already had funds to provide this in Plas Madoc so there was the potential for duplication.

Lighting – was considered a big problem in many areas of the estate. JH suggested that it could be a case of replacing bulbs with more effective types. Members of Cefn CC had no response to questions about the written request for lighting submitted by the CSG, as nothing had been determined.

Drugs – JH had concerns over the provision of methadone in the chemists. GR spoke of reluctance from WCBC to evict. WL wanted more awareness of the legal implications of involvement in the drugs scene.

Litter – GR said that theft of litter bins was a problem. The group asked if a crime number was required in order to have a litter bin replaced. More awareness raising was needed to combat the dropping of litter.

Motorbikes – were raised by SW as a problem in Peris.

Schools – ADH reminded the group that he was proposing the inclusion of the school sites, in terms of criminal damage, in the revised plan.

## 7. **AOB**

The chair read out a statement from Chris Higgins from Plas y Wern Hostel, which had been submitted due to Chris' absence from this meeting. The group agreed that the SLBL plan will include a line stating "There is an ongoing issue regarding the Plas y Wern Hostel and the safety of Plas Madoc residents. The lead group on this issue is the Protest Group." This statement is necessary to ensure that the powers that be gain an appreciation from the SLBL plan of the full situation on the estate. A copy of the statement was passed to a representative of the Protest Group to ensure that they are informed and aware.

Following an incident on Hampden Way where a child was hit by a car on the way to school, PMCF had been in contact with WCBC Highways. CT confirmed that a crossing patrol assessment would be carried out on Plas Madoc to determine if this response was appropriate and feasible. This comprises data on the speed of traffic, volume of traffic and number of people crossing. PMCF would be re-launching the Safe Routes to School project with a speed gun exercise, which would gather additional information that may help in the efforts to make the roads in Plas Madoc safer. This would be awareness raising rather than enforcement.

There were reports from SW of a large Akita type dog straying on the estate.

8. **Date of next meeting**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2pm at The Opportunity Centre**

**PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

**In attendance:**

Chair of Group	
Councillor	Cllr Paul Blackwell (PB)
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
NW Police	Pc Gwyn Douthwaite (GD)
NW Police	Sgt Jim Staunton (JS)
Resident / Cefn C Council	Graham Rowlands (GR)
Resident / Cefn C Council	Emlyn Rowlands (ER)
Resident	x2
Guest / Observer	Kevin Wong (Matrix Research & Consulting)

2. **Apologies**

x9

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes were proposed as a true record by GR on the understanding that a statement attributed to him in Section 6. was corrected thus

GR stated that he did not claim that WCBC were unwilling to evict, he levelled this at judges and the court system.

The minutes were seconded by JS

4. **Matters Arising**

MO – Plas Madoc Estate Manager had forwarded a written statement due to his absence. This statement was read by the Chair.

MO commented on 2 points in the minutes of the last meeting

a) He was surprised to read about criticism of the Outreach Youth Worker provision as from his experience it had helped reduce ASB and vandalism on the estate.

b) He responded to comments made by GR (though now corrected – see above) and explained the role of WCBC in drug related evictions and how they are reliant upon police convictions and court action, which takes a significant length of time.

ER was critical of the lack of presence from the Housing Office due to the important role they could play in the process. ADH spoke of the good relationship between the CSG and the Housing Office. JS pointed out a difference between evictions for specific drug offences and evictions based on ASB associated by drug dealing where the council can be more proactive. It was agreed though that MOs comments related specifically to drug offences.

WL asked about the Safe Routes to School project and the fact that pupils of Ysgol Rhiwabon must cross the Llangollen Road in a 40mph zone. ADH provided some background from previous meetings and explained the changes to the Plas Bennion cross roads area and the expansion of the 40mph zone outwards from the Acrefair direction. It is an aim to work towards a more formal and

safer crossing provision with an associated reduction in speed limit, but this is constrained by legislation and ongoing development of the other aspects of the project.

## 5. **Amended SLBL Action Plan**

ADH explained that the amended plan provided at the meeting was the result of the decisions made last month. All actions considered to be closed by the group had been removed from this document, which forms the skeleton for the 2007 plan. Consultation will be undertaken in the coming month to provide the wider community with the opportunity to identify their concerns and priorities. This will be done by re-issuing the Safer Living Better Living Questionnaire from last year.

Discussions then followed about the amended plan. PB stated that he had produced a letter to be sent to CSG members as per one of his actions, and that a visit to the CCTV control room had been arranged by Pc Douthwaite for 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. GD, WL, PB and ADH would be attending on this occasion but the opportunity was widened to the group for any future visits. ER queried whether this plan was purely for info, ADH explained that at this stage it was as it was a work in progress but the completed SLBL 2007 plan would be a working, actionable document. FR enquired about a police and fire 999 call to Hampden Way, GD responded that it was a false alarm at the school.

FR suggested that Smart Water be added to the action plan and kept there as an ongoing action. This was agreed by the group. PB stated that a sign had come down in Whalley's Way.

ER asked about needle exchange on the estate. ADH spoke about the role of the Harm Reduction Team and there was discussion about the provision offered by the pharmacy.

Following discussion of the Detached Youth Worker role it was agreed to remove the reference to Ash Grove, as this was a historical reference and implied that this was the direction by which the DYW operated. It was stated by ADH that at the time of writing the plan the ASB in Ash Grove was acute and this was the appropriate response at the time. A meeting would be taking place between members of Cefn CC and PMCF following correspondence after the last CSG. ER spoke of the need for DYW and that WCBC had indicated at a recent meeting that this approach was the way forward. He was keen that there be commitment to this provision.

GR asked the Police what happened when groups of youngsters were moved on by Officers, suggesting that they should be referred to The Venue. GD replied that this was suggested but many of the youngsters that are out on the street are not those that identify with The Venue.

## 6. **Safer Living Better Living Questionnaire 2006**

ADH provided copies of last year's questionnaire and explained that the aim was to try and keep most questions the same to be able to compare this year with how people felt 12 months ago. However the group was invited to suggest amendments / additions if they felt it appropriate. There was consideration required to issues of formatting, clarity and printing. The 3 agreed actions are

- "Have you observed a change on Plas Madoc over the last year?"
- It was suggested that there should be a question about the Neighbourhood Warden. This was agreed with the proviso that it could be asked without turning into a leading question.
- A cover sheet would be added to the questionnaire containing relevant CS related contact details, e.g. the Police 0845 number, Wxm Police Station, etc.

The new questionnaire would be distributed with the minutes before going door to door.

## 7. **Safe Routes to School – Speed Gun Exercise Planning**

Plans for the speed gun monitoring were discussed within the context of school crossing patrols and baseline evidence. The exercise will begin on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov with GD and ADH and pupils from Rhosymedre Juniors. It was stressed that the exercise was not about issuing penalties but about

raising awareness. Pupils from the school have prepared colourful leaflets to be given to drivers caught exceeding the limit, it is hoped that this will get the message across without raising tensions or aggressive responses from “guilty” drivers.

There was lengthy discussion led by FR, MH and ER about the problems associated with the chicanes on Hampden Way and the fear that these contributed more to dangerous situations than reduced the risks.

#### 8. Halloween

The group was shown the Good Neighbour Code leaflets and Halloween posters produced by the Community Safety Partnership. PMCF has made both available and has posted a copy of the GNC to all members of The Venue (120). The group was asked for any other comments / suggestions for Halloween. ER asked about the legal situation regarding possession of fireworks. JS replied indicating that there was a specific offence relating to possession in a public place as well as the curbs on sale to minors. The GNC gives the curfew times for use of fireworks for different celebratory occasions, which vary from 11pm to 1am for New Year.

#### 9. Police Update

For the month of September there were 19 reported incidents in Plas Madoc including 10 assaults, 4 criminal damage and 5 of theft / vehicle crime. GD mentioned that on the figures available a 26% drop had occurred since comparable periods last year.

GR voiced surprise at the apparent “low” number of incidents. ER was also surprised and claimed that as a resident of Plas Madoc he did not feel these figures were representative. ER also spoke of delays in being able to actually talk to someone having called the 0845 number for NW Police. ER urged greater co-operation from the Estate Office in supporting NW Police.

#### 10. Issues

**Drugs** GR spoke of drug dealing in Alwen and Bran and the possible use of scanners to foil police interventions. JS explained about the new Police Radio System, which is encrypted and not accessible via a scanner. GD spoke of the use of lookouts and coded responses that are employed when the police enter the estate. PB asked about the use of the mobile CCTV unit – JS did not want to be drawn on specific operational details but suggested that a wide range of methods were employed.

**Needles** No issues raised

**Litter** ADH informed the group of a meeting of the Env & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee that day where a decision was to be made that might reduce bin capacity for large families. ADH had written a letter to all committee members urging that this option be rejected as it would not only penalise families unfairly but would increase fly tipping problems. ER pointed out that the bin men frequently don't return the green paper recycling bags, opting instead to throw them in the wagon.

**Alcohol** In relation to the Top Shop FR asked about the involvement in the group or otherwise of the owners of the Take Away. ADH responded that PMCF had made approaches at various points but that there was nothing really to show from it. The children did link in with The Venue. It was agreed that as a Group more could certainly be done.

**Youth ASB** GR had attended a meeting and was surprised by the low number of ASBOs issued in Plas Madoc and raised this as a concern. JS responded with information about the ASB Delivery Group and the number of interventions employed before the stage where an ASBO is issued, so it could be argued that there was a positive to be drawn in that interventions appeared to be preventing individuals from reaching the ASBO stage. ER asked what age groups were targeted by DYW, ADH

replied that as the post was funded through the Welsh Assembly Government, their age range of 8-25 was used.

#### 11. **AOB**

ADH had an email from LW at The Venue inviting the Police to visit the club and building relationships with the young people. JS and GD were in agreement and GD will liaise with PMCF. One request that was unlikely to be possible was a visit to the police station, which is no longer encouraged due to H&S and operational issues.

ADH will review meeting dates for 2007 to look at possible evening meetings.

JS announced to the group that this would be his last CSG in Plas Madoc as he was being moved to Wrexham North area.

On behalf of the CSG and PMCF ADH thanked JS for his involvement, which has been very positive and beneficial, and wished him well in his new post.

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

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2pm at The Opportunity Centre**

Following the close of the meeting, resident members of the group met with a researcher from Matrix Consulting who is undertaking research on Neighbourhood Policing on behalf of Centrex. This consultation session comprised taped discussion and written surveys. Each participant was given £15 of high street vouchers as a “thank you” and signed a record sheet as evidence of acceptance. ADH declined to accept ‘his’ vouchers due to issues over appropriateness but asked that they be donated to the Farepak collection to help families affected by this situation. This was agreed to by the researcher.

# PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006

### **In attendance:**

Chair of Group	Cllr Paul Blackwell (PB)
Councillor	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
PMCF	Dale Stanway (DS)
PMCF The Venue	Pc Gwyn Douthwaite (GD)
NW Police	Sgt Darren Whibberley (DW)
NW Police	Insp Paul Firth (PF)
NW Police	Graham Rowlands (GR)
Resident / Cefn C Council	x1
Resident	Mark Owens (MO)
WCBC Housing	

### 2. Apologies

x5

### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed as a true record by GR on the understanding that it was clear that a statement attributed to him and Emlyn Rowlands in Section 9. did not imply they were in any way doubting the authenticity of the figures provided by NW Police, only that as residents it felt as if there should be more.

The minutes were seconded by GD

### 4. Matters Arising

None tendered

### 5. CCTV Report

ADH provided the group with a report on the recent visit to CCTV Control Room (see enclosed).

There was discussion about the priority for lighting as opposed to new cameras, which were unlikely. PB spoke of the high concentration of residential property making it difficult to install new cameras. PF spoke of his requirements for Beat Audits and that these would be weekly and undertaken by PCSOs. They would also include night time audits that might show up lighting issues. He pointed out that it was not just about cameras. WL asked about the situation with regard to checks on lighting. GR responded for Cefn CC that checks were done but that funding was limited; WCBC are responsible for carrying out the repairs and then they invoice Cefn CC.

### 6. Safer Living Better Living

Violent Crime - ADH explained the JAG figures on violent crime placing Plas Madoc as the area with the highest incidence of this offence outside of the town centre. This was justification to maintain and enhance the presence of Domestic Violence on the Action Plan. There was mention of the NSPCC's involvement in the junior school and the initiatives around the Anti-Domestic Violence Campaign. PF requested the role of experts in this issue and countered WL comment

about male victims of domestic violence with figures stating only 10% of cases include a male victim.

ADH was asked to make contact with Christine Elmit from WCBC with a view to a presentation for the group in early 2007.

Alcohol Related Crime – A request for information on alcohol related crime had been made by the JAG which is looking to gain a better picture of the scale of this issue. PF spoke about the ongoing campaign in the Evening Leader about Harm Reduction and the fact that alcohol issues are not always about crime. The group will look more widely at the effects and implications of alcohol in 2007.

Criminal Damage – This is a county priority and again the JAG has asked for reports of graffiti and vandalism. There was further discussion surrounding CBM / PCSO audits.

## 7. **Safe Routes to School – Speed Gun Report**

ADH circulated a report on the recent Speed Gun Exercise (see enclosed). There will be more low-key speed monitoring over coming weeks. The fastest recorded speed was 30mph in the 20 zone by a locally based double decker bus. The group agreed to write to the company involved and the transport dept at WCBC, following their disinterest of the issue during a visit by the police. They had claimed, as the driver did that they were unaware of the speed limit change. WCBC Highways has confirmed all bus companies are routinely informed of speed limit changes.

There was a break from the Agenda as LW asked to raise a point before having to leave early. The issue related to a friend who sought police assistance following a domestic incident during which the lady's life was threatened. The "victim" believed she had received poor service from NW Police, despite having visited a police station in person and made phone calls and asked PMCF to assist with contacting the police.

PF responded that he had looked into this incident as he believed to have taken place and had dispatched a Sergeant to deal personally with the lady. He encouraged the use of 999 in such incidents but spoke of the issue of finite resources across the area. In fact PF claimed that Plas Madoc received a higher input of Policing – through CBM & PCSO with a second PCSO on the way than some areas. There was no suggestion that Plas Madoc was viewed differently and PF strongly refuted an assertion that Plas Madoc was seen as "second class". LW spoke of her own experience and of other incidents and the discussion moved to an historical incident where residents had complained about response time. GD pointed out that he had investigated this complaint and discovered from the Police computer that in actual fact the response time from first call to arrest for this case was only 9 minutes. Perception, particularly that of victims and witnesses of crimes was considered as a factor. PF stated he was proud of the response times overall in Plas Madoc but that if people felt the service wasn't quite there he would take note of concerns. PF asked that positives be looked at as well as the complaints and criticisms. LW pointed out that not everyone on the estate links PMCF into their issues, she asked about the potential for making CBM's contact details available to the public. PF offered to look into this and mentioned the new PCSO as being able to promote contact with the police.

The discussion rounded up with the clarification that if crimes are reported then the police must investigate, which can often publicise the source of the report, but that provision of information was dealt with in a different way. LW spoke of a positive and enjoyable visit to The Venue from GD and it was agreed that GD and the new PCSO would make regular visits, at least weekly in terms of the PCSO.

## 8. Bonfires

Photos of bonfire sites found on Plas Madoc on 6<sup>th</sup> November were passed around the group. GR spoke of people's problems with disposing of waste led to household materials being widely used on these unofficial bonfires. ADH pointed out that previous action days had been refused by the Fire Service due to lack of statistical evidence, however much of the fire detritus was domestic in origin suggesting a need for removal options. MO and PF will support the Environmental Action Day (organised through JAG & partners) to come to Plas Madoc.

## 9. Police Update

In October there were 30 reported incidents – 20 for criminal damage and 4 assaults. In November there were also 30 incidents – the majority were again criminal damage and there were 2 burglaries to non-smartwater properties.

PF informed the group that the new PCSO would be starting on 4<sup>th</sup> December and would commence by working day shifts alongside CBM but would double up with existing PCSO for evening (7-midnight) patrols. The PCSO is already experienced in the role. Reciprocal ASB patrols should be the only reason why the PCSOs work in other areas. There must be an acceptance of the lead in time required for training, etc. PCSO audits would be presented to this group and Cefn CC.

ADH mentioned a letter from Leader of WCBC in response to concerns about the transfer of the Warden from Plas Madoc earlier than anticipated.

## 10. Issues

**Drugs** – no issues raised

**Needles** – ADH mentioned a meeting with the Harm Reduction Team but stated this was at too early a stage to share with the group due to confidentiality issues.

**Litter** – WL was concerned about The Brook and asked if Steve Jones' team was still responsible. This is the case but also PMCF's Environmental Officer will be paying attention to The Brook.

**Alcohol** – Had been covered at various points.

**Youth ASB** – GR spoke of a positive meeting with PMCF Youth Work staff. He will be visiting The Venue and is interested in supporting the initiative. He had been provided with good information by the Co-ordinator and the Detached Youth Worker, and pointed out that the DYW had been observed more often since. GR would be attending meetings with PMCF and the Leisure Centre.

## 11. AOB

Catherine Thomas from Highways had sent apologies and an update on the speed monitoring work promised by WCBC. Unfortunately vandalism of the speed measuring equipment whilst deployed in another area has delayed the work on Plas Madoc but the intention is still there.

PF spoke of a meeting with a resident – the result of which is an interest in off-street parking. PF asked that this be considered. ADH & MO spoke about the Remodelling Group and plans already developed for one part of the estate. MO confirmed that he was looking at parking provision in the area close to the resident's property.

MO stated that CCTV systems had been ordered for use in Alwen and pointed to the success of such equipment in Druids House.

## 12. Arrangements for meetings in 2007

At the request of residents not currently able to attend the meetings it was agreed that meetings would continue to be held on the last Wednesday of the month starting with a 2pm meeting in January. The February meeting would be an evening meeting 6:30pm start, and every third meeting would then be held in the evenings. A full list of times and dates to be circulated.