

Wednesday, 20th November, 2019, 7.00 pm

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

1. **Present:** Mary Bather (in the chair), Cllr M Shaw (ETC), M Holmes (Woodley TCMI) Residents: J Layhe, R Heather, R Maslin, C Lauder, B Graham, B Cutler, I Hills, N S Gill, M Millard, J Haslop,
Apologies: Jackie Rance (chair), Mike Evans (vice-chair), Cllr S Matthews (ETC), Cllr A Croy (WBC), Cllr C Doran (WBC), Z Frasiniski, J Lissaman, D Provins, B Fennelly (Woodley TC Manager), Cllr M Firmager, I & K Haggerty
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting – 23.10.19 / matters arising not on the agenda**
 - **Neighbourhood Watch / Thames Valley Alert** – Neighbourhood Watch had been discussed at the previous meeting and it was understood that Sgt Ashlee would come back to this meeting with some more information on how active local groups were at present. Sgt Ashlee was not present at the meeting however. **ACTION: to be pursued with NHPT at the next meeting. In the mean-time where at all possible residents should be encouraged to sign up to receive Thames Valley Alert emails at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk**
 - **Cycling in the precinct (and by the Oakwood Centre)**– There was further discussion on this issue which has been raised at a number of forum meetings in the past – please see appendix with more details. In the absence of any members of the NHPT, any WTC councillors or WBC councillors it was agreed that the issue should be raised at the next meeting of the Woodley TCMI on 29.01.20, 6pm, Oakwood Centre (at which WTC councillors would be present) and – depending on the response at that meeting – the issue should be taken to a Woodley TC meeting. **ACTION: Chair of forum and Chair of Woodley TCMI to liaise regarding raising the issue at the next TCMI meeting.**
3. **Update from Neighbourhood Policing Team on recent activity in the local area:** There were no representatives from the NHPT present but the chair reported that:
 - According to Thames Valley Alert there had been a number of burglaries in the area recently. Many in the late afternoon (school run time) / early evening. Residents were urged to ensure that they always secured the property, even when leaving for a short time, and to leave a light or use a timer.
 - TVP were organising a burglar and fraud Community Conference at the Crescent Centre, Earley on Wednesday 27th November, 12noon – 3.30pm. Woodley and N Earley residents were invited although it was agreed that some of the more vulnerable residents would find it difficult to get to a venue in Lower Earley. **ACTION: chair to discuss holding a similar event at the Oakwood Centre for Woodley residents with PC Susel.**
4. **Local policing priorities** – Unfortunately in the absence of the NHPT (and WTC in the case of speeding) it was not possible for the forum to receive an update on progress on any of the priorities. However, it was agreed by the forum that the priorities should remain the same but that cycling in the precinct should be included in with ASB: **Burglary, Antisocial Behaviour (ASB), Speeding ACTION: WTC & TVP to be asked to provide an update on effectiveness of Community Speedwatch & possibility of more flashing 30 signs.**
5. **Volunteers for taking minutes** – request for volunteers, particularly for taking the minutes, was repeated.
6. **WANE Facebook Page** – Jackie has set up a facebook page under the name of WANE Community Forum. Residents are asked to look, ‘like and start things off’.
7. **Woodley Christmas events – Carol Concert / Xmas Lights – Saturday, 23rd. Christmas Extravaganza – Sunday 1st.** Volunteers needed to hand out leaflets on the morning of Saturday, 23rd. Residents interested should meet M Bather at Waitrose at 10am.
8. **AOB**
 - MB had been in discussion with Cllr Bragg concerning on-going problems with the new ticket machines in the Woodley Carparks. D Bragg was in touch with WBC. Hopefully will improve.
 - CL complained about the condition of the local roads. It was explained that that was the responsibility of WBC and should be brought to the attention of his local WBC councillor.
9. **Date and venue of next meeting** – Wednesday, 12th February, 2020, 7pm, Oakwood Centre.

Cycling in Woodley Precinct – Summary

Background

This issue has been raised at the forum meetings a number of times and after complaints from some residents and the then Town Centre Manager I organised a survey over 2 weeks in May 2018. We counted cyclists during half term week and a normal school week.

We noted that:

1. There were many cyclists who did dismount when entering the precinct – thus obeying the TRO.
2. A significant number of cyclists did not dismount and these fell broadly into 2 groups:
 - a. teenagers (mainly boys) mainly at the end of the school day and in the holiday, some of whom were deliberately trying to annoy pedestrians
 - b. adults at each end of the day and in the lunch time, who were on their way to work or the shops and generally in a hurry

The results were discussed with Sgt Smith and local councillors and it was agreed that:

1. there was a TRO making cycling in Woodley precinct an offence
2. the police did not have the resources to police this all the time but would speak to any offenders when in the precinct on other business. However, they would not encourage pedestrians to intervene as they may be putting themselves at risk
3. the police were already working with the boys who had been making a nuisance on their cycles as part of the wider work on ASB
4. the police did work with school children on cycle safety / responsible cycling
5. CCTV cameras could help but the original ones were removed because the images produced were not of good enough quality and replacement with new ones would be prohibitively expensive.

The survey report and the minutes of the forum meetings at the time contain more details and can be provided on request.

The current situation:

1. The TRO remains in place and the local policing team still do not have the resources to enforce it;
2. There are still reports of cycling in the precinct but as far as I know there are no current figures to give an indication of the size of the problem / whether or not it has got worse;
3. It is reported that some of the 'offenders' are teens and are likely to be known to the local police as part of the work on ASB;
4. It is agreed that CCTV may act as a deterrent / provide evidence – something for consideration by WTC / WBC;
5. The next step should be the Woodley TCMI, WTC and the NHPT working together to consider solutions.

Mary Bather