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| Meeting   | Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward Committee                 |
| Date      | 7 July 2011   |
| Present   | Councillors Gerard Hodgson, Reid and Semlyen<br>(Chair) |
| Apologies | -   |

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## **1. DROP IN SURGERY 6.45PM**

- 1.1 Residents had the opportunity to talk to with Cllr Anna Semlyen, Cllr George Hodgson, Cllr Ann Reid, Cindy Benton – Neighbourhood Manager, Matthew Ward - Neighbourhood Management Officer, Michal Czekajlo – Neighbourhood Management Support Officer, Suzanne Prance – Street Environment Officer, PC Mark Antonelli, PCSO – Craig Boumphrey.
- 1.2 Additional Local Improvement Scheme suggestion forms were available for the residents.
- 1.3 Pictures and information on Mayfield Pond were presented by York Natural Environmental Trust.

## **2. WELCOME AND MINUTES 7.30PM**

- 2.0 Councillor Semlyen has welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose of the committee meeting.
- 2.1 Councillor Semlyen has explained to the meeting where the fire escapes routes are and asked for the mobile phones to be switched off.
- 2.2 Copy of the minutes from the previous meeting was passed around. It was decided that the minutes will be signed at the end of the meeting after everyone have seen them.

## **3. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM**

- 3.1 Independent Police Councillor Craig Shaw gave an update on the current changes with the holder of Inspector post for the area. Inspector Phil Cain who took over the area couple of months ago has now moved to work as Chief Inspector in the Control Room. Iain Surrell will temporarily cover the Inspector post for the area until permanent replacement is found.

Apologies were given for short notice and lack of continuity regarding the Inspector post holder.

3.2 Pc Mark Antonelli gave an update on the recent police restructure.

Changes to the police structure made on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 resulted in change to policing boundaries. York was divided into four areas: York Central, York West, York East and York Rural. Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward was divided to small 'individual communities' with dedicated Police officer attached to each of them. Police officers can also be delegated to the hot spots in the area if required.

PC Mark Antonelli became the beat manager for Dringhouses, Woodthorpe and Westfield together with PC Colin Park allowing cover 7 days a week.

3.3 Crime statistics for the ward are available on request from PC Antonelli. The number of ASB incidents has dropped down comparing to year 2009 with no identified hot spots at the moment.

Target hardening bid for shed bars and locks was submitted along with information letter drop to target slight increase in burglaries.

3.4 Operation 'Secure' is progressing in York West currently. The purpose of the operation is to minimise shed and garage burglaries identifying hot spots and delegating officers to those areas.

Residents were given the opportunity to raise questions.

Q There is an issue with drivers parking on the pavements; can I contact the police to report the problem? PCSO's used to be more visible on the streets, dealing with drivers who were parking on the pavements. They are not as visible now, why has that happened?

A Police is not dealing with all parking related issues any more, as Local Authority has taken over some parking enforcement powers. We can only action in the event when car parked on the pavement is causing obstruction that makes it impossible for you to walking past it.

Councillor Semlyen has suggested at this point that parking enforcement and highway management representative should be invited to next meeting to answer those questions.

Q Police could take some initiative and instead of going through formal action route simply talk to the offending driver and address the issue.

A I agree with that and will pass your suggestion back to our team.

Q We had the conversation regarding parking issues before and not gone anywhere further since year 2009. What could you do as the police to stop people from parking on grass verges?

A We can issue fine for causing the obstruction and after certain time we can remove the obstructing vehicle.

Councillor Semlyen has said that someone from the City of York Council Parking Services will be invited to the next meeting and as we have no knowledge to answer the questions related to parking issues we should move to another topic.

Concern was raised by one of the residents that at the public meeting everyone should be given an opportunity to voice a question.

Q There is an issue with vehicles parking and causing obstruction on Nelson Lane and someone from traffic management has told me that it will be looked into in the future, when will that be?

A Highways are looking at the issues on the ward by ward basis. We can check where Dringhouses and Woodthorpe is on their timetable and try to push it forward.

Q Why do car owners keep on parking and obstructing the pavements?

Q There is an issue with cars speeding on Moor Lane. Would it be possible to enforce 30mph or lower speed there?

A City of York Council has put the 30mph zone signage there. Some of our Safer Neighbourhood Team members were trained on use of speed guns, but we are not allowed to use them any more. We can report speeding issues to Fulford traffic

management unity who can schedule their vehicle to patrol the area more often.

Q Could you let us know who is the contact person regarding parking related issues?

A free phone number 0800 1381119 should be used to report all issues related to incorrectly parked vehicles. Relevant officer will also be invited to the next meeting to answer your questions.

Q What are the opening hours of Acomb Police Station?

A front enquiry desk is open 2 hours a day; Mondays and Saturdays 10:00am – 12:00noon, Tuesdays and Fridays 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 6:00pm – 8:00pm. The Station is fully operational 24 hours a day and is you are a victim of crime your query will be dealt with at any time. For non emergency queries please ring: 0845 6060 247.

Q Is operation SPOKE still taking place?

A We had dedicated surgeries at York College in the past, but as far as I know there are none scheduled for the future.

Q Would it be possible for you to provide security marking for cycles at the next meeting? You also provide cycle tagging at the schools; could other residents attend those sessions and get their cycles marked?

A Regarding the cycle tagging during ward meeting we had done that before. About attending the cycle security marking sessions at the schools it needs to be discussed with each school.

Craig Shaw has agreed to sort that matter out.

Q Cycle Centre on Toft Green provides security marking service for bicycles; could that be extended to residents of Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward?

A I will take that suggestion back to the team and we will look at the possibility of advertising that service in Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward.

Q The number of young people on cycles and scooters around York College will increase when the new term start, are you prepared for that?

A We are prepared and will maintain the good practice from previous years.

#### 4. **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

4.1 Matthew Ward presented the brief history of the Community Safety scheme in the ward.

- In 2005, Community Rangers were initially funded when residents perceived that there was a lack of police presence in the ward.
- Changes in Police structure introduced Safer Neighbourhood Teams, with which came the introduction of Police Community Support Officers, PCSO's.
- So, the ward now benefited from Community Ranger Patrols and higher levels of visible police patrols, working in partnership to address Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Reports from Community Rangers were regularly received, informing of where patrols were made and what incidents of note occurred.
- Residents were able to report incidents on a free phone/local phone number.
- The Community Ranger manager would attend ward committees to address issues and report back to residents.
- Residents continued to prioritise the Community Ranger Patrols to received ward committee funding.
- Currently Kingdom Security have taken over the company (formally Group Response).
- No free phone number has been available for residents to report issues.
- Reports have NOT been received by NMU to show patrol data.
- CYC Procurement has been asked to obtain quotes from security companies.

4.2 Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward allocated £4.500 towards Community Safety scheme for this year and one invoice for £365 was paid already.

4.3 Meeting was asked for ideas regarding the future of the scheme and possible options were given by Neighbourhood Management Officer:

- Continue funding patrols but tender a new company.
- Allocate funding to Police initiatives for the ward.
- Eg. 'Target Hardening' - Shed bars, garage security measures, improved security at Leaside Park, Nelsons Lane and Chapman's Pond.

At this moment Clls Semlyen has asked the meeting if the current contract should be cancelled.

The majority have agreed to that idea.

At this point the discussion has started and following questions and concerns were raised.

Q Do we need patrol company, or better support the Police?

Q We were promised report on how usable the patrol is. We had no report, therefore are unable to say how useful they were.

Q How does the procurement process works?

A At this moment we have to decide if we retain the community patrol or no. It was out of our control when Kingdom Security took over Group Response. Procurement has to go through process of gathering quotes from companies that are interested in providing that security service.

Q Do other wards have similar Community Safety scheme?

A There were five wards funding that scheme, however Westfield has recently decided to withdraw.

Cllr Reid has commented that Community Rangers were funded by the ward committee for the number of years and it was good for residents to have alternative phone number to ring to report ASB. Community Patrols were different and used to provide additional service to the Police.

Matthew Ward has read the letter from Inspector Iain Surrell regarding Community Safety scheme.

Following questions and comments were raised.

Q Have we paid Kingdom Security three months salary and not seen them on the streets?

A We are trying to get information from them regarding their activity in the ward over past few months.

Resident has commented that local company who know the area should be hired.

Q Is the patrol entitled to enter the school grounds?

A The school grounds are looked after by own security.

Q Could we use the company that is already employed by the school? If they are reliable and know the area that would be good choice.

A I will have to check which company is looking after school grounds.

Resident has commented that there were ASB issues near Chapman's Pond and the Police responded promptly to his calls. I think that the Police services will suffice and there is no need for additional community safety patrol.

Resident has commented that when there were some disturbances at Acomb Wood he tried to ring the Police, but could not get through, therefore he rung Mayfair who attended promptly.

Q Will the garage locks provided through target hardening be provided for residents who were victims of burglary before? Having community patrol could deter the burglars.

At this point Cllr Semlyen has asked the meeting if the current contract should be retendered.

20 residents have voted for the idea.

Cllr Semlyen has asked the meeting if the Police patrols are sufficient enough and there is no requirement for additional community patrols

7 residents have voted for that idea.

Following questions and comments were raised at this point.

Q Could we fund local company to provide that service?

A We will feed that back to procurement.

Q Can we possibly trial the company before signing the contract?

A We will have to check that with procurement.

Q We cannot make the decision on behalf of whole ward. Why should we be making that decision?

A This is a public meeting and therefore appropriate for such decisions to be taken.

Q What will happen now regarding the patrol?

A We will feed back the outcomes of today meeting to procurement, they will continue the process of selecting three quotes from companies interested in providing that service.

Q What is the specification for the patrol?

A We have the specification document which was used while working out the contract with Community Rangers. The document is available for members of the public to see.

Cllr Reid has commented that the contract was very good; it gave City of York Council a lot of flexibility, and allowed to make enquiries regarding the progress.

## **5. STREET ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

5.1 Suzanne Prance gave an update on the Street Environment Services activity across York and in Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward.

5.2 Street Environment Services are engaging with the community through:

- Team events, raising awareness of the environmental issues such as litter, fly tipping, graffiti and educating;
- Handing out over 4000, SES designed, mini bins to residents, again raising awareness that cigarette ends are classed as litter – high profile work;

- Press releases and articles in the Your Ward publication to highlight the work we do which helps promote pride in our City – Young Archaeologist!;
- Working together with other agencies to achieve a positive outcome;
- Work together with local businesses to provide long term solutions.

### 5.3 The Street Environment Services are educating the community.

- The Street Environment Services produced the DVD “Dropping Litter Makes You A Minger” in 2009. The film has been shown to most Year 6 students in York – and will continue to be rolled out through various media.
- The Street Environment Services are continually promoting anti environmental crime campaigns, and take the lead to ensure the City continues to thrive.
- The Street Environment Services are major players at annual Crucial Crew event – providing students with an insight into their role, educating them in the process – taken further with Take Part 2 project.
- The Street Environment Services produce educational materials such as: posters, banners and handouts which educate and inform.

### 5.4 Street Environment Services use their small dedicated improvements budgets to provide specific local area improvements – physical improvements on Council Land.

- The Street environment Services are working together with the community through ward councillors, local residents groups, Parish Councillors, North Yorkshire Police, Joseph Rowntree Trust and many other individuals and partners, to continually enhance local neighbourhoods, targeting known hotspots.
- Street Environment Officer is holding a budget which can be used to make improvements in the ward, these can be:
  - Planting of bulbs;
  - Replacement of street name plates;
  - Installation or repairs of street furniture – new bins/benches/bollards;
  - Clearance of overgrown weeds;
  - Contribution towards larger projects within the ward.

- The Street Environment Services are working very closely with Community Payback. The relationship they created helps with projects in the community utilising yet another resource.

5.5 The Street Environment Services have a graduated approach to tackling environmental contraventions and use enforcement as a last resort.

- Notice can be served on illegal travellers encampments to move them from public land;
- The Street Environment Services issue Fixed Penalty Notices for littering, incorrect refuse presentation and unsightly properties;
- The Street Environment Services are putting prosecution files together for fly tipping offences and domestic and commercial waste “Duty of care” contraventions;
- The Street Environment services work alongside Police, Environment Agency, DVLA, Trading Standards and HMRC to carry out stop and search exercises for unauthorised waste carriers;
- The Street Environment Services can serve legal notices for unauthorised advertisements;
- The Street Environment Services gather evidence of graffiti tags around the City for shared intelligence with North Yorkshire Police on the dedicated TAAGY database;
- The Street Environment Services can investigate and resolve blocked private drains using notices where necessary.

5.6 What is currently happening, or will be taking place in the ward in the near future?

- Community Payback are currently repainting the railings on Wains Grove, after suggestions from residents;
- Litter picking throughout the ward in hotspot areas;
- Cycle hoops to be repainted in the ward over the next few months by Community Payback;
- Changes at Chapman's Pond – more information to come in the next few months;
- Carried out weekly litter patrols around York College area;
- Held 3 education litter awareness events at the College with further dates planned for this coming year;

- Working alongside Tesco's, The Cemetery, Askham Park & Ride to ensure we are all aiming to the same outcome;
- Between January and April 2011 we have issued 18 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN). If the offender is under 18 years old, The City of York Council issue a Stop for littering warning. Should this offender repeat, then they will be issued with a £75.00 FPN. The 18 FPN's have been paid at either the discounted amount of £50.00 or full amount of £75.00. However some FPN's still remain unpaid and we are currently awaiting the outcome at court.

Residents were given the opportunity to raise questions.

Q You have issued only 18 penalties that not seem to be many.

A Very often students refuse to give us their details; in that case we have to call the Police for assistance. Issuing penalty might then take a lot of time and we are only patrolling the area for 1 hour at a time. We remain visible to the members of the public while patrolling and that may put them off littering.

Q What are the proper times for putting your bins out for collection and taking them back?

A The bins should not be left out earlier than 7pm day before the collection and should be taken back in before 7pm on the collection day.

Q Who deals with dog fouling?

A Animal Health Team. If you have specific query please let me know and I will pass it on to relevant officer.

Q Who is responsible for maintaining the surface water drains near to Woodthorpe shops?

A Ruth Abbott and Housing Standards and Adaptations Team would be the relevant. I will take your query back to them.

Q Are you also responsible for clearing street signs?

A I can arrange with the Hot Spot Team for the cleaning to be done.

Q The City Centre is overflowing with litter on Saturdays, can something be done about it?

A Cllr Looker is looking at this matter and installation of new type of bins is considered.

Q I am concerned about the state of some trees on Tadcaster Road, some rotten branches dropped down on the cycle path recently. Who is responsible for maintaining those trees?

A That will be under the remit of Russell Stone and Street Scene Team. Every incident should be reported by calling 01904 551551.

Q After the refuse collection in the morning some of the litters are left behind on the pavement, can the collectors tidy up after themselves?

A That will be addressed with the Waste Services team.

Q I have rung The Council regarding fallen branches on Tadcaster Road. The person who answered the phone told me that computer is down and he is unable to log the job. No action was taken.

A I will deal with your query and am happy to be the contact person regarding similar queries for the future.

Q Are you overlooking Barrowmen's as well?

A They are part of Street Scene team.

Q Who is responsible for street cleaning near Woodthorpe shops?

A City of York Council is responsible for sweeping the street, but I cannot remember the exact schedule.

Q I have complained about the litters outside Dringhosuses library before. Can the number of street sweeps be increased?

A That will be looked into.

**6. YORK LIBRARIES**

6.1 Apologies were given for Fiona Williams – Head of Libraries and Heritage who could not attend the meeting due to illness.

**7. HAVE YOUR SAY**

The following questions were raised.

Q Pylon felled down in November last year near to Hob Moor allotments. It was removed in April and last Tuesday company called 'Amey' arrived to repair the lights. The repair was unsuccessful and the lights are still not working there.

A We will look into this matter and get back to you.

Q It is apparent that councillors Semlyen and Hodgson do not live within the ward boundaries. Can you give us the assurance that you will be available to the residents of Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward?

A We do not live in the ward, but are available for you. We have carried out street surgeries currently and will be going around the ward and meeting with residents. You will find us hard working councillors.

Q Why is the York Pride logo not appearing on the letters from the Council any more? Have the Labour party decided to change it.

A As this is a political meeting, this question will not be answered.

Q As concessionary pass holder why do I have to pay 50 pence for Park and Ride bus fare? It used to be free.

A That fare was approved with the City of York Council budget in February 2011. It was introduced to avoid service cuts.

Q What is the update on FTR service?

A It is under the review.

Q When will be the next meeting?

A It will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

Q Am I allowed parking my car on the Park and Ride parking after last service at 7.30pm?

A You can still park, as other services are stopping there and the parking is not closed, but parking the car overnight is not allowed. We have tried to persuade the company to extend the service until late, but were unsuccessful.

The following comments were made.

If you have any bus information queries please ring 01904 551400.

While booking your hospital appointment you can ask for bus voucher as we the appointment card.

Further information about funding bids can be obtained from Helen Sikora from City of York Council.

York College volunteering fair will take place in September. Please give us your suggestions on what the volunteers are required for in the ward.

Minutes from the last meeting were agreed as accurate and signed.

Anna Semlyen, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.45 pm and finished at 9.00 pm].