

Amphill SNT Community Safety Forum

5 October 2009 7.30pm

Meeting Held at Millbrook Village Hall

The meeting was attended by 48 people consisting of representatives from Bedfordshire Police, Beds and Herts Fire Service, Aragon Housing and Central Bedfordshire Council. Town & Parish Councils and residents.

Introduced and chaired by Clophill 'My Shout' Team; Aran, Adam, Nicki and Jack.

Dave Rollings advised that there are now 4 fora and they have reviewed their effectiveness. The meeting was asked for their input into this review.

Community Safety Forum Update

Review of Progress against Priorities

Youth Update,

Nicola King gave an update on:

- **Ministry of Youth** – at the White Hart in Amphill. Runs every 2 months. Numbers increasing with 38 attending the August event. Next one on 14th October. Will be reviewed in December
- **Excellor8 Programme** - has run over the Holiday
- **Detached Work** – will be undertaken in the Willow Way area

Beat Manager Update: Paul Element – Bedfordshire Police

Paul reported that there will be a change in the way that crimes are reported, which mean that numbers may appear to rise sharply.

The last three months crime figures:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|
| Anti Social Behaviour | 92 | last year for the same period | 142 |
| Recorded Crime | 112 | | 104 |
| House Burglaries | 14 | | |
| Violent Crime | 28 | | |
| Criminal Damage | 45 | | 50 |

Two people have been arrested for incidents in Amphill

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Theft of motor vehicles | 2 | | 5 |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----|--|----|
| Theft from motor vehicles | 20 | | 19 |
|---------------------------|----|--|----|

There had been a spate of handbags stolen from vehicles. 10 had been stolen in July.

Speeding

- **Speed Cameras** - Ampthill SNT has a Speed Camera that they share with other SNT's, which they are now deploying throughout the area.
- **20 mph speed limit in Ampthill Town Centre** - The 20 miles per hour speed limit cannot be enforced, only the 30mph limit. There may be changes afoot at government level.
- **Overweight Lorries in Millbrook** - Police have twice attended Millbrook to target over weight Lorries going through the village, but no lorries were seen breaking the weight limit.
- **Willow Way** – Action is been undertaken, following the arrival of a family that is attracting undesirable elements. Linked to alcohol. Jane Regan and Nicola will be targeting the area.
- **Hole in the Wall 'Skimming' Gang** - Paul has targeted a hole in the wall gang using skimmers and they have been successful in targeting and arresting the perpetrators.
- **SID's** - SID's if council's wanted to buy them they can. Police have one that can be taken out to locations. This must be used with a Police Officer ion attendance.

Questions

- Clophill Town Council- SID's – feel that they are been obstructed by Central Beds Council in progressing their villages efforts to have a comprehensive transport management for the community.
- Millbrook Weight Limit – residents are surprised that the police had not caught any oversize vehicles. This includes an Executive Coach.

Ampthill Community Safety Group (John Plummer)

Went through the priorities

- Have had success Willow Way problems.
- Also been asked by Town Council to try to solve anti-social behaviour in the town Centre with round table mediation between publicans, residents and businesses.
- Parking continues to be a problem and correspondence is ongoing with Central Bedfordshire Council. Parking restrictions are to be introduced in Bedford Street, Park Hill and Swaffield Close.
- Starting to hold Surgeries, the next one is on Saturday 17th October in the entrance of Waitrose. Jane Reagan, Youth Officer Central Bedfordshire will be in attendance.
- A new bridge has been put in on an unsafe path between Ampthill & Maulden by Everett's Fields.

Questions

- Suggestions for the yellow line positioning in Ampthill have come forward from Central Beds Council and the input of the Ampthill Community Safety Forum would be welcomed.

- Comments on the recent power cuts – suggestions that more could be done in respect of what they should do. Suggestion that articles could go into community newsletters, with relevant telephone numbers.

Presentation – Shared Space (from Chris Yates)

Want to get the notion accepted. Presentations have been given to Ampthill Town Council, Revamp and Chamber of Trade.

- On moving to the town three years ago he thought that it would be a nice quiet town due to the 20mph speed limit through the Town Centre, however as this speed limit cannot be enforced it is not always observed.
- If it is accepted that the situation of speeding and inconsiderate driving is a problem then a solution should be sought.
- Shared space would remove all restrictions and open up the space for use by pedestrians and motorist's, the effect being that motorists take more care and slow down, all edges are blurred with no one user being given right of way over the other.
- The Highways Department would have to change their mindset as the current set up for motor vehicles has been in existence for one hundred years.
- The members of the Community Safety Group believe a shared space scheme would work in Ampthill and are looking for acceptance of the idea for this to go forward and are seeking support.

Questions

- Concerns expressed over the effect if adopted in Ampthill on Millbrook.
- Were there any other towns similar to Ampthill in terms of the high levels of traffic going through the town? Traffic movements have gone up from 9000 daily movements to 11,000 despite Ampthill Bypass.

Public Discussion

- **Events at Millbrook Test Track** – worry that more and more events are being staged, putting more pressure on the Millbrook Cross. The idea was put forward that some form of traffic management could be put in place on those days. Further discussions surrounded the junction from Ampthill on to the A507.
- **Neighbourhood Watch in Maulden** – new scheme. Wondered why only one Forum meeting had been held in Maulden. Venues are a problem in Maulden as they are booked up.
- **20mph Speed Limit** – signage not very obvious in Church Street & Dunstable Street.

- **Burglaries in Maulden** – there has been a number recent burglaries. Could more be done in warning residents and in making more visible deterrents?
- **Central Beds Highways** – could they be at invited to the next meeting

Top 3 Priorities Identified

- (1) Millbrook Junction and Ampthill Woburn Road Junction onto A507
- (2) Shared Space – further research
- (3) Maulden – greater police presence in view of recent burglaries

Date of Next Forum

February 2009 at Parkside Hall, Ampthill – 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm