

AREA FORUM (NEW BRIGHTON AND WALLASEY)

Thursday, 25 February 2010

Present:

Councillor	P Hayes (Chair)
Councillors	W Duffey A Pritchard L Rennie S Taylor K Wood
Community representatives	Mark Williams (Wallasey)
Older People's Parliament representative	Joe Fish
Lead Officer	David Green (Director of Technical Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Andy Brannan
Streetscene Manager	Chris Jones
Community Safety	Bob Little
Merseyside Police	Sergeant Mark Smith, Sergeant Mike Moroney, Constable Seb Hornby
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Tony Mooney
NHS Wirral	Dawn Moon
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust	Rod Jones
Council Officers	Chris Jones, Steve preston, Bob Little
<u>Apologies</u>	
Councillors:	Martin Revans, Ann Lavin, Dr Shymal Mukerjee, Inspector Peter Kolokotroni, Sergeant Justin Diggins

1 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair, Councillor P Hayes, welcomed forum members and 11 members of the public to the New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum meeting being held at Wallasey Central Library, Earleston Road.

Apologies were noted from Sgt Justin Diggins, Insp Peter Kolokotroni, Dr Syhmal Mukerjee, Martin Revans and Ann Lavin.

2 **AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The Area Co-ordinator, Andy Brannan, went through previous minutes pointing out the matters arising on page 4. There were no Matters Arising from the last forum as all the issues raised were answered on the evening.

2.1) Sue Taylor gave additional information on minute decision 4.8 from the last report: The cage on the Tower Grounds has now been removed and the new equipment is in place.

3 **AREA FORUM PARTNER UPDATES**

3.1) **Srg Mike Moroney: Merseyside Police**

On the 8th Feb 2010, a trial operation called Operation Leopard was carried out in Wallasey. The operation consisted of officers with cameras on their bodywear targeting anti social behaviour hotspots. Feedback was initially given from the community about which areas to target and any individuals who were continually causing problems. Once individuals were filmed, they were warned they were captured on film and this would be used if their behaviour persisted. The operation proved successful and will be repeated in March.

The Police have been carrying out a number of road spotlight days targeting vehicles that do not have any road tax, insurance and for speeding. 6 vehicles were removed for no tax. Legislation has also changed giving the Police the power to remove cars from private land if they no tax. If anyone knows of any such vehicles please contact the Police.

3.2) **Srg Mark Smith; Merseyside Police**

Crime is dropping in the area with 2778 less crimes reported than the same time last year and also 138 less for youth disorders.

We have carried out Operation Martin to target any potential premises selling alcohol to underage people. The operation was successful and no premises caused an offence.

After complaints from residents the Police carried out a number of speeding operations which resulted in 6 endorsement penalties being given.

3.3) Dave Hanlon -What was the response to projecting information on the side of the building?

Insp Seb Hornby -Information was projected onto the side of Natwest Bank. This was used to publicise information about the knife campaign and other messages to the community. This method of publicising messages will be used again in the future.

3.4) Cllr Tont Pritchard -Do the Police work with the DVLA to check if any drivers do not have insurance?

Insp Seb Hornby -All insurance companies need to register with the Police Database. This information is then relayed to the Police cars who can then check if a driver has insurance.

3.5) Cllr Sue Taylor -Victoria Road and Grosvenor Road has suffered from issues of anti social behaviour lately.

Police -Police Community Support Officers have spent time in the area recently as they are aware of the issues and the youths that are congregating in the roads.

3.6) Mark Johnson -I have taken photographs of youths congregating outside my house and the library. Am I breaking the law doing this?

Police -If he is in a public place and takes a photo, he isn't breaking the law. This is the purpose of Operation Leopard.

3.7) Steve Preston -The Council's Community Patrol Team now wearing body worn cameras after receiving specialised training. Any footage captured on these cameras can be used by the Police.

3.8) Dave Hanlon -A number of people have rang on the Radio Merseyside phone line to complain that they have been stopped by the Police for having no insurance when they do have valid insurance. Does this usually happen?

Police -It is very unusual for the system to get drivers details wrong.

3.9) Mr Roth -What happens when a driver appears to have valid insurance, however they have clearly modified the car, such as a larger exhaust. Does this mean their insurance is technically invalid?

Police -The Police can check all these details with the Motor Insurance Bureau. Officers can also use their own judgement to stop a vehicle if it has been clearly modified.

3.10) **Tony Mooney: Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service**

There is a comprehensive update in the coordinators report.

The Fire Service has been working with the Council's Social Services Department and local landlords to identify blocks of flats which could be in danger if a fire started in the premises. A lot of work has been undertaken to improve safety in the identified properties.

We have also been working with the Rangers Service and Community Patrol to offer training and support on putting out small fires in grasslands. It is hoped that this will lead to a reduction in grassland fires and damage to adjacent properties.

3.11) **Rod Jones: Wirral University Hospital Trust**

The hospital is continuing to improve infection control performance. The hospital already had a good record and they are continually working hard to reduce infection.

3.12) Joseph Fish -Have there been changes to the disabled parking as a number of people have complained that staff have been parking in them?

Rod Jones -As far as I know there have been no changes and any staff member parking in these spaces would be disciplined. If you know of any examples please pass on them but I will also take this issue back.

3.13) Dave Hanlon -I tried to visit a friend at the hospital but they could not find details of him. If someone has been released can this information be given out as it would have saved me a journey?

Rod Jones -Unfortunately I am not sure on what the procedures are at the front desk so I can't answer your question now, but I will also take this issue back and look into it.

3.14) **Diane Moon: NHS Wirral**

Dr Mukerjee could not make the meeting unfortunately. We wanted to highlight 'Do something nice for a stranger' campaign. Seacombe Children's Centre will have a drop in for babies and dental advice and from 2nd March will have a immunisation specialist on Tuesdays.

A lot of work has been going on around early diagnosis of cancer, however this is at an early stage. The Swine Flu National Helpline has ceased. If anybody does develop symptoms of Swine Flu they should contact their GP.

3.15) Dave Hanlon -Is there an update on bus service to Mill Lane?

Diane Moon -When Mill Lane was being developed negotiations were on going with bus providers to see if the service could be improved. These negotiations did not progress past the initial round of talks. These talks have started again so when progress has been made it can brought back to the forum.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

4.1) Resident -I have rang Streetscene on a few occasions regarding the parking on Caithness Road and Seabank Road. People park right up to the end of the junction and the only way to get out is to inch out until nothing is coming. Can yellow lines be installed?

Cllr Sue Taylor -There is a similar problem at the other end of Seabank Road by Manville Road. There have been two accidents when people have to edge out of the road. Joseph Smith from Streetscene has been out to look at the issue.

Dave Green -If a vehicle is parked causing an obstruction then this is an issue for the police to deal with. Yellow Lines depend on a Personal Injury Accident and priority is given to areas that have had the highest number of incidents. Unfortunately the council does not have enough resources to look at all the roads where issues have been raised. These 2 areas will be looked at to see if there is anything that can be done instead of installing yellow lines.

Cllr Tony Pritchard -We previously consulted with residents on Caithness Drive to see if they would like yellow lines. Most residents indicated that they wouldn't like to see yellow lines as this would take away from the car parking spaces. Speeding along Seabank Road is the biggest problem and we have tried to lobby for additional traffic lights at the junction.

Dave Green -The council recognises that speeding is an issue faced across the whole Borough. If agreed by the full council, we will be introducing 20mph zones (this proposal has now been passed)

4.2) Terry Edwards -There is a large amount of fly tipping around the ex-Max Spielman building. After the building was taken over by West Wallasey Van Hire and alterations were done, fly tipping appeared and the owner claimed it is on his land. However part of this land looks to be public land?

Cllr Leslie Rennie -This issue has been looked into before and it does appear that the fly tipping is on the land owned by West Wallasey Van Hire.

Dave Green -Even though the fly tipping appears to be on private land the Council does have some powers to make people remove the waste. By potentially serving a notice on the owner of land, hopefully something could be done.

4.3) Mark Johnston -Since the traffic wardens have gone parking has become a big issue with people parking anywhere they want, a lot of time causing an obstruction.

Dave Green -If the cars are parked on double yellow lines, this is a decriminalised offence and the Council have the powers to do something about this. If a car is parked causing in a way to cause an obstruction only the Police can do something about it and the traffic wardens do not have any powers when a car is parked in this way.

4.4) Joan Roberts -Are there any developments being made to Bayswater Road as the traffic is a real problem, especially now that the construction of the Neptune Development has added to it?

Cllr Kate Wood/Dave Green -As part of the planning application for the Neptune Development the Council insisted that money was put towards improving the traffic on Bayswater Road. Work will start soon on a mini roundabout which will see an improvement to the congestion and traffic. Money will also be invested in improving the footpaths along the road.

Cllr Tony Pritchard - When the original planning application was put in we raised concerns about the increase of traffic going towards Neptune from Seabank Road.

4.5) Dave Hanlon -Is there any news on proposed changes to the 432 and 442 bus service, which would see more provision of an evening and bank holidays?

Cllr Sue Taylor -There have been discussions about increasing the 432 and 442 routes, however these changes may not be imminent. If and when changes are made they will be fully advertised through the local press as usual.

4.6) Cllr Tony Pritchard -We have tried to get speed cameras along Seabank Road to reduce the speed of the cars travelling along it, is there an update on this?

Dave Green -The Council have just ordered 14 new vehicle activated signs. These will be the signs that ask drivers to slow down and not display the speed the cars are travelling at as recent studies have shown that these have a opposite effect and some drivers see how fast they can make the sign flash at. In terms of speed cameras it is very difficult to have signs placed on certain roads as the Government Guidelines on where a camera can be placed are very strict.

4.7) Cllr Tony Pritchard -Do emergency vehicles have to slow down for speed cameras?

Police/Fire Service - Emergency vehicles can go through a red light. Depending on the skills of the driver depends on what speed they can travel at. When an emergency vehicle goes through a red light it does take a photo. A report is then produced and studied. If a driver deems to have gone through a red light dangerously or over their speed limit they could be disciplined.

5 FUTURE MEETINGS / PRESENTATIONS

Agreed Wednesday 23rd June 2010

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to be declared and the Chair thanked everybody for their comments and attending and the meeting was closed at 8pm.