

Meeting	Westfield Ward Committee
Date	2 February 2011
Present	Councillors Steve Galloway, Sue Galloway and Waller

Apologies

1. DROP -IN SURGERY 6.30PM

The drop-in surgery gives you opportunity to talk to your councillors, safer neighbourhood police team, street environment officer and neighbourhood management officer in an informal setting.

Residents had the opportunity to talk with Cllr Steve Galloway; Cllr Sue Galloway; Cllr Andrew Waller; Julie Hood, Neighbourhood Management Office; Michal Czekajlo, Neighbourhood Management Support Officer; Jackie Armitage, Street Environment Officer; Sgt Lindsey Stamp, PC Colin Parks; Paul Bickle, Energise Manager; James Williams, Waste Strategy Officer; Alan Bell, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue; Penny Goff and Helen Butterworth, NHS Foundation Trust; Louise King and Catherine Mattiocco, Yorkshire Water; Chris Pinder, Responsive Repairs Manager; Martin Horner, Head of Civil Engineering.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor Steve Galloway welcomed everyone to the meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th September were agreed and signed.

3. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

Sgt Lindsey Stamp gave an update on the last quarter of the year and the changes to local policing.

The following changes will be implemented from March 21st 2011.

- The City will be divided into four Inspector led areas; East, West, Rural and City Centre.
- Westfield will be part of the West Area Policing team which will be led by Insp Phil Cain.
- Inspector Cain will be responsible for the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Response Team. Both will be based at Acomb Police Station
- The Safer Neighbourhood Team will change their shift pattern to ensure seven day cover.

- The current PCSO's will remain in Westfield with more access to cycles so the visibility of the Officers is expected to remain the same.

Crime figures have stayed at the same level compared to last month.

4. FIRE RISK AND KEEPING SAFE

Alan Bell, Fire Station Manager, gave a presentation regarding the free home fire risk assessments offered by the Fire and Rescue services.

The risk assessments can be requested by either calling 01609 788 545, the website or by completing one of the leaflets. The leaflets are in most community buildings including libraries.

The assessments are carried out by the Community Safety Officer, who determines the key risks in the property and identifies what needs to be done to minimise the risk.

Risk assessments include:

- Checking any smoke detectors. If they are defective or no smoke detectors are present they can be installed free of charge. Smoke detectors should be checked every week by pressing the red button on it.
- Fire escape routes will be checked and advice will be given regarding what to do and how to evacuate in case of fire.
- The assessment takes up to 1 hour and can be arranged at a time convenient for you.
- Kitchen, electric appliances and cables will be checked to minimise the risk of fire.

Fires with tragic consequences happen rarely. When this does occur a thorough investigation is undertaken.

Providing residents know their escape routes and have taken proper precautions e.g. fitted smoke detectors, there is no reason to believe an escape would not be possible.

Houses are designed and built with fire safety as a crucial part of the planning process, they allow for easy escape and are accessible to the fire brigade.

Concern was raised in respect of removing keys from a locked door (for security) and making a quick escape in the event of a fire. It was explained that this is part of the risk assessment and the resident concerned completed a form to book one.

The following questions were raised:

Q – Do fire extinguishers have 'use by' dates?

A – All fire extinguishers have dates by which they should be used. In the home it is preferable not to have any fire extinguishers although fire blankets can be useful in kitchens.

5. WINTER WEATHER - LEAKS, REPAIRS AND SALT BINS

5.1 Louise King and Catherine Mattiocco gave a presentation regarding the difficulties experienced by Yorkshire Water during the recent period of very bad weather. They also thanked colleagues from Local Authorities and partner organisations for their support over this difficult period.

- In December 80 000 calls were received, compared with 23 000 expected in December.
- 2200 repairs on pipes were completed across the region, compared with an expected 600.
- Colleagues worked through Christmas and New Year, 24 hours a day to ensure that repairs happened as quickly as possible and customers were kept with running water where possible.
- 130 repairs to burst pipes were completed daily.
- Less than 1% of the 2 million properties supplied by Yorkshire Water were without water as a result of problems, although it is acknowledged that thousands more were affected by problems.
- The priority was to support the most vulnerable customers (the elderly, housebound, those with medical conditions, disabled and those with newborn babies). Bottled water was delivered to as many of these customers as possible.

The new £18m water treatment works at Acomb Landing will begin in May 2011 and will take 20 months to complete. It will treat around 35,000,000 litres every day.

The following questions were raised

Q – Might it be best to raise awareness in the autumn so people are ready for the poor weather.

A – We try to raise awareness early with our website, TV adverts and articles in newspapers.

Q – The ventilation in my kitchen is next to a water pipe so it is prone to freezing, is there anything that can be done to prevent a frozen pipe?

A – Insulation will help to prevent it freezing in the future.

The following suggestions were given:

Ward Committee Meetings and Resident Association Meetings are a useful method of communication within communities. Social Services can also help reach those individuals who are house bound.

5.2 Chris Pinder, Responsive Repairs Manager gave advice on maintaining home water pipe systems to avoid burst pipes including:

- Identify where the main water valve is located outside your home,
- Identify where the internal water valve is located, making sure it is easily turned on and off.
- Before leaving home for long spells, turn off the water valve outside your house and run the taps to empty the water system.
- Before you go to bed run the cold and hot water taps furthest away from where the water comes into the property (usually the bathroom) for a few minutes
- Any taps located outside your property should be insulated and the water supply to them turned off.

Water while freezing can expand to such extent that it can burst a pipe.

The following questions were raised:

Q – My boiler has a ‘holiday’ mode setting. Is it necessary to turn off the water and empty the system?

A – It is much better to drain the system as the boiler may break whilst you are away.

Q – The water pipes outside my house are located about 2 feet below the ground, do they need to be insulated?

A – Soil is the best insulator, the pipes are safe against freezing.

5.3 Martin Horner, Head of Civil Engineering, gave the following information regarding gritting and salt bins:

- There are two teams of ten men to clear streets of snow across York, they clear predetermined routes and pavements first.
- Gritting trucks can only operate on main routes; they can not be used in narrow streets and cul-de-sac. These need to be cleared manually.
- On 1 November 2010 we had 3,000 tons of salt
- 5,000 tons has been used so far this year
- The average amount of salt spread across York overnight during cold weather periods is 50 tons.
- We review the policy every year, identifying improvements for the following year.
- The ‘Snow Warden’ initiative is a way in which residents can help to clear the snow where they live. Training and equipment will be provided for all the residents who volunteer.
- A development this year is the provision of salt bags. These have been placed in locations where there are no permanent salt bins.
- If the salt bin in your area is empty please call 01904 55 1551 to request a refill.

- We cannot grit roads if there is rain forecast as the rain will wash the salt away. We get our weather forecast from MeteoGroup UK, this is specific to York so is accurate.

The following questions were raised:

Q – Bradley Drive is cul-de-sac with a slope. It becomes very icy and the road is dangerous. Would your team spread salt there next time?

A – We try to respond to every request, but must prioritise the requests. Once we have main routes done other routes can be identified but clearing them is dependant on the resources available.

Q – Bus stops always seem to be missed from gritting, they do get very slippy.

A – A very good point they will be included in the review.

Q – Can the clearing and gritting pavements be included?

A – There are small vehicles which can be used for this purpose, this is dependant upon the budgets.

Q – The City centre was cleared of snow and ice quite fast and the outer parts of York were left untouched. Can that be changed?

A – The temperature in the centre of York is always a few degrees higher than in the outskirts, there is also a higher volume of traffic. These will clear the streets much more quickly.

Q – Would it be possible to have a salt bin outside the Community Centre?

A – There are 31 salt bins in the ward. The position of the salt bins will be reviewed after the winter. The Community Centre will be put forward as a potential site for a bin, it may be a suitable site for a salt bag

6. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2011 - 2012

Residents were given opportunity to ask questions or raise comments about the proposed schemes.

No comments, or questions were raised.

7. HAVE YOUR SAY!

There were no other questions or comments.

, Chair
[The meeting started at 19.00 and finished at 20.30pm].