

Neighbourhood Action Group

Birch Hill and Hanworth

23 July 2008

Priority

1 – Speeding (BFBC Medium Term Objective Priorities 3&4)

2 – Parking (BFBC Medium Term Objective Priorities 3&4)

3 – Litter (BFBC Medium Term Objective Priority 2)

Attendance:

Cllr Gill Birch (BFBC), Lorna Catley (Bracknell Standard)
Alex Danek (Resident), PC Michael Foot, Clare
Humphrey (Resident & Birch Hill Primary School) Pat
Kennewell (Community Association), Jo Legg (Chair),
Sue Sarginson (Birch Hill Primary School), Joanna
Simpkins (BFBC), Jason Weekes (Jason Charles
Jewellery), Tom Wheaton (Resident), Heather Woods
(Resident), Peter Worsnip (Resident), David Young
(Resident), Pauline Young (Resident)

Apologies

Cllr Chas Baily (BFBC), Trevor Baker (9th Bracknell Scouts), Ian Boswell (BFBC),
Cllr Alan Browne (BFBC), PCSO Hilary Hyslop, Clare Klesel (Resident),
Christopher Mathews (Sainsbury's), PCSO Michelle Noone, Liam Wagstaff
(McColls)

Dates of Future NAG

9 December 2008, 6pm, Birch Hill Community Centre

Dates of Future Neighbourhood Forums

Wednesday 22 October 2008, 7.30pm, Birch Hill Primary School

Local Publications

Name:	Next publication deadline:	Contact:
Town and Country	December edition – Story ideas deadline 26 September Copy deadline 2 weeks after idea deadline	Ben Funning – Communications Officer ben.funning@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

1. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- Police Awareness and safety training sessions for staff at McColls would take place when a suitable date could be identified. **Action: Michael Foot/Liam Wagstaff**

2. Priority Issues

Speeding

The Police had carried out speed enforcement activities on Ringmead on 4 occasions in 2008 to date with 6 drivers being prosecuted for speeding offences. Community Speedwatch teams had monitored traffic speed on 6 occasions in 2008 to date and 32 drivers had been noted as exceeding the speed limit. Of the 6 drivers prosecuted by the Police 4 had been local residents and enquiries had shown that all had been aware of the 30mph speed limit.

Police enforcement and Speedwatch activities would continue over the summer and the results would be used to support a request for Archers Strips and a possible request for Vehicle Activated Signs on Ringmead.

Parking

General Parking

Complaints about obstructive and inconsiderate parking were being examined to ascertain if a real problem existed and Gainsborough and Greenham Wood were currently being investigated. The parking situation in Knightswood had been alleviated through police ticketing and letters had been delivered to residents in Oakengates warning them that the police would ticket obstructively parked cars if necessary.

The land owned by Bracknell Forest Homes was now private property and they would have the power to have parked vehicles towed away if the correct signs were displayed. The Police were examining the wording of Bracknell Forest Homes' tenancy agreement to ascertain if there were any clauses prohibiting either parking on verges and the parking of commercial vans outside properties however it was stressed that any enforcement would be difficult.

Residents were being advised, when they complained to the police about the parking situation, to clear out their garages and use these to park in. It was noted that if obstructive parking was witnessed then photographs could be forwarded to the neighbourhood policing team and although, the police would not be able to take any enforcement action the photographs could be used to prove that there was a problem in a particular area.

A number of reports had been received of parked vehicles obstructing bus routes and the Police were monitoring the situation.

Work was taking place to identify the residential streets across the Borough where parking was a particular problem and it was agreed that Gill Birch would liaise with the Police on this matter. In addition it was requested that people forward any ideas about how to solve a particular problem area to Jo Legg so they could be fed into this process. **Action: Gill Birch/Michael Foot/All**

The Group were informed that parking on grass verges was not considered obstructive or dangerous parking and any concerns should be reported to the Borough Council's Customer Services Section. It was agreed that the Council's policy with regard to vehicles parking on verges would be investigated. **Action: Jo Legg**

School Run Parking

Parking around the area's primary schools continued to be a problem. The Police regularly patrolled the areas in question and this did have a positive impact on the situation however this did not continue when they weren't available. It was suggested that the school children be involved in helping to alleviate the problem in some way and it was agreed that this would be looked at as part of the Birch Hill School Travel Plan. **Action: Clare Humphrey**

The parking situation at Birch Hill Primary School was impacting on Kennel Lane School with taxi drivers being forced to drop Kennel Lane pupils off some distance away from the school and it was agreed that this would be taken up with the Council's Parking Team. **Action: Michael Foot**

The car parking space available to the nursery staff at St Margaret Clitheroe Primary school would be extended over the summer and it was hoped that this would help alleviate the parking problem in the area.

Litter

Fly tipping and dumped rubbish accounted for the largest proportion of recorded incidents on the CADIS data system with 40 incidents having been reported since the start of the year. It was thought that the high number of recorded incidents was due to higher numbers of people reporting fly tipping to the Council.

The Police had carried out two environmental visual audits (EVAs) with assistance from local scout groups. One in the vicinity of Sainsbury's and the other in South Hill Park and more would be carried out in the future. EVAs were used by the police to identify and photograph anything that could encourage criminality for example broken street lights, graffiti, dumped rubbish and broken fences. The photographs are then used to prove to land owners that action needs to be taken before a problem occurs.

The Borough Council had deep cleaned the Birch Hill shopping parade and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the council thanking them for the work done and suggesting other areas that required attention. **Action: Jo Legg**

A request had been made for new litter bins to be installed at the top of the path between the Hilton Hotel and South Lake and opposite the entrance to Finmere and it was agreed that this would be followed up with the Council. **Action: Gill Birch**

A breakdown of the environmental concerns identified in the 2007 consultation had been forwarded to the Borough Council's Environment Department for action and a progress report would be sought. **Action: Jo Legg**

Concern was raised that although the Birch Hill Community Association had carried out a significant number of litter picks over the years but received very little publicity. It was stressed that if information about litter picks was sent to the Standard of the Borough Council for inclusion in Town and Country then it would be published. It was agreed that Jo Legg would liaise with Pat Kennewell over the inclusion of an article in the Birch Hill School newsletter. **Action: Jo Legg/Pat Kennewell**

3. Neighbourhood Consultation

It was reported that the October edition of Town and Country would contain details of the work carried out by NAGs across the Borough as well as a form asking for people to identify their main concerns so that each NAGs' priorities could be refreshed.

4. Neighbourhood Forum

The Neighbourhood Forum would take place on Wednesday 22 October 2008 at 7.30pm. The forum would have the same format as the one held in 2007 and posters publicising the meeting would be available at the beginning of September.

It was agreed that representatives from both the Highways and Environment sections of the Borough council would be sought to answer questions about the area. **Action: Katharine Simpson**

5. Updates on Other Neighbourhood Issues

Aldi

Aldi had received planning permission and work to brick up the broken windows in the alley way was expected to commence shortly and problems with security of the empty building were being reported directly to Aldi's Head Office by the Police. The Police and Fire Service had surveyed the building to identify any arson risks but nothing of any significance had been identified.

Kebab Van

There were ongoing concerns about the location of the kebab van operating on ~~the~~ Ringmead as it was parked in such a way that it blocked three converging cycle ways and customers were parking in the bus stop. The Borough Council had told complainants that the van was illegally parked and it was the police's responsibility to move the van on however the licence issued by the Council gave permission for the van to operate from that location.

Work was taking place to try and get the van's licence revoked but this required written evidence and it was requested that people put any complaints to the Council in writing including as much detail as possible to Vincent Paliczka, Director of Environment, Culture and Communities with a copy to Gill Birch. Any complaints relating specifically to customer noise levels should be logged, reported to the Environmental Health Department and a reference number requested **Action: All**

9th Bracknell Scouts' Community Web Pages

The 9th Bracknell Scouts had developed additional pages on their website specifically for community events and it was requested that people forward any ideas for content to Jo Legg. **Action: All**

6. Any Other Business

A number of cycle routes in the area were unmarked and it was agreed that this would be brought to the Council's attention and a request made for them to be marked so people were aware of them. It was suggested that the matter could also be pursued through Birch Hill Primary School's Travel Plan under the Safer Routes to School Scheme. **Action: Alex Danek/Clare Humphrey**