

RESIDENTS MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2010

HELD AT ST PAULS CHURCH HALL SMANNELL ROAD ANDOVER

Present: Chairman – TVBC Councillor Len Gates
Andover Town Councillor Barbara Carpenter
Andover Town Councillor Kevin Hughes
PC Peter Nelson
Residents from Vespasian Road, Hadrian Road, Caesar Close, Trajan Walk, Turin Court
Representatives of the Raglan Housing Association

The meeting was organised in order that the residents of Hadrian Road, Vespasian Road, Tiberius Close and Trajan Walk have the opportunity to voice their experiences and concerns relating to vandalism and acts of anti social behaviour in the area since the last meeting held on 12 June.

Copies of the previous meeting and an agenda for this meeting were distributed.

Councillor Gates opened the meeting at 1500 and introduced the Andover Town Councillors: Barbara Carpenter and Kevin Hughes. He also welcomed two attendees from the Raglan Housing Association.

Items outstanding from the meeting held on 12 June were discussed as follows:

Councillor Gates said that the TVBC will not fund fencing or plants on the banking between Trajan Walk and Newbury Road. Vic Pain (61 Trajan) stated that the neighbours along his particular part of Trajan have clubbed together to purchase and plant some young very prickly Hawthorn hedging which is planned to grow and fill the gaps opposite their homes. The cost was minimal and details can be obtained from Vic.

Councillor Gates stated that funding was now in place for the proposed community notice board. Siting is likely to be beside the bus stop adjacent to the underpass in Roman Way. The Alemein Residents Association will be responsible for its upkeep and will arrange for a key holder.

Mike Jones, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator has received the names of additional residents who are interested in NW. He requires more information packs and the police will arrange this.

This covered the outstanding matters from the previous meeting and Councillor Gates asked for comments regarding local roads, footpaths and lighting.

There is concern that many of the trees and bushes which are partially blocking or hanging dangerously low, across footpaths have not been attended to, despite repeatedly being reported to the Council. There are noticeable problems along Agricola Walk with bushes protruding onto the footpath and with low overhanging bushes. Councillor Gates explained that most of the roads and footpaths within the area come under the responsibility of Hampshire Highways. Only one HH person is assigned to inspect a very wide area of Hampshire and many of the foot paths are rarely inspected, if at all. HH rely on residents to report potholes, footpaths in need of repair and/or attention as well as defective lighting.

Councillor Gates said that problems can be reported direct to HH, TVBC or Town Councillors and to keep on reporting the problem if nothing seems to be done.

Councillor Gates also explained that some of the reported trees particularly beside the footpath alongside the church, are the subject of preservation orders and have to be inspected by the Council Tree Officer before any work can be undertaken. He will however follow up on previously reported incidents to try and move things on.

A comment was made about rocky paving slabs on one of the footpaths. Councillor Gates will look at the offending area to determine whether HH or Testway is responsible for maintenance of the offending path.

It was established that the motorised footpath cleaning machine comes under HH. They should cover all the local footpaths but may rarely sweep footpaths that require little or no attention for this service. Part of Trajan Walk needs sweeping as it is covered by fallout from the surrounding trees.

It was pointed out that the grass field that was once the Smannell Road school playing field has a great deal of rubbish strewn inside including bottles, bags, cans shopping trolleys and broken furniture. There are fears that children who climb over the fencing into the field may be injured by some of the rubbish. PC Nelson is going to see what can be done.

Matters involving the police were now discussed. A particular motor bike is causing a potential problem. It is noisy and seems to be speeding around various roads within the locale. The rider has been seen wearing a yellow helmet. The same bike, perhaps, is also going up and down the A343 dual carriageway between the Smannell Road roundabout and the Roman Road roundabout.

A quad bike with no number plate ridden by a male wearing a yellow helmet, rides along the footpaths between Roman Road and the footbridge across the A343.

PC Nelson will report these matters to the roads policing team.

PC Nelson spoke of the targets that the force is aiming to achieve to reduce personal violence by a concerted operation across the county. He was pleased to report that burglary was down by 56%.

Replying to his question, some residents expressed that in their view, anti social behaviour has decreased but other residents felt that there has been a surge following a fairly quiet period. A particular resident has been the subject of several calls to 101 and 999 because of rowdy, noisy and aggressive behaviour. This has now stopped. A fresh outbreak of young teenagers pushing over wheelie bins between the hours of 2130 and 2215 is now causing some annoyance.

PC Nelson will pass this information to our local beat team. He then gave us some examples of the often unseen work that the police do which result in crime prevention and detection. He also stated that elsewhere in Andover; there have been several instances of milk being stolen from front door steps. This is a criminal offence and if it happens to you, it should be reported to the police.

The question was raised whether it is better to ring 101 or 0845 0454545 to report a problem. PC Nelson explained that calls to 101 can be delayed if there are 999 incidents being dealt with by the response centre and that it was probably better to ring the 0845 number as this was answered by a different team.

In response to a question, PC Nelson informed us that fireworks should only be set off on 5th November and New Years Eve and on 5th, should finish by 2300.

Mike Jones (NW) asked if the NW Co-ordinators Meetings could be renewed. PC Nelson said that he would pass this to the appropriate person.

On a personal note, PC Nelson informed us that WPC Sam Aymes has given birth to a baby girl named Grace. We are delighted. A bunch of flowers with an appropriate card has already been deposited at the police station. The officer there will ensure that these will be delivered to Sam, today.

The next meetings are – Saturday 10th November at 1500 and Saturday 8th January 2011 at 1500. Both meetings will be held at St Pauls Church in Smannell Road.

The meeting closed at 1715.