
MEETING	STRENSALL RESIDENT FORUM
DATE	23 JULY 2014
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS DOUGHTY AND WISEMAN 17 RESIDENTS
APOLOGIES	NONE

1. **WARD SURGERY**

Residents were invited to talk to your ward councillors, police and community involvement officer

Also find out about the changes to York's libraries and how these affect the ward

Find out about a range of local community groups and how you can get involved

2. **POLICE UPDATE**

PCSO Jimmy Hannon updated residents on the crime figures for the Strensall ward. There have been 56 crimes in the ward which is a decrease from 58 at this time last year.

There were 22 incidents of violence most of which took place at Stockton Hall Hospital. There were four burglaries in the ward; Strensall has the lowest burglary rate in the City of York at present.

There was one crime against a parked vehicle, but again, the ward has the lowest rate of vehicle crime in the city.

There are no major crime issues in Strensall. The burglaries that took place mostly happened when doors or garages were left open, so residents are asked not to make it easy for thieves by leaving garages open and they should lock their doors.

If you see anything suspicious please report it on 101 or 999. You can leave me a voicemail by quoting my collar number or alternatively you can email me.

Residents need to be aware that anti social behaviour has historically peaked over the last two years during the summer holidays. If you notice people starting to gather, please ring us and we can put a stop to it. The same applies to people drinking and causing a nuisance.

He noted that during race meetings he is likely to be unavailable but leave a message and it will be dealt with.

Cllr Doughty and residents thanked PCSO Hannon for his work in the community and attending the meeting this evening.

3. COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Tom Render from Yorkshire Ambulance Service spoke to the residents about Community First Responders.

He is responsible for all the Community First Responders for the whole of York and surrounding areas and he would like to set up a Community First Responders team in Strensall ward.

Volunteers would be trained in how to use a defibrillator, oxygen therapy and basic life support skills and training would be ongoing. The team members would have total back up and are never left alone in a situation.

Community First Responders are part of the 999 emergency services. When 999 is dialled the call taker asks for your postcode which is fed into the computer system. The dispatcher will then search for the nearest resource in the area. This could be an ambulance, rapid response vehicle or a community first responder depending on who is nearest to the incident. This is important in the case of cardiac arrest when the first minutes are crucial and can mean the difference between life and death. The faster a person has access to a defibrillator the better the chance of survival. Ordinary CPR has a survival success rate of between 6/8% whereas a defibrillator has a survival success rate of 50/60%. Community First Responders do save lives. They are also trained to deal with strokes, diabetic emergencies, asthma, anaphylactic shock and to administer oxygen therapy.

Community First Responders can now access the 24/7 Yorkshire Ambulance Service online education programme.

He asked for six volunteers to start a team in Strensall and the team would be asked to dedicate a minimum of 120 hours per month which amounts to about 4 hours a week per individual. If anyone is interested my contact details are on some leaflets at the back of the room. Responders must be over 18 and have had a driving licence for 12 months and have no more than three points on their licence.

People are encouraged to go out in pairs at first to give each other confidence. Responders can also spend a day with paramedics and a day in the control centre.

I meet with teams every other month, although some teams meet monthly to share information and experiences. Responders need to be reassessed every six months.

It was agreed that this issue could be put in the Village magazine to spread the word.

Contact details:

Tom Render: Telephone 07554416711 Email:

tom.render@yas.nhs.uk

Q	Would responders have a defibrillator on them?
A	Yes. Responders are never put in danger, never set to trauma incidents i.e. traffic accidents, and they always have back up. Responders can also refuse a job.
Q	How are they contacted?
A	Schemes have a mobile phone and the control centre will ring the responder and they could then decide whether they want to say no.
Q	Cllr Doughty asked whether the hours covered by a responder could be flexible.
A	Very flexible. The teams work it out between them, some responders take weekends, some Monday to Friday, some take a week at a time. The more hours that can be covered the better.
Q	Cllr Wiseman said the village halls in Earswick and Stockton on Forrest currently have defibrillators but following a meeting in both villages interest was expressed in joining such a team. It would be interesting to see if there would be people in Earswick who would like to join the Strensall team.
A	The computer works from the centre of Strensall with a three mile radius so as Earswick is only 1.5 miles this would seem to be possible.
Q	How long has this scheme been running?
A	The scheme started in Yorkshire and has been running for over 15 years

4. **CHANGES TO STREET MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

Russell Stone, Head of Public Realm at City of York Council updated residents on the changes to street maintenance and enforcement and how the new Smarter York Team would be working.

He said he was no in charge of street cleansing and ground maintenance across the city. His section used to include the Street Enforcement Officers but a couple of years ago their role was split into Community Engagement Officers and Enforcement Officers. This coincided with the Council reviewing their other enforcement roles. An anti-social behaviour hub has now been formed comprising six officers and others who work more closely with the police and pcso's. Therefore the duties of the Street Enforcement officers are now dealt with by a wider team.

The community engagement role has been left under my control and three officers from the Smarter York team undertake this work.

The Council is aiming towards working with volunteers to assist them i.e. residents groups, businesses, private sector, individuals to help us keep the city to the standard we would like it to be. Across the city there are different needs and standards and our budgets and resources are shrinking and they are expected to continue to do so. As a result of this the street cleansing service will become more reactive. Ten years ago officers had set rounds but now we are reliant on our own 'eyes and ears' as well as those of other members of staff and members of the public to tell us if there is a problem. It is hoped that officer will be able to set up a group. There is a section on the Council website setting out the changes and new ways of working and Mr Stone said he could be contacted by phone on 01904 551551 and asking to speak to the Smarter York officers. I can also be emailed directly on Russell.stone@york.gov.uk.

The Ground Maintenance Team has also decreased in numbers and therefore they are not able to do as much as previously and are setting minimum standards. If people want to get involved we will help them. For example a couple of years ago residents on the Wigginton Committee asked if they could look after their street by cutting their own verges and picking up litter. They were given some basic Health and Safety training on what and how to do it and signed a letter to say they had had the training. They were then put on the Council's volunteers' insurance policy. They contact us from time to time to pick up bags of litter that they have collected.

Q	A resident asked why he could no longer get a report number to track a report to the council regarding fly tipping.
A	<p>The Council have been experiencing IT problems in regard to this computer system over the last 4/5 months. I am told they are working on this but I myself am unable to get report data from it.</p> <p>Cllr Doughty said that there had been questions raised regarding this issue at Full Council and he thought it had been ongoing since the start of the year. He was hoping that the CEO would be pushing for this to be repaired as soon as possible.</p> <p>Cllr Wiseman said there were similar IT problems with Minster Badges payments.</p>
Q	But if there is no report number, it cannot be quoted in future contacts with the Council should the matter not be attended to.
A	Reports are still be logged but they are currently logged manually on a different system. Reports are then passed to us at Hazel Court.
Q	<p>There are problems with getting rid of rubber and terracotta plant pots at Towthorpe Tip. Since Towthorpe is no longer taking this material and Hazel Court are charging to get rid of it there has been an increase in fly tipping.</p> <p>Also as Towthorpe tip is closed on a Wednesday people who cannot access the tip just fly tip.</p>
A	I will feed this back.
Q	Has there been a reduction in spraying weeds on pavements?
A	<p>No. There has been no reduction in our weed control. We employ a contractor to do this for us and we have used the same contractor for the last 5/6 years. They spray on average three times and year and do the first spray in March. Unfortunately, due to legislation, the chemical that all Local Authorities are obliged to is a contact weed killer and has no residual affect. We are also constrained on how many times a year we can do this.</p> <p>This year, due to a lot of rain in the Spring grass and weeds have grown fast. Spraying cannot take place in the rain and we got behind with the grass cutting due to the wet conditions. The second spray is due next week. The spraying starts in the</p>

	centre of the city and works its way out to the villages.
Q	Could you not put a letter in the press explaining this?
A	No it is a policy not to reply to every letter in the press due to time constraints.
Q	Cllr Doughty asked how the contractors work was monitored.
A	<p>We only use the contractors for weed spraying control. We have our own supervisors that inspect the work and we do and also carry out ad hoc inspections of the contractors work.</p> <p>The contractor has to give us a daily record street by street of what day they have sprayed the weeds on them so there is a record should someone complain. There has never been a dispute with the contractor.</p>
Q	Are adopted drives sprayed?
A	Yes. The Planning Department passes the information to us and we put them on the contractor's list.
Q	Cllr Wiseman said that the grass cutting by council contractors had recently been a bit hit and miss - who checks this, and why are the grass edges not stimmed.
A	Mr Stone said that the grass cutters are the cylinder type and therefore do not get the edges of the grass
Q	The Payback team had arranged to come to the village on Sunday. They asked if we had work for 15 people and we said yes so long as they have a strimmer. At the last minute they emailed to say they could not come as they did not have a strimmer
A	Mr Stone advised that the council were increasing their work with Community Payback via the Probation Service for grass cutting and litter picking. Villages and Parishes and also areas of the city are now getting the benefit of them.
Q	<p>Resident said that they used to come every week but it had now been 3 weeks since they did any work. It was felt that the work they have been carrying out in Strensall has been so successful that we have lost them to other villages.</p> <p>They are also restricted in where they can work, for example not too close to the edge of the road, so we have to do this work</p>

A	They are not allowed to work in areas above 30mph.
Q	Why does the long grass get left?
A	This situation is the same everywhere in the city and it is due to the financial constraints.
Q	Would it be possible to have someone come to the village and look around and we could point out the areas where there is an issue?
A	You would need to contact the Probation Service and inform them that the teams are not carrying out their duties.
Q	Cllr Doughty was concerned that more reliance was being put on the Parish Councils to take on work that the Council would normally do and that they were essentially being taxed twice.
A	Mr Stone said he had attended a meeting on Monday evening between Parish Councils and Residents Forums at which this item was discussed. There will be further meetings of this sort as the Council is looking for more work to be carried out by volunteers and less by them.
Q	Cllr Doughty asked whether there would be an incentive for local residents to become more involved.
A	No financial incentive.
Q	Cllr Doughty – not even a modest enhancement for the local area if residents are doing the work for free thus saving the Council money.
A	Mr Stone – this would not be a saving as we do not have the money in the first place.
Q	Cllr Wiseman asked what was the Council policy on Himalayan Balsam, hogweed and deadly nightshade. It has not suddenly appeared and these weeds cannot go into the recycling, it is largely Council land that is covered in these weeds.
A	Mr Stone said he would have to talk to his colleagues in the Conservation Team.
Q	Residents said that as City of York depends upon tourism he was disappointed that litter bins in the city had not been emptied from the day before by 11.00am the following morning.

A	The city centre is cleansed 365 days a year, the team work seven days a week from 5.00am to 7.00pm. Unfortunately nightclubs close around 4.00am and there is always a lot of litter. There is a team of 4 staff who start work at 5.00am with two mechanical sweepers and finish at 8.00am. There is one man who works from 9.30am emptying bins so it takes him sometime to empty all the bins.
Q	Resident: Why can York not have grey wheelie bins like Scarborough Council?
A	The bins in Scarborough are mainly compactor bins that compact eight times the amount of rubbish. They are a lot larger than conventional bins and would therefore not be suitable for the streets of York.

5. **WARD PRIORITIES & BUDGET 2014/15**

The ward budget for 2014-15 has been confirmed at £3260. Discussions will take place at the next ward team meeting, the date for which has not yet been set. We try to allocate the funds fairly and proportionally between the three villages. Previous grants are looked at historically.

6. **HAVE YOUR SAY**

There were no issues discussed.

Cllr Doughty thanked all the residents for coming
The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.30pm.