

Neighbourhood Action Group

Birch Hill and Hanworth

7 February 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

Ian Boswell (BFBC), Cllr Alan Browne (BFBC), NSO PC Michael Foot, Clare Humphrey (Birch Hill Primary School), Peter Worsnip, Jo Legg (Chair), PCSO Michelle Noone

Apologies

Cllr Chas Baily, Cllr Gill Birch, Jason Charles, Pat Kennewell, Sue Sarginson

Dates of Future NAG

To be confirmed

Dates of Future Neighbourhood Forums

To be confirmed

Local Publications

Name:	Next publication deadline:	Contact:
Town and Country	July edition – Story ideas deadline 25 th April October edition – Story ideas deadline 18 th July 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. Notes of last meeting

- Discussion of the Terms of Reference would be deferred until the next meeting.

2. Priority Issues

Speeding

Speedwatch activities were continuing and would take place more frequently as the weather improved. The most recent exercise took place on Wednesday 6th February when six drivers had been recorded travelling over 40mph. Updates on all speedwatch activities had been forwarded to PC Foot for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Priority Profile.

The Police had carried out speed enforcement activities on the 25th January on Ringmead leading from the Hockey Club towards Herondale and had stopped two vehicles; both drivers were local and claimed that they thought that the speed limit was 40mph rather than 30mph, both were prosecuted and given £60 fines and 3 points.

Instead of individual police officers conducting speed enforcement activities in isolation, officers were now working as a group targeting one particular area before repeating the exercise in another area. This reorganisation was proving to be particularly effective and had resulted in 78 vehicles being stopped in one four hour period. The Special Constabulary were also being trained to use speed guns and this would increase the level of enforcement work that could take place.

Following pressure from the NAG 30mph roundels had been painted on the entrance to the Birch Hill area (Ringmead/A322 junction) and it was hoped that additional roundels would be painted on the Hanworth entrance to the estate (Great Hollands roundabout/Hanworth Road).

A member of the Council's Highways Section had met with the NAG Chairs to discuss speeding and parking and the various issues surrounding these concerns and leaflets would be produced to inform the public about the actions that can be taken. It had also been reported that an exercise designed to measure the effectiveness of using SIDs to reduce vehicle speed by combining the use of a SID with Archer Strips had shown that average speeds increased by 2 to 3mph while the SID was in place; consequently VAS signs which showed drivers the speed limit instead of the vehicles actual speed were preferred.

Accident statistics for the Birch Hill and Hanworth area showed that the majority of accidents were caused by a lack of care and attention rather than vehicle speed.

Parking

A recent request to residents in Kimberley for photographs of inconsiderately parked cars had elicited dozens of pictures, many of them taken during the school run period. Birch Hill Primary School were aware of the problems caused by school run traffic and had recently written to parents encouraging them to walk their children to school more and reminding them of the need to park considerately. The Chief Executive of South Hill Park will be approached over the possibility of allowing parents to use the car park.

The possibility of closing the side pedestrian entrance to the school in order to reduce the number of parents parking in Kimberley was raised however, this would result in a significant increase in the number of children having to cross Leppington and improvements would need to be made to enable them to cross safely.

The Police were regularly patrolling the area and dealing with drivers who were causing an obstruction and it was requested that people report incidents to the Police so that a profile could be built up and patrols more effectively targeted. **Action: All**

The Borough Council had surveyed a number of roads in Hanworth and identified areas of amenity land that might be possible to convert to parking however, residents disliked losing these green areas and there was currently no funding to carry out any work.

Litter

A Neighbourhood Priority Profile had been started and the matter would be discussed in more detail at an informal meeting on 8 February.

It was reported that Police Environmental Visual Audits were used to record incidents of litter and graffiti and these details were then passed to the appropriate organisation for action to be taken. The police were keen to involve local communities in these audits to ensure that as wide an area as possible was covered; the Birch Hill Scouts, and possibly students from Bracknell and Wokingham College, would be assisting with the next audit and it was hoped that this would receive some positive publicity.

CADIS data showed that reported incidents of dumped rubbish had increased significantly in the past couple of months and a map illustrating the location of reports would be circulated. **Action Ian Boswell**

The Borough Council had established a Flytipping, Dumped Rubbish and Anti-social Behaviour Liaison Group to look at these issues across the Borough. The first meeting would take place on 31st March and reports would be fed back to the NAGs. **Action: Ian Boswell**

3. Update on other Neighbourhood Issues

Waitrose Site

It was reported that windows in the empty Waitrose building had been smashed and this would be investigated by the Police.

Action: Michael Foot

Alcohol License

The Martins Newsagent at the Birch Hill Shops was currently undergoing refurbishment and it was reported that an application for a licence to sell alcohol might be submitted to the Borough Council.