

Date: Wednesday, 05.12.2018, 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Venue: The Maxwell Room, The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley, RG5 4JZ

1. **Present:** Mary Bather (chair), Mike Evans (Vice-chair), PC Tracy Mills (TVP), Cllr Shahid Younis (WBC), Cllr Carl Doran (WBC), Cllr Tom Barker (WTC), Cllr Alison Swaddle (ETC), Cllr Sheena Matthews (ETC), David Provins (Friends of Woodford Park), Sam Chaher (University of Reading), Fiorella Wey (University of Reading), Mary Holmes (Chair – WTCMI), M Risby (WASP), Zofia Frazinski (WASP), Residents: Pam Hannington, Roy Hannington, Diane Drake, Brenda Cutler, Peter Wheat, Natasha Pearce, R Heather, J Layhe, A Scott, K Haggerty, M Millard, L Eggleton, R Maslin, C Lawley, C Lander, Ted Wingrove
Apologies from: Cllr K Baker (WTC/WBC), Cllr R Dolinski (WTC/WBC), Revd P Hobday (Earley St Peters Church), Cllr J Rance (ETC), Richard Still, Sgt Mark Smith (TVP), Sion Williams (ACER), Ben Graham, Ian Hills, Jacques Lherbier (WTCMI),

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting (19.09.18) / matters arising and update on actions:**

- **Town Centre Manager** has been updated on the outcome of the September meeting.
- **NHPT** – Chair updated Sgt Smith as to the main issues raised at the meeting. NHPT have patrolled the memorial garden and the rest of the park (and will continue to do so as part of their regular patrols) - no incidents of note. Not aware of any increased burglary activity in Reading Rd area at the time of the last meeting. Local information should be on TV alert. Important to encourage residents to report any incidents.
- **Cycling in the precinct – joint statement.** This has been prepared by the chair and agreed by Sgt Smith. Now with WTC and Town Centre Manager
- **Have your say** – Wednesday am, 24th October (during half term). TVP were also having a stand. Results:

Issue	No of people mentioning as a concern
Burglary	16
Anti-social behaviour	13
Speeding	11
Telephone fraud / internet scams	8
Theft	6
Litter	5
Dog fouling	5
Parking (incl. on footpaths)	4
Cycling in the precinct	2
Cycling on the pavement	2
Drugs	1
There are no problems	3

- **Funding** – chair submitted applications for £240 to Woodley TC and £40 to Earley TC. WTC has awarded the forum £240 for production of leaflets for those less able to use the internet. Chair and Vice-chair to attend WTC meeting to receive cheque on 11th December. Waiting to hear from ETC.
- **Publication / communication** – chair met WTC Communications Manager on 07.11.18. WTC to publish Forum meetings and events on the WTC website and WTC facebook pages and to include a link to Forum website on the WTC website. Other useful ideas came out of the meeting.
- **Email** – the forum now has its own email address – chair.wanecf@gmail.com
- **Second anti-burglary and anti-fraud event** – chair has spoken to Julie Susel (TVP) re a second event. TVP will organise another event similar to the one in May 2018 in the spring of 2020. For 2019 they plan an information café (aimed at the over 50's) and a car-meet (aimed at the younger generation). Dates for 2019 to be agreed by the beginning of the new year so that they can be published in the Woodley Herald in February.
ACTION: PC Mills to contact Julie Susel to discuss dates.
- **Community Speedwatch** – chair gave addition street names to Tim Woolford, who is liaising with the Woodley Independent Speedwatch and attended Woodley Speedwatch information event on 28.11.18

- **Website** –Forum website is now live although still a work in progress. See <http://wanecommunityforum.weebly.com> Thanks to Sam Chaher of the University of Reading for setting up the website. We now need a volunteer to manage the website, blog and eventually a Facebook Page.

3. Update from Neighbourhood Policing Team on recent reported criminal activity in the local area – the main issue was a rise in the number burglaries in the local area. The majority were when the houses were unoccupied. These burglaries were currently under investigation and local police team were patrolling specific areas at specific times. There was a detailed discussion on how to minimise the risk of burglary (leave a light on, ensure windows and doors were secure, install an alarm etc) and residents were reminded that the police would come to do a home security survey if requested. The need for victims of attempted burglary to report the attempt so that the local police were aware of criminal activity in the area was also highlighted. PC Mills expressed concern regarding the use of social media to report attempted crimes (rather than the 101 number) and reminded residents that not everything reported on social media was true and some reports did lead to scare-mongering. Residents reported issues with the 101 police number explaining that it could take 20 minutes or more before anyone answered. PC Mills acknowledged problems in delays in answering 101 calls which had been due to understaffing. However, additional staff had now been employed so the situation should improve in the new year. Concern was also registered about the amount of time it took for the police to attend an actual burglary in Woodley resulting in the house being left insecure overnight. It was agreed that feedback to victims was essential although it is difficult to give detailed feedback when there is an ongoing investigation. However victims should receive a form from TVP which they can use to indicate when and how they wish to receive feedback.

ACTIONS:

- Burglary to be added to the priorities as a result of the concern expressed by residents.
- PC Mills to report on progress in dealing with burglaries at the February meeting and also give an update on the burglary statistics for the area.
- Chair to ensure information regarding security of property (including leaving a light on) be passed on to residents via the ACER newsletter and Woodley Herald and the Forum and WTC websites.
- Response time to 101 calls and quality of feedback to be reviewed at the February meeting to see in the additional staffing had led to improvements.

4. Local policing priorities – It was agreed at the meeting that the local priorities for the coming months be:

1. Burglary 2. Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) 3.Speeding

- **Antisocial behaviour** – Fewer ASB incidents at this time of the year but local police continue to work with some young people and their families. Local police also visit local schools to talk about what constitutes ASB etc. It is hoped that the presence of Waingels students at future meetings could lead to meaningful discussions between young people and residents about what is perceived and what is actual ASB. Residents are encouraged to report any incidents to the police. PC Mills also asked residents to report any approaches from the local ‘beggar’ so that these could be logged and provide evidence when needed.
- **Speeding – Woodley ‘Independent Speedwatch’** – Cllr Tom Barker gave a very informative presentation on the WTC speedwatch project, explaining how the data-logger and camera worked. Streets reported to WTC as subject to speeding would be monitored with the data-logger for a week. If the resulting data showed that there were a significant number of cars travelling over 35mph then the camera would be deployed for a few hours at a time of day when the data indicated most cars would be speeding. The camera recorded make, model, colour and registration of the car, together with the time, location and speed. This information would be taken to TVP station and the drivers concerned would receive a warning letter explaining that if caught again they would be prosecuted. WTC now had a number of volunteers to train to use the data logger and camera but would like some more. Roads already on the list for monitoring include: Nightingale Road, Butts Hill Rd, Tippings Lane, Hurricane Way, Reading Rd, Coppice Road, Colemansmoor Lane, Colemansmoor Rd, Mohawk Way, Loddon Bridge Rd, Woodlands Ave.

- **Speeding – TVP Community Speedwatch** – Tim Woolford (TVP) is also running a community speedwatch for other parts of Wokingham, including N Earley. Volunteers are currently in the process of being trained to operate the equipment. Residents to send names of roads causing concern to the forum chair.

ACTIONS:

- Residents wishing to volunteer to contact Tom Barker (WTC) at rekrabmot@hotmail.com or the forum chair at chair.wanecf@gmail.com
- Residents to send names of streets they would like to be monitored to the forum chair at the above email address.

5. Communications

- **Website** – Chair thanked Sam Chaher who designed the website. Sam explained that the website was still a work in progress and asked that any suggestions be sent to him via the chair. Chair repeated appeal for a volunteer to update the website, manage the blog and eventually set up a Facebook page.

ACTION: Chair to contact WTC communications officer re publishing request for volunteer.

- **Reaching a wider audience** – Chair had met the head of 6th Form and communications officer at Waingels College to discuss how students could be involved. It was agreed that the students would design a logo for the forum as part of their work in Graphics and it is hoped that a representative of the student council would attend the February meeting. It was suggested that the forum ask the schools to give out information about the forum's activities with the aim of attracting more young families. Leaflets should also be put on the notice boards. It would be useful to get more neighbourhood watch co-ordinators to attend the meeting.

ACTIONS:

- Chair to contact Waingels communication officer in the new year to discuss progress with the logo and the possibility of attendees at the next meeting.
- Chair to continue to work on the leaflets and to contact WTC communications officer to discuss insertion of forum information in February Herald and the distribution of leaflets once printed.
- Chair to contact schools re dissemination of forum information and Diana Parker at New Neighbours re adding forum information to packs delivered to those moving into the area.
- Chair to investigate means of contacting NW co-ordinators.

- 6. Thinking ahead to 2019/20** – The chair announced that due to family commitments she would be standing down at the AGM in April although would continue to support the forum and work on the leaflets. Mike Evans is happy to continue as vice-chair but is unable to take on the role of chair. The forum would need a new chair for 2019/20 therefore. Vice-chair was pleased to see more residents at the meeting but stated that the forum now needs a small committee if it is to continue successfully. Up to now all tasks have been carried out by the chair or vice-chair but committee members are needed to help organise meetings, take minutes, chase actions, manage website, blog and (eventually) Facebook page, publicity (widening the audience) and liaising with other organisations.

ACTIONS: Chair will publicise need for a new chair and additional committee members but residents are asked to let the chair know if they feel that they can help in some way.

7. AOB

- The traffic lights on Butts Hill Road have now gone but the bridge will be closed again at nights up until the 20th December.
- Residents are reminded to ensure that house numbers and house names are visible from the road – this will help the emergency services find a specific address as quickly as possible.

8. Date and venue of next meetings – both at Oakwood Centre, 7.30pm

Wednesday, February 6th, 2019

Wednesday, 10th April, 2019 – Annual General Meeting

The forum thanks Woodley Town Council for the use of the Maxwell Hall at the Oakwood Centre for meetings