

**West Swindon Cluster Forum**  
**11<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Nick Martin (Chair), Peter Greenhalgh, Mick Bray, Keith Williams, Steve Wakefield

Swindon Borough Council:

Bernie Brannan, Allyson Jordan, Martin Hambidge, Sarah Shearman, Lila Haracz, Chris Hunt, Pam Pixton, Pedro Ferrao, Kirsty Parsons

Police:

Adrian Burt, Tim Titchener, Jo Phelps

Residents:

Vicki Robinson, Paul Robinson, Adam Dyer, Master Dyer, Kevin Fisher, T Thompson, Chris Shepherd, Lesley Shepherd, D Feal, Mel Jones, J Miller, Ruth Kiddle, Dave Davidson, Jo Osorio, Alf Keeble, Roger Ogle, Andy Thanett, Roger Harris and 5 residents (no names given)

GreenSquare/Westlea Housing Association

Vic O'Brien, Phil Bowley, John Miller (Architect)

Apologies:

Mary Martin, Michael Dickinson, Garry Perkins

**1. Questions from the Floor**

- i) Is planning permission required for mobile masts, this specifically refers to Tewksbury Way by the footbridge connecting Westlea and Toothill.

Response (from Planning)

- This relates to a 'Telefonica O2 telecoms mast', which was granted "Prior Approval" by the Council in March 2009. 'Prior Approval' is slightly different to a Planning Consent, but is the legal requirement on mobile phone masts.
- The application was accompanied by a certificate to prove that the application meets the ICNIRP safety standards, and as such,

conforms to strict guidelines in relation to exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields.

- The 'Telefonica O2' telecoms mast application was subject to public consultation, prior notification by means of site notices and adverts in local press, including neighbour notification. No objections were received to the application at the time.
  - A further "Prior Approval" application (Ref S/TC/09/2309) at this site has since been submitted. This is a current application and proposes to upgrade the installation to enable it to support both O2 and Vodafone. The height of the mast would remain unchanged at 15m with this upgrade.
  - The current application is also accompanied by an ICNIRP safety certificate.
  - Kimberly Walter (466294) is the case officer on this application, which must be determined by 16th February. Representations may be made to Kimberly quoting ref (S/TC/09/2309).
- ii) West Swindon Forum Website – The meeting recorded its appreciation and thanks to Geoff Reid for developing the web forum. Residents are encouraged to use the forum, which is easy to use and an excellent way to have your say, find local information, and provides useful links to other sites. Visit [www.westswindonforum.org](http://www.westswindonforum.org).
- iii) A question was raised about the number of grit bins in the area and how these are replenished with grit. A related question was asked on the policy for gritting paths and pavements.

#### Response (StreetSmart)

- Replenishment of grit bins is by ringing the StreetSmart number on 445501.
  - The Council does not have any grit bins available and are unable to obtain any at the moment and we been inundated with requests. We will review all of these once this extreme weather has passed. We normally situate bins where the public can easily use them in hilly areas.
  - Whenever we have the resource available, we will grit footpaths outside local shops, bus stops, town centre, and certain high usage footpaths around town. However, our priority has to be keeping the main road network open. Last week we had additional resource available to us for a few days as other street services were unable to operate as normal so carried out hand gritting on high priority side roads and paths.
- iv) Public Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010 – Notification was given of the public meeting to discuss proposed development of 3000 houses on green fields next to the River Ray. The meeting will be held in the Woodlands Edge Public House, Peatmoor Village Centre, and an information display will be available from 6.00 PM with the meeting starting at 7.00 PM.

## **2. Police – Setting West Swindon Priorities and Update on Consultation**

PC Tim Titchener gave an update on Neighbourhood Policing Teams and consultation in the community. His report is attached to these minutes (**appendix 1**).

The policing priorities were agreed as follows:

Following discussion at the meeting the priorities were changed and agreed as:  
West Swindon North – Ramleaze, Shaw, Peatmoor and Westlea

- House, shed and garage burglaries
- Criminal damage (graffiti and vandalism)
- Violent crime and ASB – Shaw Village Centre

West Swindon South – Toothill, Freshbrook and Grange Park

- House, shed and garage burglaries
- Criminal damage (graffiti and vandalism)
- Drug dealing and usage

PC Jo Phelps pointed out that residents can help the police and themselves by registering personal property on the Immobilise website ([www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)).

Benefits of registration include: it helps identify who owns lost or stolen property, simplifies insurance claims, and police reports with certification of ownership and is all provided free at ([www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)).

PC Tim Titchener reminded the meeting that Police Surgeries are held at Toothill Church every second Monday of the month at 10.00 – 13.00 and at Freshbrook Church on the second Wednesday of the month at 10.00 – 13.00. Both meetings are subject to there being no Police emergencies at that time.

PC Jo Phelps will bring to the next Cluster Forum meeting (8<sup>th</sup> March 2010) a selection of personal protection/anti-crime items that residents may find useful.

## **3. Development of the Former Westlea Police Station Site**

Vic O'Brien (GreenSquare/Westlea Housing Association) and John Miller (Architect) showed plans and explained the proposed layout for this development. The development consists of 35 houses, 15 flats, and a Women's refuge, which consists of 15 flats and will be staffed 24 hours. 20% of the dwellings will be offered for intermediate housing for key workers, such as Police, Fire and Health workers. It is due to go to Planning Committee in February, and if successful, contracts in place in March, start on site June, and completion June 2011. Further information from [www.westlea.co.uk](http://www.westlea.co.uk).

## **4. Wheely Fun Project**

Kirsty Parsons gave an overview of this new play project for 6 to 14 year olds. There will be open access for children, and the project will be run Council-wide,

including rural areas, all year round, and out of school hours. The project is currently consulting on the design of the scheme and views can be given by contacting the Play Service on 604888 or at [www.wheelyfun@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:www.wheelyfun@swindon.gov.uk).

The meeting suggested Saltway field and/or the Holbeins as areas worth considering and providing a framework and assistance for children's play will be useful in these areas. It was also suggested that the project could work with the Playbuilder projects (7 play sites in West Swindon) to help 'bed-in' the new play sites.

## **5. Allotments**

Martin Hambidge presented a report on the provision of allotments in West Swindon. There are currently no allotments sites in West Swindon. A full report is attached to these minutes (**appendix 2**). Any suggestions for potential allotment sites, including community gardens, can be emailed to [allotmentenquiry@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:allotmentenquiry@swindon.gov.uk).

## **6. Organising an Open Community Event**

A working group of residents and officers will be formed to discuss organising an open event in West Swindon in the Spring. Proposals will be brought to the next forum meeting. Resident volunteers are Chris Shepherd, Ruth Kiddle, and Mel Jones. Any other interested residents should contact Bernie Brannan at [bbrannan@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:bbrannan@swindon.gov.uk).

**Date of next meeting – Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 7.30 PM at the West Swindon Library.**

WILTSHIRE POLICE

West Swindon  
Neighbourhood Policing Teams

Serving the communities of Ramleaze and Nine Elms, Shaw and Eastleaze, Sparcells and Peatmoor, Westlea, Toothill, Freshbrook and Grange Park

1. INTRODUCTION TO NPTs

Neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) work with local people to tackle local crimes and anti-social behaviour.

Head of West Sector: Inspector Adrian Burt.  
Sergeant: David Flynn

There are six officers in the West Swindon NPTs:

- West Swindon North - Ramleaze, Shaw, Peatmoor and Westlea
  - PC Jo Phelps (beat manager)
  - PCSO Richard Lan
  - PCSO Mandie Baker
  
- West Swindon South - Toothill, Freshbrook and Grange Park
  - PC Tim Titchener (beat manager)
  - PCSO Amanda Luker
  - PCSO Tristan Winter

Priorities are set via consultation with people in these communities.

Recent consultation with people in West Swindon indicates that the three crime groups that cause most concern are:

- house and shed/garage burglaries
- criminal damage (graffiti and vandalism)
- drug dealing and usage

2. CRIME DATA

In 2009 and 2010, we have made good progress tackling crime and anti-social behaviour:

- Criminal damage:  
West Swindon North: down 12 crimes on last year  
West Swindon South: down 69 crimes on last year

- Dwelling burglary:  
West Swindon North: down 10 crimes on last year  
West Swindon South: down 16 crimes on last year
- Robbery:  
West Swindon North: down four crimes on last year  
West Swindon South: down six crimes on last year
- Serious acquisitive crime (thefts etc):  
West Swindon North: down one crime on last year  
West Swindon South: down 29 crimes on last year
- Vehicle crime:  
West Swindon North: up 13 crimes on last year  
West Swindon South: down seven crimes on last year
- Violent crime:  
West Swindon North: down 25 crimes on last year  
West Swindon South: down 19 crimes on last year

Totals:

West Swindon North: down 39 crimes on last year  
West Swindon South: down 146 crimes on last year.

### 3. PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Working together with our partners in Swindon Borough Council (in the departments of Community Safety, Housing, Youth Offending and Environmental Services) and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs such as Knightstone, Sanctuary, James Butcher, Bromford and Guinness Trust), we will tackle these priorities and problems and report back to you on the progress that we are making

West Swindon NPTs meet our partner agencies and registered social landlords every two weeks to discuss long and short-term problems such as:

- Prolific and persistent offenders – long and short-term management of offenders to prevent crime in our communities.
- Persistent young offenders – diverting teenagers from crime and anti-social behaviour by engaging them with Early Interventions (for young teenagers) and Youth Offending Teams (for older teenagers).
- Administer, arrange, and discuss the evidence for Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and injunctions, dispersal orders and crack house closures for local offenders.
- Using Restorative Justice techniques (the only two NPTs trained to do this) to settle long and bitter neighbourhood disputes that affect how people live their

lives in our communities. This has been successful in 12 such incidents to date.

- Eviction of persons and families who have caused serious crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities.

#### 4. TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

People in our communities report incidents of anti-social behaviour to the police because they want us to stop the anti-social acts quickly and to prevent repetition of it.

The goals of our intervention is to

- Protect victims, witnesses and our communities
- Enable the perpetrator to recognise the consequences of their behaviour
- Make sure that the perpetrator has access to support to help change their behaviour
- Put in place measures to prevent repetition

It is important to ensure that the appropriate intervention is used at the right time. The measure of success is the community's view on whether the ASB has been stopped.

Most people have an idea of what is an acceptable standard of behaviour and if these standards are to be meaningful then infringements and breaches of these standards need to be challenged and dealt with.

The key is the enforcement of these standards. Some of the most effective interventions are those that engage the individual and lead them to change their own behaviours.

It is very important for the NPT to inform victims, witnesses and the community of the action that we have taken to tackle ASB. People who feel confident that ASB is being tackled will feel safer to go about their daily lives without fear. People in our communities who are updated about action taken are more likely to continue to monitor and report ASB in their streets.

#### 5. PRO-ACTIVE INITIATIVES

- In December 2009, we executed two drugs warrants in Toothill that resulted in 5 arrests for handling stolen goods and 1 arrest for possession of cannabis resin with intent to supply (worth £300). A Notice of Intention to Secure Possession was served on two persons residing in a Swindon Borough Council dwelling due to a breach of their tenancy.
- A Safe and Clean Day in Freshbrook on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 resulted in the recovery of a stolen motor cycle, 68 graffiti tags removed, 26 bags of litter collected, two fly-tipped trolleys and two tyres recovered. Consultation with the community at Freshbrook was also completed.

- The intergenerational project (designed to increase community cohesion) in the Autumn, 2009 was successful in bringing a cross section of young and old people together in West Swindon to understand and appreciate each other better.

## Appendix 2

Report Title: Provision of Allotments in West Swindon

Produced By: Martin Hambidge, Parks & Green Spaces Manager  
[mhambidge@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:mhambidge@swindon.gov.uk) or (01793) 463285.

Date of Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010

<b>Purpose:</b>
To inform Members of the West Swindon Panel on the current situation with regard to the level of allotment provision available to the residents of West Swindon.
<b>Background:</b>
<p>There are currently around 1,200 plots on 25 allotment sites provided within the non-parished areas of the Borough.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the provision of new allotment sites was not considered as part of the planning and development of West Swindon. However, the main sites that are located closest to the West Swindon area are at Blagrove (31 plots), Akers Way (45 plots), Rushey Platt (59 plots), Westcott Recreation Ground (66 plots) and Rodbourne Farm (21 plots).</p> <p>Currently there are around 22 residents from West Swindon on the waiting lists for the above sites although demand across Swindon and in the adjacent Parish Council areas remains high.</p> <p>As part of the allotment refurbishment project, there are plans to provide additional plots at Akers Way (20 plots), Crowdys Hill (40 plots), Banwell Avenue (50 plots), Ventnor Close (not confirmed) over the next 2 years. There are also plans to provide some new plots as part of the Wichelstowe development.</p> <p>Officers have been seeking potential new sites in the West Swindon area but have so far not identified any to date although we will continue to seek suitable sites until the end of the refurbishment project in March 2011.</p> <p>The criteria for new sites are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sufficient land to provide between 25 and 50 half plots (7,500 sq.m. or around the size of a football pitch)</li><li>• Good vehicle access (from a road, not along footpaths / cycle tracks)</li><li>• Access to a nearby mains water supply</li><li>• Not subject to flooding</li><li>• Must be on relatively flat and open ground with suitable soil for cultivating vegetables</li><li>• Minimal impact on local residents (especially visual &amp; nuisance)</li><li>• Planning &amp; land designation / covenants (loss of public open space)</li><li>• Easily reinstated to open space should demand falls in the future</li></ul> <p>Any suggestions for potential allotment sites that meet the above criteria can be emailed to <a href="mailto:allotmentenquiry@Swindon.gov.uk">allotmentenquiry@Swindon.gov.uk</a>.</p>