

PUBLIC MEETING ON 12 JUNE 2010

HELD AT ST PAULS CHURCH HALL SMANNELL ROAD ANDOVER

Present Chairman – Councillor Len Gates
Sgt Andy Noble – Hampshire Police
WPC Sam Aymes – Hampshire Police
PCSO Becka Williams – Hampshire Police
PCSO Donna Needham – Hampshire Police
Residents from Trajan Walk, Vespasian Road and Hadrian Road

This meeting was organised in order that the residents of Hadrian Road, Vespasian Road, Tiberius Close and Trajan Walk, could have the opportunity to voice their experiences and concerns relating to vandalism and anti social behaviour in the above area.

Councillor Gates opened the meeting at 1700, introduced the Police and the New Town Councillor for Alamein Ward; Kevin Hughes.

The items left over from the previous meeting held on 10th April were discussed as follows;

It was expressed that very few problems have been experienced since the last meeting. A neighbour has spoken of some drug taking behind her house. The resident in question cleaned up the items, but has not informed the police. Another neighbour has seen a young boy with a BB gun, shooting at cats. Again, the police were not informed.

Sgt Noble stated that no person has been charged regarding the punctured tyres incident. This is unfortunately due to a lack of evidence.

No complaints were made regarding excessive noise or poor behaviour during weekend nights.

The subject of fencing part of the banking between Trajan Walk and the Newbury was again discussed. Cllr Gates said that he has spoken with the Council and that because this area is private land, the Council will not pay. It was again suggested that neighbours affected with this problem contribute towards planting prickly shrubs in the gaps where people pass. He will also speak to the trustees responsible for the land and the borough estates department to see if anything further can be done to make this area more secure.

Cllr Gates referred to the request for a notice board. The original idea of siting it by the bus stop near Florence Court was queried. Cllr Gates said that he would talk with Testway to see if another site could be identified. WPC Aymes cautioned that putting a notice board in the wrong place may attract unwanted attention and vandalism. Access to the notice board for the display of information was also queried. Cllr Hughes said that the Alamein Community Association in King Arthurs already have a notice board outside King Arthurs Hall and would be willing to care for and would like to have a board in the Roman Way area. Cllr Gates said that we will first need to identify a site for a notice board.

The meeting referred back to the subject of CCTV and Neighbourhood Watch. Two residents have knocked on every door in Trajan Walk and Hadrian Road. Some homes in Vespasian Road and Caesar Close were also targeted. Sadly only five residents expressed any interest in joining the

scheme and these were in Hadrian Road. Mike Jones who runs an existing scheme in Hadrian Road was in attendance and underlined the view that apathy was prevalent. The residents who have been knocking on doors have the house numbers of those interested in joining, will talk with Mike Jones about adding them to the existing scheme.

Cllr Gates said that any street lights that were defective should be reported. A resident from Trajan Walk was successful in getting a street light fixed by continually Emailing this address corporate.complaintsteam@hants.gov.uk By continually pestering them over three days, we got a result. This team must respond to your Email within two working days. Street light and highway defects can also be reported at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roads/online-facilities/all-forms.htm>

This covered the matters from the previous meeting. Cllr Gates then opened up the meeting for further concerns.

Residents from Trajan Walk explained that they have installed a CCTV system outside their house which complies with the legal restrictions regarding the siting of CCTV cameras. They stated that they have been told by a police officer that any recording made of any incidents cannot be used by the police. Sgt Noble replied that this information was incorrect and that the police will offer any such evidence to the court as necessary or appropriate and that it is always up to the discretion of the courts whether or not it is used. The residents explained that they have, in the past, suffered lots of aggravation of waste bins being tipped over and door glass and fencing being damaged. Sgt Noble re-iterated previous advice that all incidents should be reported to the police either via the 101 or 0845 0454545 telephone numbers.

Sgt Noble referred back to the incident where a resident found items of drug usage behind her house. He was emphatic that no attempt should be made to clear any such items. Immediately call the Council who will send out a specialist disposal team to deal with any items. Putting syringes in a bin for example may endanger the health of others. He also asked again that the police are informed.

Reference was made to an elderly lady who lives in Vespasian Road and is very worried about noisy residents who live opposite her house. She says that she feels intimidated by them. WPC Aymes stated that there is an organisation that tries to help the elderly and vulnerable. This organisation is "The Bobby Trust".

The subject of the recent cutbacks to the police forces of Britain by the Coalition Government was raised. The question was asked what impact these cuts will have on our policing. Sgt Noble replied that Hampshire Police are to receive £3 million less funding this year and that there may be further cuts in the future. He stated that at present, there was no change in front line policy and that the cuts are more likely to affect the "back office". Sgt Noble also took the opportunity to explain that from now until early September, greater emphasis is being put behind combating local anti social behaviour.

A resident asked if the current use of policing from cycles will cease with the onset of winter. Sgt Noble said that poor weather conditions will reduce the efficiency of police officers using cycles but other than that, they should continue to use them when and where practical.

Sgt Noble gave a short talk on crime prevention and what we as residents can do, to help ourselves.

Don't leave open doors and downstairs windows unattended – most theft is made by opportunist thieves who will only take seconds to walk in, grab something and run.

Bicycles, garden tools and outdoor toys are all attractive and can easily be sold off by a thief so keep them secure when not in use and make sure that the garden shed has a good lock.

A question has been raised regarding wheel clamping outside of private property. Sgt Noble explained that wheel clamping is allowed provided that the parking space affected MUST be owned by the householder, a proper and visible sign must be displayed and the person responsible for the clamping must be registered. Information was also given that the small car park within the shopping area opposite the hospital is receiving attention from a registered and legal clamber. Only park there if you are using one of the shops.

The next meeting will be held at 3pm on Saturday 4th September in St Pauls Church Hall; Smannell Road, when the effectiveness of the police, council and **our own** efforts to reduce bad behaviour can be judged