

# HARMANS WATER NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MEETING NOTES

1<sup>st</sup> October 2009  
Harmans Water Primary School  
7.30pm



## Top table

Cllr Trevor Kensall Chair **TK**  
Fiona Heston – BFC **FH**  
NSO Oliver Neale – TVP **ON**

## In support

Cllr Mrs Shelagh Pile BFC **SP**  
Cllr Chris Turrell BFC **CT**  
Marilyn Morgan TVP **MM**  
Insp. Pete Carter TVP **PC**  
PCSO Katie Woodgate **KT**

## Apologies:

**Guest speaker**  
Madeleine Diver LINKs

Item	Details	Actions
1.	<b>Welcome</b> Chairman, Trevor Kensall welcomed everybody, thanked them for attending.	
2.	<b>Introductions</b> Chairman introduced the top table, guest and police to the forum attendees.	
3.	<b>Presentation on LINKs by Madeleine Diver</b> Madeleine covered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the LINKs Health and Social care Survey report</li> <li>the development of Healthspace, the new health and social care centre in Market Street</li> <li>the creation of the social care support sub group (including dementia)</li> </ul> She invited attendees to take information leaflets and register if they would like regular updates in the future. Powerpoint attached	
4.	Why are we here – the purpose of the Neighbourhood Action Group  <i>The Neighbourhood Action Group, or NAG, is group of volunteers who plan and organise work activities to take forward the actions identified by residents as priorities for work. Each year at these open public meetings, NAG asks its local residents for their opinions and views on local issues that matter to them. Both the Neighbourhood Forums and the 2009 Neighbourhood Survey give the NAG a very good picture of local issues that are important to residents and help it to set its three priorities for work for the following year.</i>	

	<p><i>If you want to contribute to the work of your local NAG, please leave your contact details with the Chairman, or the Council or Police representatives.</i></p> <p>We are the working end of the meeting this evening. The NAG has representatives from Bracknell Forest Homes, Winkfield Parish Council, Bracknell Town Council, Bracknell Forest Borough Council, together with representative associations for Martins Heron. It takes on board the work that needs to be done within the area.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Neighbourhood Survey 2009</b></p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Survey, which is put together in partnership with local community groups, Bracknell Forest Council and Thames Valley Police has been delivered to every home in the borough.</i></p> <p><i>This is your chance to have your say about the issues that matter to you. Surveys completed and returned before the <b>deadline on October 31</b> will be included in a free prize draw. Prizes include tickets to Coral Reef and Down shire Golf Complex. You can also complete the survey online at</i>  <a href="http://surveys.questions.co.uk/neighbourhoods.asp">http://surveys.questions.co.uk/neighbourhoods.asp</a></p> <p>November/December time there is feedback to the Chairman of the NAG which helps them to set the priorities that you have said you want targeted. If you want to get involved please see Trevor Kensall.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Results of 2008 Neighbourhood Survey</b>  Read from script.....  <i>The top issues across the Borough were identified as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i) Level of speeding</i></li> <li><i>ii) Lack of visible policing</i></li> <li><i>iii) Availability of parking</i></li> <li><i>iv) Nuisance caused by vehicles</i></li> <li><i>v) Litter</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The top 3 issues identified by this neighbourhood last year were:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Availability of parking</b>  <b>Nuisance caused by vehicles</b>  <b>Level of speeding motorists</b></p>	
7.	<p><b>“You said – we did”</b>  We rolled everything together concerning Traffic Issues and came up with “You Said – we did” leaflet attached to show what we did to tackle those concerns. Discussion as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It had started to become a problem in Oareborough because cars were parked near the railings in the middle of the road to get doors open, blocking off traffic completely. We took photos and Highways became involved and they have set up a traffic order. People cannot just stop dropping children off, it will be safer for the children.</li> <li>• Threatened to contact police and get vehicles removed , took up 4 valuable parking spaces.</li> </ul>	

- Joint initiative with Bracknell Forest Homes, hope to put in more parking spaces. Harmans Water Road and Nightingale Crescent, cars parking on the kerb and road.
- It requires yellow line near garages in Nightingale Crescent.
- Nightingale Crescent being used as a rat run.
- Harmans Water Road - propose to do a vehicle and speed check.
- Across Bracknell, Highways believe they have taken this on board. All those roads going to be looked at in detail to monitor speed limit, monitor how many cars and how many vehicles used that road – proposed as Phase One.
- Also compounded at weekends due to football matches, Nightingale Crescent no car parking for footballers.
- Police have been called but it is not always immediate response and offenders are gone when they get there. They park on the path, on the verge, in front of garages, Saturday lunchtime or Sunday, if it is a double match it is horrendous.
- ON said we could get PCSO to attend. Similar problem at Martins Heron.
- We can contact Bracknell Forest Council to see if they have traffic wardens for the area.
- It was thought that there was no easy solution. ON said that education could help – ask people to be considerate to the residents. He would like speed bumps down there.
- Space at Harmans Water Road – could that be used as parking?
- TK said we were open to suggestions, there are problems with visibility for the whole of the Harmans Water Road.
- Comment that people just leave their cars with no thought for anybody.
- TK said that all Ward Councillors had worked hard with the Council to try and find a solution.
- Suggestion that would it be worth a leaflet drop asking where could people park, where do they suggest. Sheila said she had asked people if they wanted spaces but they were turned down as it is a busy road. TK thought the suggestion of a mail drop was a good idea.
- It was asked if we could get in touch with the football clubs, but TK said it was not the football club we need to contact but Bracknell Town Council.
- CT said that as far as Calfridus Way proposal is concerned, we will be looking at it, we do not want to spoil the ground area but will try to provide some area of extra parking.

### **Environmental issues**

- TK said that last Saturday we organised a Clean-up Neighbourhood Day with Wayz Youth Club, with children and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S P said that youngsters from the Club and their parents conducted litter picking at Calfridus Way and Harmans Water Road and competed to see who could find the most litter. Also went around the Shops, why do people drop litter when there are bins next to them? It was very successful.</li> <li>• TK mentioned that we had done it last year and this year, trying to do it twice a year.</li> <li>• It was mentioned that we need to look at the condition of the football pitch after the footballers have been there, it is a disgrace. Also lost one waste bin. It is put behind a tree, one right in the middle is needed.</li> <li>• The Council had been telephoned about this and they are prepared to speak to the footballers.</li> <li>• Dog fouling – people drive up into Nightingale Crescent and let the dogs out, then drive off. There was discussion re: dog warden, there used to be signs about dog fouling, dog bin has been taken away.</li> <li>• TK said that we cannot put things right if we do not know about it .</li> <li>• It was suggested that we know the football teams that use the pitch, how about a flyer to them to look after the rubbish being left after they complete the game.</li> <li>• TK said he would see if is written into the terms and conditions of people using the pitch.</li> <li>• CT said he imagined it would be in the terms and conditions, they are falling short on their obligations, he will let them know it has been reported.</li> <li>• One resident mentioned that we are not against them playing football but would just like the pitch treated with more care.</li> <li>• TK said that another thing we did is to collect all the data on ASB incidents across the Harmans Water, Martins Heron and the Warren area.</li> <li>• There are two distinct areas – there is a problem with fly tipping, please look out for people if they are dumping things, please be vigilant. 11 incidents of fly tipping in August at Harmans Water. It is around the Shops, outside the flats, Uffington Drive. TK has a map and spare copies if anyone wants one. There were 12 incidents of domestic noise in August in our area.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Police Presentation by NSO Oliver Neale</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ON mentioned himself and PCSO dedicated to the neighbourhood. Main part of our job is to engage with the Community. Problem areas – it is our job to get to know these people, patrol our beats and target patrol plans dependent on need. We form part of the</li> </ul>	

- From April 2008 – March 2009 – serious acquisitive crime was a problem last year. Crime went up by 37% = 62 incidents up to 85,
- Only theft from vehicles had risen. Everything else remained at zero or had dropped down – tackled the problem across the whole of Bracknell Forest. Numerous arrests and it is a case of being out and arresting people in the middle of the night.
- The other problem we had was burglary from garages which affected the figures.
- Overall from March this year because of the operations we have managed to reduce the theft from vehicles figures by 61%.
- Overall to date from March for serious acquisitive crime figures down 34.6%.
- Burglaries in garages went up by 75%, not just Harmans Water, it was also across the whole of Priestwood and anywhere in Bracknell with garages.
- We have had targeted operations and patrol plans and we have managed to reduce the figures. There was a plus with that recently a male was arrested and found to be in possession of large numbers of keys including a master key to Bracknell Forest Homes garages That case is on going.
- ON has been working hard with the Neighbourhood team to tackle problems with cannabis factories, ON has been involved in number of closures and found large quantity of drugs. A lot of crime can be related to drugs, offenders fund their habit
- Neighbourhood teams across the area have worked really hard, we have assistance of adjacent neighbourhoods.

#### **ASB (Anti Social Behaviour)**

- Dangerous driving
- Noise
- Harassment
- Fly tipping
- Vandalism & road hazard
- Operation Lion Cub is mainly targeted on ASB youths on Friday and Saturday nights. On this area we do not have too much of a problem but sometimes there are youths passing through. Dedicated team of officers, we hold open air briefings in park or open area, where people can see we are out there and how many are dedicated at a time on dealing with each particular problem.
- Volunteers encouraged – people can come and speak to us when they want to. We have a list of volunteers, members of the public who act as representative for fellow residents.
- If they have a problem they have a direct telephone number to an officer and can report a problem so that we can get a team there as soon as possible. This is a better scheme and does not fall victim to being lost in a list of other priorities and jobs in the area.
- Lion Cub is a successful team across whole of Thames Valley, other Forces are hoping to replicate it. If you have a specific problem or want to become involved, maybe a specific problem in a specific road, only on Friday and Saturday nights, please let us

- Some increase in ASB, up by 19% in Martins Heron and Harmans Water. Graffiti, fly tipping, harassment.
- PCSO Katie Woodgate has taken part and assisted in the Council Estate Days and litter picking. Taken photos where these issues are occurring, kerbs etc.
- Road hazards and dangerous driving down 50%. From a police perspective parking and speeding are always going to be issues. We will enforce things where we can but it is not something that will go away. It will always be a priority and we want to focus on other issues. Speeding and parking come up every year.
- Noise complaints – quite a few reports of house parties or noisy neighbours. Friday & Saturday nights Operation Lion Cub but it will have to go through the system of priorities. If this is an on-going problem you can approach the Environmental Health Office. If it becomes a disorder in the street, then that is a police problem.
- In relation to the priorities that were raised – speeding, parking and police visibility – ON has now been trained and now can commit on speed enforcements as and when you want to. Just down by Railway Bridge during 45 minute session there were 3 x 32-35mph cars passed through, but none reached the threshold for prosecution. Only one person stopped from Crown Wood & given words of advice, doing 34mph. Speed camera has been used but we cannot solve the problem by zapping people, can discuss other ways to solve the problem.
- Speedwatch – there are objections about neighbours spying on fellow residents. SP said they have enough problems with neighbours quarrelling, do not want to add to it.
- ON said it could be people passing through. If people see high visibility during the sessions, it is not spying, there are no tickets issued, police only send out letters, no further action taken at that point, it is just a warning and education.
- Parking – fact sheets will clarify who deals with each situation. KW always out biking and on foot. Reported 40 vehicles for failing to display tax. DVLA come over to the area and carry out operations and do take vehicles. There is fixed penalty for major obstructions, 15 warnings for inconsiderate parking.
- CT said always issue a warning first.
- ON said KW is out there, three of us on the beat, we are always moving around, out there patrolling the area. Police visibility – ON is dedicated NSO for this area, he only works on this area. Always out and about but also spends a lot of time on certain addresses and relating verbally to the beat and various agencies. Next year

- Cycle patrols & being more visible – KW – 40 + patrols – covers a lot of the area quite quickly.
- Residents expressed thanks to the policing team for the job they do.
- It was asked if Use Trap Cars had been successful – separate team that deal with them. PC said that yes they had been very successful. ON said it is not used on anything in this area but he can look into it & will raise it with PC Appleby
- Resident asked about Bail Hostel at Vincent Rise, managed by Clear Springs. What input do police have with regard to offenders. ON said police did object to it and using it for re-offenders. ON attends as often as he can and each time there is a new resident he visits to find out who they are, he can interact with the individuals to find out who they are. They are not local people.
- Resident had been told they were local offenders.
- ON said one resident had committed a crime but the good thing was the manager of the house at the time was diligent and reported it straight away. He was arrested with people from the area but everyone else was from outside.
- ON said TVP objections were known to Bracknell Forest Council.
- Re: Clear Springs & Vincent Rise – PC said we sent in our objections, it is a government initiative, consultation process is 5 days to send your response back. We sent our police response back through Force Intelligence Bureau.
- It was mentioned by a resident that there was another property in Holbeck Great Hollands suggested by Clear Springs but for some reason was rejected. The Police objected to the property in Harmans Water.
- ON said that we have to accept that when availability of those types of properties come up, they will have to be housed somewhere whilst they are being rehabilitated. He would prefer they are put up in nice areas rather than in not so nice areas, where they will have more chance of success.
- It was said that since residents started complaining and got together it has either been empty or only one resident, must be costing the tax payer a fortune using only one of a three bed roomed house, one individual at one time, but four individuals at one time that is where you could have trouble.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SP was told by the Council that there was nothing about police objecting to Vincent Rise, but when she asked for documentation from police, was told there was nothing. It is out of order as it was presented with no objections.</li> <li>• ON gave full information in writing, it went to Force Intelligence Bureau.</li> <li>• CT said the idea is that these people are integrated back into the Community, if it becomes known what premises are used it will ruin the effectiveness.</li> <li>• PC said it is not just Bracknell issue, there are a number of premises around the country. His understanding about the protocol is that residents should be informed.</li> <li>• Resident commented that it is not until it is open should they be informed.</li> <li>• TK said that he was not clear why it is people from outside the area who are housed there.</li> <li>• PC said that the reason is that one of the aspects of the rehabilitation is to get them away from family and friends that they are coming into contact with on a daily basis with.</li> <li>• TK felt that the Council from where they come from should be responsible for housing them.</li> <li>• CT wanted to impress the fact that ON goes around and sees them. They are under curfew and have to be in at a certain time</li> <li>• Resident asked if it is an offence to be indulging in drinking alcohol on the street.</li> <li>• ON &amp; PC said that it is not an offence in Bracknell, but it is in some places. Nottingham has a complete drinking ban from open cans in any open space. Will assist with dealing with ASB relating to alcohol.</li> <li>• Resident mentioned youngsters walking around drinking bottles of wine. ON said that we do seize alcohol from them. Resident also said empty cans just get thrown away. PC said that if they are under 18 you can seize it.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Open to public discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern was expressed that we do not take care of our trees, there are a number of different trees in Nightingale Crescent. Some of the dead trees need to be taken down. Vandals also target trees which need to be protected. Some of the pine trees are now well</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TK asked that he be given the details and TK &amp; SP will come round with a camera and will take photos and take it forward that way. We will take it into the NAGs.</li> <li>• SP mentioned the back of the shops, garage area, is there someone who can take responsibility to keep it clean, rubbish is now put out there.</li> <li>• TK said partly belongs to Bracknell Forest Homes and part Bracknell Borough Council, he has made a note and will include in the NAG.</li> <li>• Resident asked if there is continually a dialogue between the Councils. TK said it depended what it is, SP TK &amp; CT will go to Environmental Section in the Council and see who owns the piece of land.</li> <li>• Councillors present mentioned that they have quite a good relationship and do work together.</li> <li>• PC asked if rubbish near shop entrance, SP said no, PC said risk of environmental hazard, issues of material being combusted and set fire to building.</li> <li>• Taxis tend to park at the narrowest part of Nightingale Crescent, waiting for their next fare. Sheila said that if you take the plate number and phone it through to the Council they can deal with them.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b>Close</b> TK thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	