

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 28th February 2007 at 6:30pm

In attendance:

Chair of Group	
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
NW Police	Pc Gary Robertshaw (PcGR)
NW Police	Sgt Darren Whibberley (DW)
Resident / Cefn C Council	Graham Rowlands (GR)
WCBC Housing	Mark Owens (MO)
Residents	x6

2. **Apologies**

x14

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes were proposed as a true record by GR

The minutes were seconded by AP

4. **Matters Arising**

Point 6. An email had been sent to Christine Elmitt re: Domestic Violence but no response to date
Point 12. Based on the turnout and continued absence from key partners the future of evening meetings was discussed. These will continue to ensure that members of the community can raise their concerns but emphasis would be placed on partners attending the 2pm meetings. ADH to discuss with DW ways of improving attendance from partners.

5. **Safer Living Better Living Consultation Interim Report**

A copy of the report was made available to the group (see enclosed).

GR was interested in the positive comments about the Youth Club following on from concerns raised previously and recognised the role of the Neighbourhood Warden and Community Policing that came out favourably in the consultation. He asked for clarification on the Police interpretation of Youth in terms of Youth ASB, which PcGR replied as being 8-17 years. GR pointed out that the Youth Service covers up to 25 yrs of age.

It was noted that Dog Nuisance and Lighting had become community priorities since the last consultation exercise.

AP informed the group about the Plas Madoc Dog Action Group and plans to hold a micro-chipping event on the estate on 20th March and invited members to get involved. WL spoke of anecdotal evidence of further dog biting incidents and asked for clarification from the Police as to the validity. WL as Chair also commended two young people from the estate, Josh Edwards and Ben Mackie for their intervention which protected a lady from being harassed by a loose dog.

DW led a discussion about perception of crime and the effect of the media, MH responded with news of a piece in the Evening Leader about car fires. It was confirmed that Plas Madoc had not fallen victim to any such fires.

6. **Safe Routes to School**

ADH provided a quick update from WCBC over the Safe Routes to School confirming that additional lighting had been identified but that discussions need to be completed between WCBC Highways, Lighting and Cefn Community Council. Some elements of the Safe Route had been placed on order and that there were intentions to use bike barriers around the underpass / link-over in Peris to reduce speeds without limiting access to normal users.

7. **Plas Madoc Environmental Action Day**

ADH wished to discuss the Environmental Action Day plans with the group before taking the process further. Outline plans of previous EADs which had occurred elsewhere in the county were provided, most had focussed on a specific number of houses within the given areas.

There was much discussion about how to hold the event effectively but at the same time try and bring some sort of benefit to the estate as a whole. It was agreed that the ideal model (subject to funding) would be as follows:-

- Provide 1 skip per street (16 streets)
- Door-to-door teams to target 150-200 houses in areas of greatest need
- Teams to comprise NWP, Fire & Rescue, WCBC Housing and PMCF
- A 5 month rolling programme of door-to-door visits to continue after the EAD to ensure all homes received a visit.

This plan would now be discussed with partner agencies. It was important to ensure suitable lead-in time for planning and awareness raising.

DW stressed the importance of local people's involvement and in follow-up work to ensure any benefits were not short-term.

EH asked about publicising the event – ADH informed her of PMCF's communication methods.

There was concern expressed about the Recycle with Michael Scheme and its contribution to the litter and fly-tipping problems experienced on the estate. ADH told that he had started a dialogue with the Recycling Education Officer regarding a "follow the bin lorry" type initiative, which would aim to increase education and awareness. This could potentially be included within the EAD.

MH was unhappy about the levels of packaging on certain goods and the problems caused by its disposal.

8. **Physical Environment in Plas Madoc**

This would be a standing item on the Agenda following a request from a resident, and its relevance in terms of Environmental Audits (see below). Two locations had been reported as being of concern – the corner of Peris / Woodward's Walk by the shop which was being cut by delivery lorries causing an un-safe environment and also a hand rail on the footpath between Whalleys Way and the shop.

9. **Police Update**

DW spoke of the changes in policing across the area caused by budget issues within NWP. This has led to 3 CBM posts being lost, one in Plas Madoc. The new policing "family" for Plas Madoc consists of 2 PCSOs, and cover from 2 CBMs from other areas. PC Gary Robertshaw (Trevor,

Fron and Garth) will liaise with PMCF / community and PC Chris James (Cefn) will deal with the crime aspects of the role. These officers will all be overseen by Sgt Darren Whibberley and in turn Insp Paul Firth.

DW's aims were to improve the way the Police markets itself to the community to increase confidence and build relationships. The SLBL consultation results had turned out almost identical to the Police priorities for the estate.

In response to concerns raised in the consultation about the "attitude of the police" DW explained that a new procedure would be implemented using the PCSOs, who would visit all victims of crime within the week of the incident to act as reassurance and support the processes forthcoming. GR said that if the Police can increase their credibility and trust then he believes they will be successful. DW also explained the importance of Police Feedback to victims / callers a recent incident had highlighted how an explanation / understanding of evidential procedures, etc. could have improved the experience for a victim of crime. Again the PCSO visits would help to identify where this could be targeted, as well as potentially picking up on things that have been missed.

DW provided an outline of the NWP Environmental Audit, which was taking place at the end of the week and including PMCF and the Community Councillor. It was important that the community engaged with the process and DW offered the opportunity for members of the group to become involved. Audits would be repeated monthly and also take into account different times of the day and conditions.

PcGR spoke of his visits to The Venue to build relationships with the young people.

GR spoke in support of the new initiatives from NWP and ADH seconded with comments about the positive stance being adopted.

10. Issues

Drugs – no issues raised

Needles – no issues raised

Litter – Rear of Alwen Flats was a problem pre-bin day. The litter bin outside the school was not emptied often enough.

Alcohol – Drinking on the MUGA and the railway bridge through to Rhosymedre

Youth ASB – no issues raised.

11. AOB

ADH updated the group on a meeting that took place between NWP (DW & PcGR) and a number of young people and parents. This followed a letter sent to NWP by The Venue Council after an incident, which resulted in a Yellow Card being issued. The purpose of the meeting was to provide youngsters with information about the Yellow Card Scheme and the associated Police procedures. The outcome had been positive and plans were agreed to "translate" the Yellow Card guidance notes into a more appropriate form for young people and to look at ASB workshops in The Venue. Complaints had been raised by a resident of Idwal relating to inconsiderate / dangerous parking and side-waste / fly-tipping. These issues would be investigated during the Environmental Audit on Friday 2nd March.

DS had provided a brief report in his absence focussed around the positive involvement of the Police in The Venue and also the problems with the vandalised fence around The Venue.

Invitation: Members / tenants & residents are invited to attend the 3rd Neighbourhood Policing Annual Meeting at the Stwit in Rhos on Thursday 29th March 2007 starting at 6:30pm. The meeting will offer an explanation of the neighbourhood policing strategy in Wrexham South and updates on the arrival of PCSOs in the area.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 28th March at 2pm in The Opportunity Centre.

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 28th March 2007 at 2:00pm

In attendance:

Chair of Group	
Residents	x6
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
PMCF	Dale Stanway
NW Police	Sgt Darren Whibberley (DW)
NW Police	Sgt John Williams
NW Fire & Rescue Service	Neil Dorrington
WCBC Housing	Andy Jones (AJ)
WCBC Traffic	Catherine Thomas
Elected Member	Cllr Paul Blackwell
YOS	Graham Minniss

2. **Apologies**

x3

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes were proposed as a true record by EH

The minutes were seconded by SC

4. **Matters Arising**

Point 7. PB has raised concerns about refuse collection / Recycle with Michael Scheme at Scrutiny Committee. PB has also been on a site visit with WCBC Recycling Education Officers to identify problem areas on the estate for future action.

Point 8. PB had contacted Highways over the issues raised. There is no funding available from Highways for any work. ADH to speak with Estate Office regarding environmental funds being used to purchase bollards or other measures and also re-design of junction, CT can advise. This area would be visited and assessed during the Environmental Audits.

5. **WCBC Speed Monitoring Report**

Following previous work with the CBM and hand held speed gun, PMCF had asked WCBC to undertake more covert speed assessments on the estate to provide a baseline set of info relating to traffic speeds. This has now been done. CT provided a summary of the findings: -

The stretch of Hampden Way between the chicanes and running past the entrance to Gwynant was monitored for 7 days, 24 hrs per day by specialist equipment. No prosecutions were involved purely monitoring. The average speed recorded through the period was 17 mph. The figure used by WCBC to assess whether further action is required is known as the 85th percentile, which is the result of removing the top 15 % of speeds and taking the next speed. For this exercise the 85th percentile is 21 mph. According to highways guidance this is not indicative of a speeding problem. The highest speed recorded was 36 mph, but this and the majority of speeds in excess of 30 mph occurred late at night / early morning. It was agreed that other locations should receive the same monitoring but that this was dependent on being able to find an appropriate site for the

equipment. Peris (from Madoc's Column entrance down past the shop) was agreed as the next location. CT informed that the traffic survey equipment currently located near the entrance to the amenity site was installed privately for a housing developer.

6. **Plas Madoc Environmental Action Day Progress**

ADH referred the group to the previous minutes which highlighted the "model" that would be used for this project. ADH listed the number of agencies / departments that had agreed to be part of the project, and was encouraged by the response so far. GM stated that his department would also be involved. The group reviewed a list of priority tasks for the EAD (see enclosed). There was discussion about the dog nuisance issues, AH asked about the number of animals allowed through the tenancy agreement as he knew of one property with 7 dogs. EH and JH commented on the increase in problems since the Neighbourhood Warden was removed from the estate. New litter bins were to be provided for the estate, however there was some confusion as to who was going to meet the bill. ADH said that PMCF had been approached to seek funding, but this was only 5 days before the meeting and so no progress had been made, however it appears that bins have been ordered on the assumption that PMCF can pay, ADH to clarify this situation. EH commented on the increase in litter around the school during term time. WL queried whether flats on the estate had recycling bins, PB responded that they did with the exception of Druids which has a communal arrangement. The removal of bulky items was discussed with WL seeking assurances that physical help to shift items would be available for those in genuine need on the EAD, this was confirmed.

ND spoke about the content of a Home Fire Safety Check, which would be conducted door to door on the EAD, he provided posters and PB had already received business cards sporting the contact number. NW Fire & Rescue aims to contact all homes on the estate in due course.

AH asked if Learning Skills Wales were taking part in the day, ADH replied that their letter of invitation had just been posted. AH was very complimentary of those involved in LSW, and gave an example of how young people had provided assistance to other residents during the snow, when it was difficult to get up the slopes.

AH mentioned that many gardens on the estate were an eye sore and let down the other properties. AJ informed the group of a project planned by the Estate Office Staff who were intending to get their hands dirty and help tenants with practical improvement tasks on their properties.

It was suggested that Wednesdays were a good day for the Fire Service.

7. **Physical Environment in Plas Madoc**

JH was very concerned about the state of the bushes / hedge at the rear of the shop and chippy, which were regularly used by individuals as a toilet. JH was angry at this behaviour, which amounts to public indecency and demanded some response to it. It was alleged that food grown for consumption through the chip shop was likely to be urinated on. AJ will check the situation with regard to ownership of the hedge in question. ADH will monitor the situation with the Estate Office.

AH stated that rats were being spotted in Peris. ADH to contact Environmental Health.

8. **Lighting**

ADH read a letter received from Cefn CC stating that a sum of £3000 had been allocated for lighting in Plas Madoc from the start of April 2007. This amounted to 3 new lamp posts and Cefn CC was requesting locations for consideration.

JH asked if it would be better to upgrade existing lighting before new ones were installed. ADH responded that many complaints had been received over a small number of specific areas that had no lighting at all. It seemed sensible to bring all areas up to parity before upgrading. This was generally accepted.

CT informed the group that as part of the Safe Routes to School project she was working with the Lighting Engineer from WCBC on a new lighting scheme that would run along the new "Safe Route". This would be in addition to what would be possible through Cefn CC. Upgraded bulbs, etc. were certainly an option in this case as they could cast light on larger areas. CT also stated that if certain areas were upgraded to the appropriate standard then WCBC could adopt them taking away responsibility from the Community Council.

This would be a standing item on the Agenda following a request from a resident, and its relevance in terms of Environmental Audits (see below). Two locations had been reported as being of concern – the corner of Peris / Woodward's Walk by the shop which was being cut by delivery lorries causing an un-safe environment and also a hand rail on the footpath between Whalleys Way and the shop.

9. Police Update

DW explained that his main efforts in relation to Plas Madoc were 1) improving confidence in the Police and 2) addressing the quality of life issues / environment. PCSOs are now tasked with follow-up visits to victims of crime to provide further help and reassurance. Since the Env Audit DW has raised the awareness of the environmental issues on the estate culminating with a site visit earlier in the day with the Leader of the Council and various Chief Officers. PCSOs will be targeted at areas suffering from dog fouling / strays and will endeavour to work with the dog warden / Env Enforcement Officers to deal with the problems. It has also been agreed that when seized dogs are released from the kennels in Whitchurch, the Police will be informed and PCSOs will visit the owners to educate and inform. DW has also worked to hold litter awareness days in the schools and PCSOs will provide assistance to the Estate Office in addressing poorly maintained gardens. JH was concerned that despite this being positive it was not the job of the Police it was the Council's responsibility, MH agreed that the council had departments to address these issues but they weren't. It was agreed that the different angle from which the Police could attack various issues meant that it was worthwhile. An example of this was in the discussion raised by WL about the enforcement relating to private households. The council could not get involved easily but the Police could take action.

There was general discussion about the levels of crime on the estate, which were deemed (from official reported figures) to be on the low side and certainly not a problem relative to other areas. MH was concerned about the negative media coverage that housing estates tend to receive, ADH pointed out that it had been a while since Plas Madoc received this kind of treatment and PMCF were certainly keen to promote the positive stories and had built up relationships with various local journalists.

10. Issues

Drugs – MH asked if Plas Madoc had a drugs problem. It was deemed to be no better nor worse than other areas, GM pointed out that very few young people from the estate are referred to his service, which was a positive. PB was pleased to hear this feedback as he was concerned about areas of the estate being run by armed gangs.

Youth ASB

Litter

Needles

Dogs

Alcohol – DW was arranging a meeting with staff at the shop designed to improve their confidence in dealing with problematic alcohol sales. Concern was expressed about the volume of alcohol sold from the shop.

Lighting

It was agreed that the other subjects had been covered sufficiently elsewhere in the meeting.

11. **AOB**

ADH raised concerns for the safety and security of the Llys Madoc care now it had been closed and boarded up. Tenants were fearful of vandalism, theft and squatting and this was left with the Police. PB was having a meeting with the Leader of the Council to discuss the Funding bid submitted for the replacement Extra Care Facility, which was now thought to be unsuccessful. ADH has also written to Cllr Aled Roberts.

Making A Difference Day – The group received a quick briefing on plans for the event and NWP were asked for input on the day.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 18th April at 2pm in The Opportunity Centre.

Enclosed Notes from Point 6.

EAD Priority Tasks

- **Dog nuisance, e.g. loose dogs, dog litter, properties with dogs**

Response – seize dogs, microchip checks & information, removal of dog faeces

- **Side Waste**

Response – Recycling Education Officers to target sites of fly-tipping / side waste, removal of side waste

- **Dropped Litter**

Response – high visibility litter control, schools to target own grounds

- **Graffiti**

Response – document incidences and remove / paint over

- **Bulky Items**

Response – removal via provision of skips across the estate – recycling where appropriate

- **Door to Door**

Response – Multi-agency service of Housing, Crime Prevention and Fire Safety with PMCF and others as appropriate. Simple clean-up / repair work as identified and assessed.

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 18th April 2007 at 2:00pm

In attendance:

Residents	x3
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
PMCF	Paul Griffiths
NW Police	Sgt Darren Whibberley (DW)
NW Police	Insp Firth
NW Police	Pc Gary Robertshaw
NW Fire & Rescue Service	Neil Dorrington
WCBC Housing	Andy Jones (AJ)
Elected Member	Cllr Paul Blackwell
YOS	Graham Minniss
Cefn Community Council	Graham Rowlands
Victim Support	Phil Rees

2. Apologies

x5

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed as a true record by PB

The minutes were seconded by AJ

4. Matters Arising

Point 6. ND explained that the Fire Service does not cold-call when offering its home fire safety checks. All visits are appointment based.

Point 7. ADH had held a site visit with Mark Owens following the issues raised last time. Costings have now been requested for a couple of solutions to prevent cars cutting corners, this is likely to be something in the form of kick-railings. The hedging around the rear of the Takeaway / Shop would be dealt with by the Parks Team from WCBC. NWP were asked to take action where possible on incidents of public urination.

Point 10. PB wanted to point out that his comment about the impact of potentially armed drug dealers on the estate was not a reflection of the current situation but a fear of the future should the Police not maintain their input.

Point 11. PB had met with Cllr Aled Roberts, Leader of WCBC regarding the Extra Care Facility / Llys Madoc site to place his concerns on record about the failure of the bid and the degeneration of the building.

5. Victim Support – Presentation

Phil Rees is the new worker for Victim Support in Wrexham with a remit to increase the organisation's presence in the County. VS is a charity offering emotional and practical support to people who have been a victim of crime and / or witness support. There is a protocol by which the Police refer victims to VS, generating a letter to the individual. Self referral is also possible but

this accounts for only 10%. PR will provide uptake figures for Wrexham South to DW, but he thought this was around the 50% mark. PF spoke of the intention for PCSOs to provide a follow up to incidents and would ensure PCSOs contact PR. There was discussion around the benefit of VS volunteers on the estate. Vols could be as young as 16. ADH told the group that there were similar models in terms of peer educations/ support projects, e.g. Second Voice / Drugs project at Ysgol Rhiwabon. PR responded to FR's question about how the referrals were made by explaining that a list of victims was forward by NWP each morning. PG asked about any similar involvement from the Fire Service, ND confirmed that there was post-incident support available. ND also briefed the group on the Pheonix project, which is a week long training course for young people who have been referred due to fire related ASB. This had a positive effect on their behaviour.

6. Paul Griffiths – New Youth Work Manager

PG has recently become the Youth Work Manager having been a Detached Youth Worker on the estate. A new DYW will be employed soon and there are changes to the way this service will operate. The estate will be divided into sectors and each DYW will have a target area per day. The Venue will now offer provision 7 days per week this comprises:-

The Venue – 5 evenings per week (4 for 8-11 yr olds) and 1 session on Saturdays between 3-6pm
Detached Provision – Monday, Wednesday, Friday nights and Sundays 3-6pm. The additional weekend sessions will be run on a trial basis for 3 months.

The changes are a response to on-the-street research and also feedback from residents and the Police about large congregations of youths particularly around the shop.

JH was concerned about the low numbers of children attending The Venue. PG was aware of some issues and would be working to address these. There was also concern about the damage to the exterior of The Venue.

PcGR initiated a brief discussion relating to the position of The Venue relative to the shop and the layout of the building both which may contribute to problems. He welcomed the changes to the detached provision.

PF will arrange regular contact between PCSOs and The Venue, PG pointed out that there had been few visits from the PCSOs but that the CBMs / Sgt had attended more. PF said that once the new PCSO had completed his induction they would work different shifts and provide more opportunities.

FR asked if there was truth in a rumour that the PCSOs were being used in the control rooms to answer phones. PF refuted this completely.

FR also asked about the policy regarding bullying. PG explained the process, which involved letters to both youngsters involved and their parents. DW asked to be in the loop re: any incidents of bullying as he is in the process of developing ASB Workshops. DW also hoped for liaison over the "harder to reach" young people on the estate that the Police had contact with.

JH asked whether anyone had considered sending young people to boot camp type projects. ADH replied that indeed they had and Insp Firth had been looking into this for a while. PF outlined his goal of sending young people, referred from within communities onto the Army Familiarisation Programme. He had been made aware of positive outcomes in other incidences. The cost was £300 per person. ADH agreed to request £300 from PMCF for one place and approach Cefn Community Council to fund another from its Young Person's precept. There was support for this from Councillors present. PF would provide more details for a letter to be drafted to Cefn CC. It was reiterated that this was a voluntary scheme and not intended as a punishment.

There was a query regarding the barred windows at The Venue, which had been noticed on a recent Environmental Audit. ADH replied that the building had been assessed prior to commencement of the project. A balance had needed to be struck between potential escape routes and accidental falls. ND added that in the event of a fire the Fire Service recommend use of normal existing exits from any building. Windows would only be as a very last resort.

7. Physical Environment in Plas Madoc

It was agreed that the main issues under this heading had been covered under Matters Arising.

Attention was drawn to the EAD Planning Meeting Scheduled for Wed 2nd May at 2pm in The Opportunity Centre.

ADH informed the group of a recent walk about held on the estate with a number of Chief Officers as a result of concerns raised with the Chief Executive and Leader of WCBC.

8. Police Update

PcGR and DW provided information on numbers of recent incidents which were on a par with the last few months. Incidents are mainly assaults and criminal damage although nothing was categorised by the Police as “significant”. It was noticed that there had been a significant improvement in relation to Youth ASB over the holidays.

There were no fire service call outs in the last month.

2 properties were identified as being locations requiring attention.

9. Issues

Drugs

Youth ASB

Litter – Continued concern about rubbish left by bin men themselves. Many people have also lost their recycling boxes, which have been thrown into the back of the lorries.

Needles – Numbers accessing the Harm Reduction Team service have declined to the point that the service may have to consider its continued presence in Plas Madoc. ADH asked the group to pass on any info regarding problem areas or individuals that could be passed onto the HRT.

Dogs

Alcohol

Lighting

10. AOB

ADH requested any ideas or commitments for the Summer Fair to be held on 18th August 2007.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 30th May at 6:30pm in The Opportunity Centre.

Enc. Notes from EAD Planning Meeting held on 2nd May 2007

**Plas Madoc Environmental Action Day Planning Meeting
Wednesday 2nd May 2007
The Opportunity Centre, Plas Madoc**

Present:

Graham Rowlands	Cefn Community Council / Tenant
Cllr Paul Blackwell	Elected Member
John Walsh	WCBC
Merv Lloyd	WCBC
Steve (Joe) Jones	WCBC
Andrew Jones	WCBC Plas Madoc Estate Office
Neil Dorrington	N Wales Fire & Rescue
Melanie Lawton	Arson Reduction Team
Vanessa Griffiths	NW Police
David Evans	NW Police
Eric Lee	Rossett Community Council
Sylvia Storer	Resident
Gary Robertshaw	NW Police
Darren Whibberley	NW Police
Chris Cheshire	NW Police
David Gittins	PMCF
Andrew Harradine	PMCF

Apologies:

Mark Owens	WCBC Estate Manager
Catherine Knight	WCBC Recycling Education Officer

Priority Tasks

- **Dog nuisance, e.g. loose dogs, dog litter, properties with dogs**
Response – seize dogs, microchip checks & information, removal of dog faeces
- **Side Waste**
Response – Recycling Education Officers to target sites of fly-tipping / side waste, removal of side waste
- **Dropped Litter**
Response – high visibility litter control, schools to target own grounds
- **Graffiti**
Response – document incidences and remove / paint over
- **Bulky Items**
Response – removal via provision of skips across the estate – recycling where appropriate
- **Door to Door**
Response – Multi-agency service of Housing, Crime Prevention and Fire Safety with PMCF and others as appropriate. Simple clean-up / repair work as identified and assessed.

Scope

It was agreed following advice from partners to limit the scope of the EAD to one distinct area of Plas Madoc rather than trying to spread resources across the whole estate. The Plas Madoc Safety Group had preferred to treat the estate as a whole as much as possible but having listened to submissions from

partners who have been involved in the delivery of EADs in other locations, it was felt that this might be overly ambitious. It was agreed that a more local response would be developed to ensure that the remaining areas of the estate were visited following the EAD.

The EAD will take place in Gwynant, Glaslyn, Alwen, Idwal and Ogwen – 203 houses.

This is based upon an identified need as determined by Environmental Audits, feedback from Cllr, Recycling Officers and WCBC Environment.

Within this area there will be a combination of skips sites and marshalled “drop-off” points.

Date of EAD

Date was agreed as Wednesday 6th June 2007 – all day event .

Commitments to EAD

Partner	Equipment, etc.	Staff
WCBC Estate Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 x 10m3 skips • 1 x 4m3 skip • Caretakers Van 	Yes – TBC for Door to Door
PMCF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 trolleys for bulky item transfer • 3m trailer and vehicle • Inflatable building • BBQ • Refreshments 	Yes – Door to Door & co-ordination
WCBC Environment / Street Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 HIAB lorry • 1 Mechanised Sweeper unit • 1 Mini-Mechanised Sweeper unit 	Yes - operators
WCBC Recycling Education Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of replacement recycling boxes and bags • Educational literature 	Yes – Door to Door or based in “pod”.
Fire Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational literature “goody bags” • Fire Service Bus / Exhibition Unit TBC 	Yes – Door to Door and Admin
North Wales Police		Yes
Public Protection (not present)	TBC	TBC
Probation / Community Service (not present)	TBC	TBC
Learning Skills Wales (not present)		TBC
Ysgolion Rhosymedre (not present)		TBC
YOT (not present)		TBC

Other Issues

- PMCF to liaise with Rhian Jones from the Community Safety Team over publicity
- Any leaflets from Partner Agencies can be included in the “Goody Bags” – leaflets can be delivered to Wrexham Fire Station FAO Neil Dorrington (203 required as a minimum).
- Provision must be made for any contaminated / hazardous waste
- Items should be recycled where appropriate

- Drop-Off points need careful marshalling with a definitive cut off point
- Advertising should be fairly last minute to prevent build ups of waste in advance
- Tenant / Resident participation is vital
- Need a robust protocol for seizing and / or returning of stray dogs
- PMCF to work with WCBC Housing, NWP and Fire Service over the door to door questionnaire.

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 30th May 2007 at 6:30pm

In attendance:

Residents	x7
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
PMCF	Paul Griffiths
NW Police	Pc Gary Robertshaw
WCBC Housing	Mark Owens
Elected Member	Cllr Paul Blackwell
Victim Support	Barbara Roberts

2. Apologies

x3

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed as a true record by FR

The minutes were seconded by PB

4. Matters Arising

Point 5. BR wished to add that any agency can make a referral to Victim Support. Crimes do not have to be reported to the Police before referral as support can be available prior to initial contact with Police. Other services offered, include: witness service, vulnerable / intimidated witness service (juvenile /domestic/ sexual offences), language / mobility support and target hardening information and resources.

Point 6. PB gave feedback on the letter sent to Cefn Community Council seeking funding for the Army Familiarisation Programme and confirmed Insp Firth would speak for the letter at the next meeting of the Council.

5. Plas Madoc Environmental Action Day

Plans for the EAD to be held the following week we reviewed by the group. BR confirmed that PR would be in attendance. There was discussion about the state of recycling on the estate and concerns about some plastic items being rejected by the bin men because of “contamination”. Members of the community felt that there was a lack of clarity in the guidance. There was also a question as to the frequency of bin collections in Ash Grove as there was a perception that it was more frequent than the rest of the estate. PB thought this might be due to the fact that the collection day is different. Amendments were agreed for the leaflet, which would be distributed door to door.

6. Community Cohesion

ADH explained that the purpose of this item was to mention incidents of racial harassment targeted at members of the Portuguese Community on the estate. There was general discussion as to the issues at hand. BR explained how Victim Support could be of use and PcGR encouraged the reporting of all similar incidents. EH hoped that the situation would not become one sided and hoped people could air

genuine grievances without being “jumped on”. MO pointed out that all Portuguese families on the estate are migrant workers and don’t take priority over others in terms of housing and changes in lettings policy now require the demonstration of a local link to the estate. The pure fact of being a migrant worker does not prioritise someone on the points system, there are however many other factors that can result in a family / individual receiving greater points, e.g. homelessness. There was heated debate with FR and MH claiming that there was a Government Policy to allocate quotas when it comes to migrants. PB and MO clearly stated this was not the case, with PB adding that this was likely a Westminster policy and not applicable in Wales. ADH brought the discussion back from the more global views being expressed to state that although policies obviously create the subtext for issues of harassment at a given level, the role of the CSG is to work to ensure that on a local level everyone living on the estate is free from the fear of crime, regardless of race, background or other factor.

7. Physical Environment in Plas Madoc

JH was concerned about the lack of grass cutting at the Llys Madoc site, which is now very long and unsightly. EH complained about cigarette ends around the Opportunity Centre and graffiti on one of the down pipes. FR was concerned about the broken fencing on properties along Hampden Way. MO explained that there were currently delays in replacing fencing. AH questioned why people didn’t do it for themselves. JH reported over grown conifers at an address on Whalleys Way that were interfering with lighting and phone wires.

8. Police Update

PcGR explained that the overall situation on the estate was similar to the last 2 months, with reported crime generally low. Criminal damage, as evidenced by the Audits was still a problem and PcGR was keen to determine whether or not this was caused by adults or youths. PG spoke that he was always surprised at people’s readiness to blame damage on young people, he believed from his experience that it was often adults that were responsible.

9. Issues

Drugs – Warrants had been executed with positive results and work is ongoing.

JH was concerned about the chemist and its interaction with “users” and the general public.

Youth ASB – JH spoke on behalf of a tenant living opposite The Venue about behaviour of youngsters both in general and directed at her. PG explained that 2 new detached youth workers would be in post within a week. PG would follow up on the complaint.

Litter

Needles

Dogs – SC raised a complaint regarding a property in Rhosymedre. MO was aware of the problem and had already requested involvement from the Public Protection Dept.

Alcohol

Lighting – Progress being made with new lighting scheme for estate. ADH to speak with JH re: lighting.

10. AOB

There were comments that the PCSO had not been seen for a while. There was also concern about the lack of prominent fire escapes at The Venue.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 27th June at 2:00pm in The Opportunity Centre.

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 25th July 2007 at 2:00pm

In attendance:

Residents	x2
Cefn Community Council	Graham Rowlands
Youth Offending Service	Ann Dann
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
NW Police	Pc Gary Robertshaw
	PCSO Chris Cheshire
	Sgt John Williams
WCBC Housing	Andy Jones

2. Apologies

x7

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed as a true record by JH

The minutes were seconded by PcGr

4. Matters Arising

Point 6. GR informed the group that the application to Cefn Community Council for funding for a place on the Army Familiarisation Programme (to be matched by PMCF) had been successful. ADH expressed his thanks to Cefn Community Council and agreed to write a thank you letter for when the Council reconvenes after the summer. ADH explained that he had spoken with Insp Firth and agreed an outline for the selection process. This will involve publicity in September, followed by a simple written application, followed by an interview. The intention is to create a “real world” situation for the young people involved, which in itself will provide skills and experience. The interview panel is expected to comprise a representative from PMCF, Cefn Community Council, a youth worker and a representative from NWP, who happens to be an officer in the TA. The intention is to have completed the selection process by mid to late October.

5. EAD Evaluation

The group was presented with copies of an evaluation undertaken following the EAD. A questionnaire was sent to all project partners, who were asked for their views. Overall the feedback was very positive.

GR asked what plans there were to hold further events as the rest of the estate needed attention. JW explained that in terms of the JAG, who endorsed the Plas Madoc EAD, there was little chance of it coming back to Plas Madoc within a year at the least as the project is rotated around the 3 areas of Wrexham and tends not to pay repeat visits. He did speak about the recent success had during a Graffiti Busting day in Cefn, which showed what could be achieved with the support of partners agencies. ADH added that discussions with a number of partners had shown an interest in repeating the EAD on a smaller scale in the remaining areas of the estate but this would be dependent on other commitments at the time.

The group agreed that efforts would be made to arrange further EADs on Plas Madoc. ADH will investigate funding options.

JH asked about holding a gardening competition in Plas Madoc to raise the profile of gardens and ensure they were maintained better. ADH responded that colleagues had looked into doing just that but had discovered that the Cefn Community Council ran a competition for the 5 areas including Plas Madoc, and it would be improper to go ahead with this in mind, unless CCC was happy for us to do so. The group felt that Plas Madoc should have its own competition – GR will investigate this with Cefn Community Council.

6. Physical Environment in Plas Madoc

AH provided positive feedback about the work done to clear leylandii from the street lighting and phone cables at a property in Whalley's Way. JH & AH were concerned about the state of fencing on the estate and wanted the tenants to be more responsible for fixing or contributing financially to damaged fencing. JW explained that NWP and WCBC were doing more to determine whether damage was "genuine" before WCBC undertook repairs. There have been many incidents where damage has been reported by a tenant in order to get a repair, when in fact the damage has been deliberately caused by the tenant – making them liable.

It was agreed to develop a sub-group to address the physical environment around the Shop, Chinese Takeaway and Venue Youth Club, ADH and Pc GR to lead and arrange site visit.

7. Plas Madoc Fun Day

ADH gave an outline of the proposals for the Fun Day to be held on Sat 18th August on Rhosymedre School Field between 11am and 4pm and 7pm and 10pm. Measures were already in place to manage the event to reduce the impact on local people. NWP were advising on a number of aspects particularly traffic management. GR spoke of inconvenience experienced on the estate last year. ADH to arrange traffic cones, and permission from PM Leisure Centre and Housing Office to utilise existing car parks on the estate.

8. Halloween / Bonfire Night

This had been placed on the agenda to ensure it could be discussed well in advance of the dates in question. Discussion centred around the concern over the ad-hoc burn-sites commonly set up on the estate. Ideas included a formal display and tolerance zones for bonfires.

9. Plas Madoc Pharmacy

ADH provided an update from discussions with the LHB over complaints surrounding the services offered to substance mis-users from the Pharmacy. It had been agreed with the LHB to work towards getting the Pharmacy owner to attend a CSG meeting – likely to be in October.

10. Police Update

Pc GR indicated that there were again no major issues on the estate relative to other areas. The main area of concern continues to be criminal damage, particularly fences and windows.

AH congratulated NWP for its efforts.

AD mentioned the ASB workshops that are in the pipeline and thought that these might help get the right messages across to young people.

JH was concerned and upset by comments made in the Evening Leader in an article featuring PCSO Chris Cheshire. The comments had not been made by CC but they inferred that "people" in NWP thought of Plas Madoc as a "short-straw". Following discussion the group agreed that they could do something to paint a positive picture of the estate. PCSO CC indicated that there was likely to be a follow-up piece in the paper in the coming week. AH & JH agreed to host a visit from CC with the reporter where they could put set things straight.

11. Issues for 2007

Drugs – 1 dealer had been removed from the estate. PcGR was interested that there had been very little feedback from the community about this. He was concerned that this could mean someone had taken their place and it was perceived as being business as usual.

Youth ASB – concern was raised about the number of bricks and stones lying around the estate, which could pose a hazard. It was agreed to assess this during the forthcoming Env Audit.

Litter – Little had been seen of the amenity wardens in respect to litter. It was agreed more educational initiatives were required.

Needles

Dogs – A “staffy” was reported to have been causing problems around the shop area. It is dark but has one white leg.

Alcohol – There was concern about the opening hours of the off-licence section of the shop. The group asked if there was anything that could be done to influence this. Pc GR indicated that there is a NWP Officer tasked with licensing issues – Pc Pat Burns.

Lighting – Most of the lights are now in place. AH commented on the generally “tidy” job that had been done.

10. AOB

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 26th September at 6:30pm in The Opportunity Centre.

Target Area

The areas of Glaslyn, Gwynant and Alwen, which contain pockets of the most “hard to reach” areas in terms of community engagement and also Ogwen and Dinas were targeted for this EAD.

Planning

Evidence from previous Environmental Audits was used to identify areas and issues for the EAD alongside work by the Plas Madoc Community Safety Group and intelligence from partner agencies.

A planning meeting was held on 2nd May, which although well populated was slightly disappointing in terms of representation from different partner agencies.

In the weeks that followed this meeting the following table of contributions was finalised (see Appendix 1.)

Emails were sent via the Community Safety Unit to all JAG members on 16th March and following the planning meeting on 3rd May. This included minutes / notes of meeting which incorporated a request for leaflets from partner agencies to be included in the Fire Service Information Bags, for distribution door to door. This request was also made verbally in 2 JAG meetings prior to the EAD. A further email was sent via JAG distribution list on 31st May, again requesting leaflets for info packs.

A door to door leafleting exercise was undertaken by a young volunteer over the weekend preceding the EAD. Information was also disseminated through the PMCF column in the Evening Leader and PMCF website.

On the day

- 100 staff and volunteers from 18 different agencies / departments were present
- 96 tonnes of waste was removed from the target area*
- Large items removed by other means included sofas, fridges and gas canisters
- 212 houses were visited, of which:
- 100 people opened the door
- 64 requested a Home Fire Safety Check
- 20 HFSC were carried out on the day
- 24 households referred to NWP for follow-up advice
- 24 households referred to WCBC Housing for follow-up advice.
- 30 bags of litter removed from school playing fields
- Streets and open areas cleaned by road sweepers
- 4 instances of graffiti removed (7 more referred for further action)
- Action taken against 1 dog owner
- Recycling Education Officers provided replacement Recycling Boxes and bags
- 200 rashers of bacon consumed along with sausages and a vegetarian option of vegetable soup & rolls

* As per previous EADs this figure is calculated by the weight capacity of skip multiplied by the number of filled skips. In Plas Madoc 3 Eight Tonne skips were each emptied 4 times during the EAD.

Press coverage

Evening Leader and on Plas Madoc Communities First and WCBC websites.

Accidents / Incidents

1 WCBC Officer was bitten by a loose dog on a footpath. Police took action. Incident recorded in PMCF accident book although First Aid was not necessary / declined. A GP visit was made the following day. The same WCBC Officer was slightly grazed after tripping. Incident recorded in PMCF accident book, although First Aid was not necessary / declined.

EAD Evaluation

Evaluation Forms were sent to project partners the same week as the EAD. To date 11 have been completed and returned. These include responses from:

North Wales Victim Support, WCBC Recycling, Elected Member, PCSO, WCBC Estate Office, NW Fire & Rescue Service x2, WCBC Street Scene, Cefn Community Council, NW Probation x2

All responses indicated they were happy for comments to be used publicly.

Did the Plas Madoc EAD meet your expectations as a partner agency?

Yes – 8 No – 1 Other – 2

Where the response was given as “other” the entry stated
“*Could have been better organised*” and
“*Some aspects need to be improved*”

Please rate the following from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent)

Aspect of EAD	Average Score*	Mode of Scores**
Pre-event organisation	3.5	4
Organisation on the day	3.2	4
Catering	3.5	5
Range of services available / taking part	3.5	4
Provision of equipment	3.0	4
Paperwork	3.7	5
Impact on target area	3.5	5

* = total of individual scores / no. of scores awarded.

** = returns the score most frequently awarded

Other Comments made on forms:

(Transcribed as written)

“A very effective event. Great to be able to “muck in” and feel you’ve made a difference, on top of the usual networking and other benefits”.

“The Recycling Team spoke to a number of residents about the Recycle with Michael Scheme and gave out a number of boxes, sacks and information packs during the day. However, we may have targeted more residents if we had been part of a door knocking team. Nevertheless, a worthwhile exercise which we would like to be part of in future.”

“The day had a big impact on the areas concerned the challenge now is to keep on top of the environment in those areas.”

“A very productive and enjoyable day, particularly valuable to me as a “new boy”. My thanks to all concerned.”

“It was a fantastic event and shows what can be achieved when various groups are brought together through good organisation.”

“As has been in the case in the past, some agencies don’t turn up and some that do don’t seem to commit to the whole day and seem to wander off to “other commitments”. Also, not for the first time, some agencies leave it too late to supply their leaflets, etc. for the bags.”

“A successful day as far as N Wales Fire and Rescue Service are concerned.”

“As the first Action Day done under the Street Scene Banner it certainly set a high standard for other areas to follow.”

“There are a few points that need to be addressed from the day such as:- Skip company providing the wrong skips, The community’s involvement was low.”

“Brief consisted of “Patrol the skips”, waste of manpower – in the past went round knocking on doors asking to move rubbish for the residents (especially the elderly).

“Although the Com Service Teams did most of physical work in my opinion they did not receive the recognition the work deserved.”

“Nothing for vegetarians”

“The day surpassed my expectations. The volume of refuse collected from this area of the estate was incredible. It was also very pleasing to note when questioned the majority of households wanted fire officers to return to carry out a full assessment.”

“The day was a great success and hope there will be many more like it. However more should be done to bring the residence of the estate to become involved.”

PMCF will take feedback from residents of the target area in upcoming consultation.

Self Evaluation from PMCF organiser

What went well?

- Large number of staff and vols present on day
- Huge amount of waste removed from the area
- Excellent uptake of Fire Service HFSCs and healthy referrals to NWP and Housing
- Commitment of resources
- In general feedback received from community and partners was very positive
- High profile presence on the day

Room for improvement?

- Uptake from some partner agencies was slow
- Not all partners involved attended planning meeting
- Skips were small for the job and filled before the official start of the event
- Leaflets for NWFS info bags were limited and late in arrival causing problems for NWFS in terms of packing
- Better on-site communication in some instances
- The balance between recycling and disposal needs to be better managed
- Trolleys specially ordered by PMCF for the day to move items around the target area were not delivered in time by supplier.
- Some partners were accidentally omitted from the official press release. Despite an official apology and some remedial actions, this caused upset and bad feeling as demonstrated in the returned evaluation forms. This process needs to be more rigorous in future, with partners identifying any requirements at the start and better communication between organisers and press. More justification for the importance of involvement in the planning meetings.
- The leaflet drop was not totally effective, with feedback on the day suggesting several houses had been missed.

Recommendations

- There needs to be a “three line whip” through CSP and JAG to ensure EADs are better prioritised by all required.
- Attendance at planning meetings is key. Some criticism of roles has been forthcoming from agencies not represented at planning meetings, where their views could have been included in the event’s preparation.
- Staff needed at skips to manage a sorting of waste to ensure recycling of objects can take place. There are only 2 Recycling Education Officers in WCBC.
- Possibly don’t need to rely on skips – it was necessary to use the HIAB unit to empty skips, which were repeatedly filled on the day. Collection sites could be equally effective as commercial skips were clearly not large enough.
- More work is required to involve local people. There was a consensus at the planning meeting and in previous Safety Group Meetings that this event should not be a “freebie”. If residents wanted rid of items it was their responsibility to get involved in this process. That said, community members were conspicuous by their absence, although this was not untypical for the target area concerned.
- Better management of press.
- There were 4 door to door teams but not enough staff from all agencies to join each team. This meant that some staff (Recycling, Amenity Wardens, Victim Support) were located in and around the operations centre awaiting referrals from the teams. More consideration needs to be given to how these referrals are made to ensure effective best use of these staff.

Appendix 1:

Commitments to EAD

Partner	Equipment / role, etc.	Staff
WCBC Estate Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x 10m3 skips • Caretaker's Van 	Yes – TBC for Door to Door
PMCF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 trolleys for bulky item transfer • 3m trailer and vehicle • Inflatable building • BBQ • Refreshments 	Yes – Door to Door & co-ordination
WCBC Environment / Street Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 HIAB lorry • 1 Mechanised Sweeper unit • 1 Mini-Mechanised Sweeper unit • Road cones & safety tape 	Yes - operators
WCBC Recycling Education Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of replacement recycling boxes and bags • Educational literature • Pod 	2 RE Officers for Door to Door or based in “pod”.
Fire Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational literature “goody bags” • Fire Service Bus / Exhibition Unit 	Yes – Door to Door and Admin
North Wales Police		2 CBMs & 6 PCSOs including ASB team Crime Prevention Officer
WCBC Public Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Amenity Warden Van – dog capable 	2 Environmental Enforcement Officers
Probation / Community Service		2 Supervisors and work teams (max 12 people)
Learning Skills Wales		Team of 5 young vols plus supervisor
Ysgolion Rhosymedre		Litter picks – 9:15 to 10:15am and 10:30 – 11:30am
Keep Wales Tidy	Litter picking equipment	1 Project Officer to facilitate litter pick (see above)
YOT	Graffiti Removal Machine	1 Supervisor plus team
Victim Support		1 Member of Staff

Not present at planning meeting

Reminder:

Dear All

Please accept my apologies but it is necessary to postpone the Safety Group Meeting arranged for Wednesday 24th October at 2pm. I am proposing to re-schedule this for **Wednesday 7th November at 9:30am at The Opportunity Centre**, where we will lay on a breakfast at the start of the meeting.

I appreciate that this postponement means that there will now be no meeting before both Halloween and Bonfire night. If you have any specific concerns or points you wish to raise about these two matters then please do get in touch with me by whatever means is most convenient.

Please see below current Blackberry Phone Numbers for the Plas Madoc (WR5) Neighbourhood Policing Team as promised by Sgt Whibberley.

Cheers

Andrew Harradine
Development Officer
Plas Madoc Communities First

CEFNI /PLAS MADOC / LLANGOLLEN RURAL (WR5)			Blackberry	Airwave
CBM	1528	GARY ROBERTSHAW	07854 387075	1528
CBM	2264	CHRIS JAMES	07854 394685	2264
PCSO	2815	ANDREW BROWNING		10071
PCSO	2886	JENNI MORRIS	07854 330771	9199
PCSO	2878	CHRIS CHESHIRE	07854 997046	9009
PCSO	2877	SCOTT ASHTON	07854 334172	9005

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 26th September 2007 at 6:30pm

In attendance:

Residents	x8
Cefn Community Council	Graham Rowlands
Youth Offending Service	Ann Dann
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
NW Police	PCSO Darren Edwards
	Sgt Darren Whibberley
Plas Madoc Leisure Centre	Simon Richards

2. Apologies

x8

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed as a true record by GR

The minutes were seconded by JH

4. Matters Arising

Point 6. Of previous minutes – A meeting has been called to progress the Army Familiarisation Project. Cllrs Rowlands and Biggs have been nominated to represent Cefn Community Council.

Point 5. EAD Evaluation – PMCF has potentially secured £3000 from the Environment Agency to set up a pilot Junior Environmental Warden Scheme on the estate, plus 3 mini-EADs and a tool allowance for providing tenants with simple garden tools.

Point 6. This was noted for inclusion on the night's agenda.

Point 8. Following work undertaken by WCBC Public Protection it should be noted that due to methane release from the Woodward's Rock / Ash Grove site, bonfires on this location pose an increased risk.

Point 10. ASB workshops are now being co-ordinated by Ani Sutton from YOS. Dates have been set for 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th Nov.

Point 10. The Hopwoods had contributed to a positive newspaper story relating to the PCSO, as a response to what was seen as negative press in a previous article.

Point 11. ADH informed the group that Operation Glasshouse had been held during the holidays where young people helped remove significant amounts of rubble (potential missiles) from the Glaslyn / Gwynant of the Estate. Street Scene would now take on this work on a regular basis. GR asked that this not be a one-off. AD can provide contact details for the new leader of the YOS reparation team, as this might be able to lend support with such work.

MH raised an issue about a recent press article, which made the front page of the Evening Leader relating to dangerous dogs in Plas Madoc. He was concerned about the negative image that this presented and felt it was unrepresentative of the estate. ADH replied that although the article was nothing to do with PMCF, he was comfortable with the overall message in the article, which was

positive in that it stated an intention to tackle the problem. ADH conceded that the front page billing and graphic photo used was unfortunate but overall there was balance and the intention was sound. ADH pointed out that there had been a number of incidents this year involving dogs causing fear or injury to members of the community, including a dog bite suffered during the EAD. There was support around the table for the position that Plas Madoc was home to a number of problem dogs, for which action was needed. Indeed JS and her mother had attended the meeting specifically because of an incident involving a dog chasing her son in the past couple of days. DW asked to speak to JS after the meeting to take details of the specific incident. It was pointed out that Dogs feature as a standing agenda item and discussion would continue at that point.

5. Community Engagement Strategy

There was wide ranging discussion about how best to link in with the community to both provide information and receive feedback. In summary, questionnaires were considered to be most effective if used in conjunction with face to face work. It was suggested that an outline of what had been achieved on the estate could provide a useful context within which people could then be asked for comments. DW confirmed that the release of CBM and PCSO Blackberry contact numbers was imminent. DW also spoke about targeting areas of high usage e.g. shops, Leisure Centre, etc. Schools were also identified as useful targets.

There was talk of resurrecting the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme as a means of providing addition support. One suggestion was that nominated members of this scheme could be provided with certain rota information that would allow a more efficient reporting process. MH was concerned about the implications of this in terms of the potential for recriminations if identities were known. It was pointed out that NW was essentially a volunteer scheme, therefore those putting their names forward would be doing so clear in the knowledge of any implications. DW will speak with the county NW Co-ordinator, Pam Wass. LJ spoke of a reluctance to report because the next step usually entailed a visit by uniformed officers. DW responded that this was a common fear, and suggested the use of agreed “neutral” venues for any necessary face-to-face meetings.

There was long discussion about drug use on the estate. DW suggested “community-led” press releases putting a positive image across following any drugs raids as a means of empowering local people to take a stand.

6. 46-49 Peris

ADH reported consistent criminal damage at The Venue and neighbouring properties ranging from graffiti to a large number of broken windows. PMCF has now identified funds that will pay for a new security fence. Site meetings have been held with the Crime Prevention Officer from NWP and subsequently with contractors for the installation of security fencing and crime shields for the windows. PMCF has now identified funds for the fencing, although other options are being explored for the crime shields. A request had been made for monitoring equipment held by the Wrexham Community Safety Partnership, but this process was being led by the CBM.

7. Physical Environment in Plas Madoc

JH raised continued concerns about the hedge to the rear of the Chinese Takeaway. Other issues raised were the state of the garage doors at the same location, the lack of street sweeping and the height of bushes in certain locations, dog fouling and bins / litter. DW outlined how a prioritisation protocol agreed between NWP and Streetscene will help addresses the key issues in each community. AD offered the contact number for the Reparation Team, which might be able to assist with cutting of vegetation.

SR spoke about the situation re: lighting around the Leisure Centre and it was agreed that CSG would support SR in the quest for lighting improvements.

ADH spoke of a meeting planned for the following week with Pennaf, the housing association aiming to build the new Extra Care Facility on the old Llys Madoc site. The purpose of this meeting was to seek support from Pennaf for adding a number of physical improvements to their master plan for the site, that would address issues around the shop and Whalley's Way.

8. Halloween / Bonfire Night

Concern was raised about the recycling bins in the enclosure at the rear of the Leisure Centre as they contained flammable materials. The underpass at the Leisure Centre was also considered to be a potential problem location in terms of firework ASB.

9. Police Update

DW explained that PCSO Browning continued to be off sick and that PC Robertshaw was now on recuperative duties. He introduced PCSO Darren Edwards to the group, one of the ASB Team, who would now be assisting PCSO Cheshire in Plas Madoc. This would be in place until Christmas. There are also 2 Specials that include Plas Madoc in their remit and DW said he would make contact to ensure their presence was noticeable. ADH acknowledged the actions taken by NWP in providing cover on the estate.

Last month's reported crime

17 ASB incidents (there are ongoing issues regarding the classification of some incidents, which may inflate the figures)

3 Criminal Damage – 1 charge resulting

2 Domestic incidents

1 Assault

1 Theft

1 Arson

10. Issues for 2007

Drugs – See above

Youth ASB –

Litter – See previous

Needles

Dogs – The issue of Problem Dogs was carried over from the previous discussion. Reference was made to the Public Protection Dept, which had offered assistance in the form of dog warden patrols. NWP took details of the specific incident raised. Concern was also raised about the nuisance factor of cats on the estate.

Alcohol – ADH will contact Pc Pat Burns re: attendance at meeting

Lighting – LJ raised the issue of poor lighting at the rear of properties at the Cefn end of Whalley's Way. This in addition to the poor surfacing on the footpaths was considered to be causing a hazard. ADH offered to include this location in the next Env Audit. As the evenings get darker it ADH proposed that 2 night time Audits should take place in Early and mid- November. The first would be to assess the lighting on the estate and document any maintenance issues, the second would take place much later at night and focus on ASB-type issues.

11. AOB

A complaint was made against the behaviour of a named individual in and around the shop.

SC asked that her details be added to the CSG database as she had not been receiving minutes / agendas.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 24th October at 2.00pm in The Opportunity Centre.

PLAS MADOC COMMUNITIES FIRST

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday 7th November 2007 at 9:30am

In attendance:

Chair	
Residents	x4
Cefn Community Council	Graham Rowlands
Youth Offending Service	Ann Dann
PMCF	Andrew Harradine (ADH)
NW Police	PC Gary Robertshaw
	Pc Pat Burns
	Sgt Darren Whibberley
WCBC Economic Dev	Jon Sankey
WCBC Housing	Mark Owens
WCBC Streetscene	John Walsh
WCBC	Cllr Paul Blackwell
NW Probation Service	Chris Higgins
Victim Support	Phil Rees

2. Apologies

x3

3. Presentation by Pc Pat Burns – Police Licensing Officer

Pat Burns accepted an invitation by the group to provide an overview of licensing issues in Wrexham. There are 2 types of licence 1) A Personal Licence, which requires a 1 day course and a CRB check and is valid for 10 yrs 2) A Premises Licence, which applies to places wishing to sell alcohol, takeaway food and/or provide dancing. Objections can be placed against a prospective licence under the criteria of crime / disorder, public nuisance and harm to children. Feedback from Police must be complied with. Councils grant the licences.

In terms of a complaint and “Licence Review” procedure is instigated, initially involving a visit from NWP. Explanations for the lapse are sought and warnings are given. Pat believes that in the large majority of cases this tends to sort the problem. If not then the Territorial Insp becomes involved and conditions can be imposed on the premises (e.g. use of signage). Ultimately the Licensing Committee can de-licence a premises although since the new Licensing Act was passed this has not happened.

Temporary Events Licences are sought for one off functions, or extensions to existing conditions. Objections to new licences can come from the Police, the Local Authority, Env Health and residents. A change in ownership or manager will require a new licence being sought by the new party.

In the town a scheme called Night Safe is in place and is a condition of Licence. This stipulates certain requirements such as door staff, wear badges and visi-jackets. etc. Off Licences tend to operate with a Premises Licence and then a Designated Premises Supervisor, who is not required to be there permanently.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed as a true record by AD

The minutes were seconded by JH

4. Matters Arising

ADH welcomed WL and PcGR back to the meetings after prolonged absences.

Point 6. Of previous minutes – A meeting has been called to progress the Army Familiarisation Project. This is still to take place.

Point 5. EAD Evaluation – WCBC Legal Dept had amended the mandate document but it has now been submitted.

Point 10. ASB workshops – update under Issues on this agenda

Point 10. The location at the rear of Whalley's Way, as identified in the previous meeting was visited during the Last Audit. Until the details of a light installation in Woodward's Walk are resolved there is no possibility of new lighting in this location, however, it will be logged for future consideration of funds.

WL asked about "No Fouling" signs for the estate. JW offered to enquire with Public Protection what the situation was. JH said they were required around the Llys Madoc site.

ADH clarified Point 8 regarding methane release at Ash Grove.

6. Community Engagement Strategy

Following discussion it was agreed that the draft version of the Safer Living Better Living survey would be sent out with the minutes for final comments by the group, prior to printing.

7. Physical Environment in Plas Madoc

The issue over the hedge / trees at the rear of the Chinese Takeaway / Shop was raised. Concerns were made clear about public urination and the general untidy state, particularly in contrast with the top end of the estate, which had been recently blitzed. Both MO and PB had been under the impression that the Parks team had addressed the hedge but this was not considered satisfactory by the residents affected. Complications included the fact that commercial premises were not managed by the Plas Madoc Estate Office and that the hedge in question was not on the property of the premises concerned.

JH asked if the group could acknowledge the good work being done by the estate maintenance teams. PB pointed out that it had been agreed that the litter picker was to be retained over the winter, which was a benefit. The following actions were agreed.

- a) MO will contact the correct WCBC dept
- b) PB will confirm whether the tops of the trees are awaiting cutting
- c) PCSOs will take charge of monitoring behaviour in this area to reduce public urination.

Concern was raised about the area of blue tarpaulin on the Llys Madoc roof.

PB had received a letter from a resident highlighting the good work of the Parks Team. JH asked if the group could acknowledge the good work being done by the estate maintenance teams. PB

pointed out that it had been agreed that the litter picker was to be retained over the winter, which was a benefit. FH suggested a press release, ADH to arrange.

8. Road Safety

ADH updated the group on an accident that had recently taken place on the Llangollen Road involving a pupil from Ysgol Rhiwabon on his way back from school. A series of actions were underway to bring to wider attention concerns over this crossing. This involved a meeting between the parents and the MP and AM, Community Council and representative from the school. NWP and the Elected Member were unable to attend on the day but had pledged support.

FH spoke of concern over the chicanes on Hampden Way and their impact on traffic problems in that area. Pc R outlined an action plan that had been drawn up to address anti-social / inconsiderate driving.

9. Police Update

DW explained that PCSO Cheshire was off for 6 weeks following an operation. PC Robertshaw was now on recuperative duties but was expected to return in a few weeks. ADH acknowledged publicly the response of NWP to these staffing issues and the quick provision of staff to cover the area.

Pc GR provided last month's reported crime

7 ASB

11 Criminal Damage – focused in Peris, Alwen and Woodward's Walk

4 Domestic incidents

3 Assault – progress made in each case

10. Issues for 2007

Drugs – 1 issues referred to Harm Reduction Team

Youth ASB – Multi-agency workshops were now underway and were going well. 4 sessions were planned looking at ASB, Victims, Offenders and Impact on Community. A report would be made available at next meeting.

There was a report of children climbing on the school roof in the summer holidays

Litter

Needles

Dogs – There was an incident which resulted in a terrier having to be put down following an altercation with a Staffy-type dog. The Police were currently investigating. Continued help would be sought from Public Protection.

Alcohol

Lighting

11. AOB

White ribbons were made available to the group to promote Domestic Violence Awareness. There was some discussion on the difficulty in assessing the level of this issue. DW explained how the Police had changed its methods of investigation to increase the chances of conviction.

12. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that meetings would resume after Christmas. It was also agreed that meetings would rotate between 9:30am, 2pm and 6:30pm meetings.

