

Wednesday, 17th July, 2019, 7.30 – 9.30 pm

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

1. **Present:** Mary Bather (in the chair), Mike Evans (Vice-chair), Cllr M Shaw (ETC), Cllr D Bragg (WTC), M Forrer (WTC), PS Mark Smith (TVP), PS Phil Ashley (TVP), D Provins (Friends of Woodford Park) Residents: J Layhe, R Heather, R Maslin, C Lauder, B Illsley, C Lawley, K Haggerty, I Haggerty
Apologies: Cllr S Matthews (ETC), Cllr R Dolinski (WBC), B Graham, Z Frasiniski, J Lissaman, I Hills.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting – 10.04.19 / matters arising not on the agenda**
 - **Public safety leaflets** – had been delivered to sheltered accommodation, GP surgeries, the library and CAB, churches and some local shops. M Bather had started door-to-door deliveries in roads where there were known to be a significant number of older / less-mobile residents and will be meeting with Diana Parker (New Neighbours) to organise inclusion of the leaflet in packs for new residents to Woodley.
 - **Neighbourhood Watch / Thames Valley Alert** – M Bather had contacted Karen Collins (TVP) as requested at the last meeting. Karen had replied:

As of 19 June, our system shows 2623 residents in Woodley and 954 in North Earley signed up to TV Alerts. The most recent population estimate we can find for Woodley is 35,470. Unfortunately, we cannot currently find an accurate estimate for North Earley. Our estimate is that there is approximately 11% of the population across the Bracknell & Wokingham Local Police Area currently signed up to TV Alerts.

There was more discussion on Neighbourhood Watch (NW) and to what extent it was still active. PS Smith explained that while it was still active in some areas the aim was to move to greater use of TV Alert to disseminate information. Meanwhile, there were NW training sessions in London and Birmingham advertised – any residents interested to contact M Bather for more information.
3. **Update from Neighbourhood Policing Team on recent activity in the local area** (not covered in item 4):
 - PS Phil Ashley will replace PS Mark Smith who retires on 1st August. No other staff changes.
 - National Drugs Intensification week had led to some arrests.
 - Scams – TV Alert had sent out information relating to car park scams (fake fines) and distraction theft (handbags from cars).
4. **Local policing priorities**
 - **Burglary** – there have been a number of burglaries recently both opportunist and targeted (Asian Jewellery). Police working on these. Reminder to residents to make property secure – 30% burglaries due to insecure properties e.g. open windows, doors etc.
 - **Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)** – Reported instances of ASB fallen in WBC as a whole and particularly in Woodley. However, there is often a rise during school holidays so ASB remains a priority. A number of instances of ASB teenage cyclists at the Saturday market have been reported. Clare Towse (PCSO), Cllr Dolinski and the town centre manager are to meet to discuss action plans to deal with this. There followed extensive discussion on the issue of cyclists in the precinct. Opinions as to the best way to solve this vary but it is generally agreed that:
 - i. There is a TRO in force making cycling in the precinct an offence but it is unlikely that the local police will enforce;
 - ii. Offenders include both younger people involved in other ASB offences and adults who seem unaware of or disregard the ‘no-cycling’ signs;
 - iii. The employment of wardens / security personnel by WTC would be too expensive;
 - iv. CCTV would be helpful as it could provide proof / evidence;
 - v. Cllr Bragg agreed to speak to WTC re repainting ‘no-cycling’ signs on the road, possible barriers and the purchase of a CCTV camera.
 - **Speeding – TVP Community Speedwatch** – update from Karen Collins:

We have a pool of Community Speedwatch volunteers who are now fully trained and others that are still coming through the recruitment process. There is one area who are up and running and I am happy to speak

to the volunteers and ask whether one (or more if required) would be willing to join the committee proposed by Woodley Town Centre. Please let me know if you would like me to do this and if there are any further details available.

PS Smith confirmed that the original response from volunteers had been good but that the vetting etc had taken time and some of the original volunteers had dropped out.

The forum should send names of streets needing monitoring to the Speedwatch Team and the team should report back on their findings. M Bather had sent in names of streets. PC Smith would ask the team to report back.

Peter Wheat is a trained local volunteer for TV Speedwatch and has offered to sit on the Woodley TC committee. M Bather has sent his details to Cllr Baker.

- **Speeding – WTC Independent Speedwatch** – update from Cllr Bragg. There were now 13 volunteers and 2 roads had been ‘monitored’. Actual percentage of cars speeding was very low, under 5% Individual drivers caught speeding on the WTC camera will be sent a warning letter. WTC camera cannot be used as evidence for a speeding fine as it is not a home office approved piece of equipment.

5. **Future of the forum** – Mary Bather stepped down as chair at the AGM in April. Mike Evans is willing to remain as vice-chair but is unable to take on the role of chair. To date there have been no nominations or volunteers for the role of chair. For the forum to continue to hold regular meetings (for which agendas are sent out, minutes taken, and actions agreed and followed up) there needs to be a permanent chair. If the forum is to do more than run regular meetings (i.e. take on particular projects, disseminate information more widely, promote the work of the forum, keep a website up to date) there needs to be a committee of 3 or 4 people willing to give some time to the administration of the forum.

In the absence of either a chair or other volunteers it was agreed to suspend the forum until a chair be found. In the mean-time the chair would contact some ‘would be’ councillors who had not been elected to see if they would be interested in the role.

6. **Any Other Business**

- M Bather reported residents’ concerns about the new ticket machines in the Woodley Carparks – confusion regarding ‘checking out’ (some residents thought this applied to everyone) and the need to ensure details of the times when parking charges applied were displayed clearly on **all the machines**. Cllr Bragg agreed to ensure that information regarding the new machines was disseminated widely.
- Mary Bather thanked PS Smith for his contributions to the forum and wished him a happy retirement.
- C Lawley thanked Mary Bather for her work as chair of the forum.
- Mike Evans reported that there was £108 in the bank. He further advised that if you have a vehicle with “keyless” entry facility, it is wise to keep both the main and spare keys in a metal enclosure to help prevent vehicles being stolen by illegal remote devices.

7. **Date and venue of next meeting** – to be decided once there is a new chair in place