

PRESENT: Councillors: T Pomroy (Chair), S Sims (Vice-Chair), T Blake,
D Daniels, B A Freeeguard, M Gaffey, C Hewlett, J Hutchinson, R Hutchinson,
C Jenkins, A Monk, A Tink,
Brian Smith - Southern Brooks Community Partnership
Sgt Steve Ives – Filton Neighbourhood Policing Team
Lesley Reuben – Town Clerk
15 Members of the Public

APOLOGIES: Cllrs: None

29. MINUTES: of the Annual Assembly held Tuesday 27th May 2008 were approved as an accurate record.

30. PRESENTATION FROM SOUTHERN BROOKS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP:

Brian Smith from the Southern Brooks Community Partnership was introduced by the Chair and invited to give a short presentation on the work of the partnership. Brian opened his presentation by confirming that the scheme had been in existence for 21 years and is community led. Its workload is set by a management committee who meet quarterly. The scheme had been founded on the principle of community development. The definition of community development being ‘to work with local people to find solutions to local problems’. Brian advised that the main priorities of the partnership are children and young people, supporting families, strengthening communities and supporting elderly people. However, these priorities are reviewed on an annual basis.

Brian also spoke about the current work of the Filton Community Development project. This included the Viewpoint Action Group, based at Church View flats, the Conygre festival, a very successful local event and ‘Silver Surfers’ a scheme for older people wanting to learn how to use the Internet.

Funding for the partnership is provided in a number of ways, including funding from local Parish and Town Councils, contracts to deliver services and funding from charitable trusts. Funding for the Filton Community Development project is provided by South Gloucestershire Council but there is no contribution to core costs.

In response to a question from a Councillor regarding work with young people, Brian gave details on a future project called ‘Dream Scheme’ where young people would be able to accrue points for work carried out in the community. These points would then be able to be traded in for trips etc.

Brian summarised his presentation by stating that “Community Development is about building active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect. It’s about changing power structures to remove the barriers that prevent people participating in issues that affect their lives”

31. PRESENTATION FROM FILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM:

Sergeant Steve Ives opened his presentation by explaining the history behind the Neighbourhood Policing Scheme. He confirmed that it had been developed by National Government through consultation. The main aim of the scheme is to provide easy access to the police for the public and to ensure that the police are working on issues that are important to the community.

Sgt Ives confirmed that he had been based at Filton for just over a year and had a team of 27 people. In order to help promote their accessibility, the team were liaising with the local

community and statutory bodies by attending meetings, carrying out environmental visual audits and generally being out and about meeting people within the Filton area.

The statistics for burglaries, thefts from motor vehicles and thefts of motor vehicles in the Filton area had all shown a reduction since last year which was encouraging news. Sgt Ives advised that it was important to put that message across. It was also reported that Cheryl Drewitt, one of the Filton Neighbourhood Policing team had just been voted South Gloucestershire PCSO of the year. A number of Councillors felt that PCSO Drewitt was a very worthy winner of the award and asked for their congratulations to be recorded in the minutes.

Sgt Ives finished his presentation by confirming that the Filton team needed the continued co-operation of the local community i.e. keeping them informed of what is going on in the area and who is committing the crimes. The Chair thanked Brian for his presentation and questions were invited from the floor.

a) Adopted Rear Access Lanes: In response to a question from a member of the public, Sgt Ives confirmed that the local policing team are generally in favour of gating private lanes as a way of helping to reduce crime. However residents were warned that when public rights of way are involved the situation becomes a lot more complicated. It was noted that there are funds available to help with gating schemes and residents were advised to contact Sgt Ives after the meeting for further information.

b) Play Area at Elm Park: Residents complained about the anti-social behaviour from gangs of youths who are using the Play Area at Elm Park on Friday and Saturday nights and asked whether there could be more of a police presence at Elm Park on those evenings. Sgt Ives confirmed that it is a recognised 'hot spot' and encouraged residents to report any incidents by contacting 0845 456 7000 or Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111. He confirmed that the information collected on reported incidents is used to ensure that the policing team are used in the most effective way. It was also noted that the Council are able to monitor that particular area through CCTV and agreed to provide the police with any information that may be of help.

c) Pubwatch Scheme: Sgt Ives confirmed that the scheme had not worked as well as planned mainly because the scheme had encompassed too large an area. Future improvements for the scheme included splitting the district into smaller areas.

32. FILTON TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9: The Chair presented the Council's draft annual report to the Assembly and confirmed that it is a work in progress.

33. PUBLIC FORUM ON TOWN COUNCIL ISSUES:

a) Fieldworks at Elm Park – A local resident asked whether there was any further progress to report on the fieldworks. The Chair confirmed that the application had been approved by the planning department at South Gloucestershire Council. It was also confirmed that Filton Town Council had set up a review group to carry out a final check on the details of the application.

b) Third Avenue Lane Gating: A resident reiterated his request to the Council to seal off of the lane leading to the Millennium Green at the rear of Third Avenue. The Chair advised that the Council had taken a unanimous decision to seek legal advice on the matter and were not in a position to respond until that advice had been received.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm