

Neighbourhood Action Group

## **Great Hollands**

07 February 2008

### **Priority**

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

**2 - Litter (BFBC Medium Term Objective Priority 2)**

### **Attendance:**

Michael Bentley (Chair), Cllr Anne Shillcock (BFBC), Ian Boswell (BFBC), PCSO Carl Francis, PC Roger Knight, PCSO Taylor Warmley, Adrienne Jones (Bracknell Town Council), Heather Barber (Bracknell Town Council), Mike Woolley (Resident)

### **Apologies**

Jennie McCracken, NSO Mike Parker, Mary Temperton

### **Dates of Future NAG**

To be confirmed.

### **Dates of Future Neighbourhood Forums**

To be confirmed.

### **Local Publications**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Next publication deadline:</b>	<b>Contact:</b>
Town and Country	July edition – Story ideas deadline 25 <sup>th</sup> April  October edition – Story ideas deadline 18 <sup>th</sup> 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		

## **1. Notes of the Previous Meeting**

### Borough Wide Consultation.

The results of a questionnaire asking people to identify their top three priorities for their Neighbourhood were published. The top five areas of concern were Litter, Dog Mess, Broken Glass, Youths and Parking. After some debate it was decided that the Youths issue centred on Anti-social behaviour, but also that a lack of local facilities for young people aggravated this problem.

Michael Bentley had written to the School Councils at Wooden Hill Primary School and at Great Hollands Primary School to thank them for their contribution.

It was noted that the group that requested pictures of local PCs and PCSOs be placed in "Great Holland Matters"

## **2. Feedback on the NAG Chairs Meeting:**

The meeting of the NAG Chairs held on 17 January 2008 had focused on the main issues surrounding speeding and parking in the Borough and had detailed the various approaches that could be taken to tackle these areas of concern. Each chairman had been asked to provide details of the main concerns in their neighbourhood and these would be mapped against a range of potential solutions by the Borough Council's Highways Section and would be looked at during future Chairs' meetings. It had been stressed that evidence would be required before any actions could be considered and that the NAGs would be a link in this process. In addition any ideas about how a problem might be tackled would be welcomed.

Neil Mathews, Principal Engineer for Traffic and Safety, had attended and as a result wrote a comprehensive article on the issues surrounding illegal and irresponsible parking had been produced for the next issue of Town and Country. A further article on Speeding is to be circulated in the form of a leaflet.

## **3. Updates on Priorities**

### Parking

On the issue of parking on verges, Anne Shillcock explained that from next month when Bracknell Housing Scheme took over Social housing, part of the responsibility for dealing with cars parking on verges would be transferred from the council to the Housing scheme. As a result it was decided that a member of the Housing scheme should be invited to the Great Hollands NAG meeting.

The question of what a resident should do if they spot a car parking on a verges/amenity land was then raised. In response Anne Shillcock explained that this issue is complicated – particularly by the imminent changeover described above. Beyond writing letters to the residents involved, the council itself had relatively little means to enforce these matters. However, if Traffic Wardens or PCSOs observed an offence

being committed, then they can issue an appropriate fine – but this cannot be done on the evidence of an incriminating photo – actual observation by the Officer or Warden is required.

PCSO Carl Francis inquired whether Traffic Warden Patrols of the wards could be increased. Currently, Traffic Wardens spent the majority of their time in the town centre and PCSOs are required to issue tickets in wards like Great Hollands. It was explained that there are in fact 3 Traffic Warden posts in the whole of the borough, with two of these posts actually being filled. Furthermore a pilot scheme was being operated to the effect that these council officers are funding their own department – and that if they manage to collect enough revenue from their duties – more officers could be brought into their department at some time in the future. It was suggested that these officers might be able to justify their role simply by operating in the area of Great Hollands ward alone.

#### Litter/Fly Tipping

Ian Boswell reminded the group of the significance of CADIS – the Community Nuisance and Disorder Information system which picks up all the types of antisocial behaviour that aren't directly recorded as crimes such as Dangerous Driving, Dumped Rubbish, Fly Tipping, Noise, Road Hazards, Untaxed vehicles and Vandalism. Ian clarified that in the most recent examples, April/December of 2007, the numbers of reports of most of these incidents had actually fallen by 19% in the Great Hollands area, although Road Hazards had risen from 19 to 29 incidents.

On the issue of Community Litter Picking it was announced that the next pick would take place on 9th February 2008. It was clarified that while members of the community were needed to handle the actual labour of these events – the Borough Council would provide all the equipment and arrange for collection of the rubbish afterwards.

The Borough Council would be forming a Fly Tipping, Dumped Rubbish and other Antisocial Behaviour Group which would look at these issues on a borough-wide basis.

PCSO Carl Francis also announced that within the next two to three weeks a joint initiative between the Police and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service – the Fly Tipping Initiative – would patrol the Great Hollands ward to identify the type of fly tipping and discarded vehicles which have been linked to the arson statistics on CADIS. The Council would then be informed and would remove any such objects within a week. This scheme is being piloted first in Great Holland and then potentially could be rolled out throughout the borough.

Anne Shillcock commented that while councillors were currently being informed of the 3/4 times a year that the council was 'deep cleaning' wards around the borough residents were not being passed the news. This meant that residents could not inform the council of the worst hit areas. It was suggested that residents of wards to be cleaned should be informed of these deep-cleans as well as councillors.

Mike Woolley raised the issue of the wooded area between Avebury and Ardingly where a new footbridge is being planned; while it has been deep cleaned by the Council, littering along a path through the woodland has ruined the area. It was suggested that when the footbridge was completed litter bins should be added to the area – as there are none there now. This was unanimously approved and it was suggested that Anne Shillcock would write a letter to both Brackenhale and Easthampstead Park Secondary Schools to request that they ask their students not to litter. **Action: Anne Shillcock**

### Anti-social Behaviour

It was noted that there was an issue with youths gathering in Holland Square, which caused a variety of problems both day and night – the main two being that locals felt afraid to go to the shops at certain times, and that shop proprietors feared retaliation if they sent for the police. Currently, there is one CCTV camera in the Tool shop – but this only has a limited radius of vision and is therefore not much use to the Police. The possibility of increasing the amount of CCTV cameras was raised.

The possibility of providing youth club facilities/activities for local young people was also raised. Anne Shillcock pointed out that a part of the Bracknell Housing Scheme would have some money dedicated to youth activities, but that discussions about where it should be directed had not started. She recommended that the discussions over this money should be watched and that a bid for funding should be made to the Housing scheme.

### **4. Any Other Business**

#### Untaxed Vehicles

On the issue of untaxed vehicles, Anne Shillcock observed that since the DVLA had started working with Police – going around the borough and more effectively targeting vehicles – this problem should be reduced over time.