

Neighbourhood Action Group

Great Hollands

24 April 2008

Priority

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

2 – Environmental Matters (BFBC Medium Term Objective Priority 2)

Attendance:

Michael Bentley (Chair), Isabel Mattick (Bracknell Town Council), Cllr Jennie McCracken (BFBC), NSO Mike Parker, Cllr Anne Shillcock (BFBC), PCSO Taylor Warmsley, Mike Woolley (Resident), Clive (Bracknell Town Council)

Apologies

Heather Barber, PCSO Carl Francis, Adrienne Jones, Mary Temperton

Dates of Future NAG

24th July 2008, 11.20am, Brackenhale Open Learning Centre

4 December 2008, 11.20am, Room 6, Easthampstead Baptist Church

Dates of Future Neighbourhood Forums

Saturday 18 October 2008, 10am Great Hollands Primary School

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 |
| Great Hollands Matters | | Michael Bentley - m.a.bentley@ntlworld.com Keith Simons - keithsimons@onetel.com |

1. Update on Priorities

Parking

The DVLA had carried out three clamp and remove sessions in Great Hollands over the past year. PCSOs would be carrying out operations to identify untaxed vehicles across Great Hollands and these would be reported to the DVLA for further action to be taken against the registered owners and it was expected that overtime this would help alleviate the parking situation.

Responsibility for preventing vehicles from parking on grass verges was not a police responsibility. It was possible to prosecute vehicle owners responsible for causing significant damage to grassed areas under the Berkshire Act 1985 however this was a complicated process and could only be done if someone had witnessed the damage taking place. It was noted that bringing a civil prosecution would be less onerous than a criminal prosecution and it was agreed that this potential way forward would be discussed with the Borough Council's Legal Section. **Action: Anne Shillcock**

Bracknell Forest Homes had made a commitment to improve parking facilities and Anne Shillcock and Jennie McCracken were working to identify areas of Great Hollands that could be turned in to permanent parking areas.

The Borough Council had set up a working group to look at parking across the Borough. The Group's first meeting would take place on 7 May and updates would be given to the NAG. **Action: Anne Shillcock**

Environmental Matters

Litter and Flytipping

36 bags of asbestos had been dumped in South Road and the Borough Council were looking to prosecute the culprit and an update would be given to the NAG. **Action: Mike Parker**

A deep cleaning session had taken place in Great Hollands during the week commencing 14 April 2008 and it was agreed that dates of future cleaning operations would be publicised in Great Hollands Matters. **Action: Anne Shillcock**

Easthampstead Park and Brackenhale Schools had been contacted about the littering of the wooded area near Avebury and Ardingly and the situation appeared to have improved. The Borough Council had also agreed to install litter bins on both sides of the new footbridge once construction had been completed and the Borough Council would be approached about the possibility of putting up signs next to the bins warning people of the penalties for littering. **Action: Anne Shillcock**

A significant number of dog owners were failing to clear up after their dogs and PCSO Car Francis had been tasked with drafting a leaflet that would be used to inform people about the Dog Fouling Act and of the consequences of not clearing up after their animals. This would then be handed out to any dog walkers seen during patrols. It was agreed that this would be a useful reminder for all residents and a copy of the leaflet would be included in Great Hollands Matters. **Action: Mike Parker**

In a number of areas there were signs warning that the maximum penalty for dog fouling was £1,000 and it was agreed that the possibility of getting additional signs for Great Hollands would be raised with the Town Council. **Action: Isabel Mattick**

Graffiti

A minor had been arrested and charged over a number of graffiti tagging incidents. As part of the restorative justice scheme he would be made to clean up and remove graffiti and once the punishment had been completed the incident would be publicised.

Talks were regularly given at schools about the problems of graffiti and it was hoped that this would reinforce the message that it was unacceptable.

It was suggested that raising awareness of the problems caused by litter could be done through Citizenship Lessons in the schools and it was agreed that Easthampstead Park would be approached. **Action: Anne Shillcock**

2. Crime Statistics and CADIS Data

Despite the often negative press that Great Hollands received when compared to other areas of Bracknell Forest it was reported that the number of reported crimes had fallen in nearly all categories had fallen in the past year. The exceptions were incidents of criminal damage to cars which had risen from 63 in 2006/07 to 74 in 2007/08 and the number of public order crimes which had remained static at 14.

| | <u>2006/2007</u> | <u>2007/2008</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Criminal damage to cars | 63 | 74 |
| Criminal damage to buildings | 12 | 5 |
| Criminal damage to people's homes | 46 | 31 |
| Other criminal damage | 16 | 12 |
| Public order crimes | 14 | 14 |

Police operations were in place to tackle the rise in criminal damage to cars and it was agreed that these figures needed to be shared with residents and an article would be written for inclusion in Great Hollands Matters. **Action: Mike Parker**

CADIS data also showed an improvement over the past year with a 16% reduction in the number of reported incidents

| | <u>2006/07</u> | <u>2007/08</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Dangerous driving | 165 | 125 |
| Dumped rubbish | 289 | 266 |
| Untaxed vehicles | 19 | 9 |
| Vandalism | 65 | 63 |

3. Mill Lane Footbridge

The new footbridge over Mill Lane would be installed over the first bank holiday weekend in May. Anne Shillcock and Mike Woolley had met with the contractors and representatives from the Council's Landscaping Team on 7 April to discuss the landscaping that would be put in in the area following the bridge's installation.

It had been agreed that a mixture of trees and shrubs would be planted on either side of the bridge and copies of the planting scheme were available from Anne Shillcock if people wanted to see them. Litter bins would also be installed on the lead up ramps to the bridge. Mike Woolley had volunteered to act as an informal warden for the area once the planting had been completed and any problems would be reported directly to the landscape officer overseeing the project.

A number of people had been crossing the footbridge using mini-motorbikes. Two people had been given Section 59 warnings regarding their use of mini-motorbikes and the Police would monitor the situation.

4. Anti-social Behaviour

There had been a noticeable reduction in anti-social behaviour over recent years. Operation Lioncub was continuing and the introduction of new shift patterns would mean that there were more police on the streets than in previous months and Carl Francis and Taylor Warmsley would remain in Great Hollands to assist with Lioncub.

Brackets for the CCTV cameras had now been installed in Great Hollands Square and an application to have the cameras in place would be made. **Action: Mike Parker**

The possibility of setting up a youth shelter near the basket ball court was being explored. Local shops had agreed to make a contribution to the cost of the shelter and it was agreed that Bracknell Forest Homes and Bracknell Town Council would be approached for additional funding.

Action: Mike Parker/Carl Francis

5. Any Other Business

Neighbourhood Forum

The Neighbourhood Forum would take place on Saturday 18th October 2008 at 10am in Great Hollands Primary school. It was agreed that it good publicity would be essential and local shops would be asked to display posters. A couple of Perspex covered notice boards had been installed in Great Hollands Square and these could also be used to display posters.

Arson Audits

The police and fire Service were continuing to carry out arson audits in the area. These audits were used to identify potential arson risks and property owners made to take action to prevent this from happening. The most recent set of audits had identified a number of electricity substations with insecure wooden doors and as a result of pressure from the Fire Service and Police these doors had been replaced with secure metal ones.

Speeding

Although there had been a number of vehicle speeding on the ringmead these occurred mainly at night and the Police considered these to be isolated incidents and were happy to run patrols to address the problem. However the situation would be kept under review and further operations would be put into effect if necessary.

Membership of NAG

Nicola Dimmock, Bracknell Forest Homes Housing Officer for the Great Hollands area, would be invited to join the NAG.