

Crowthorne Community Neighbourhood Action Group (CCNAG) notes

Meeting Thursday, 17 June 2021 at 7:30 pm held virtually via MS Teams

Attendee	Organisation
Chippy McCleod	Crowthorne Rugby Club
Simon Butterworth	CPC
Colin Philpott	Pineridge residents' association
John Middlemist	Pineridge resident
Janet Rogers	WWPC
Carole Doran	CVAG
Debbie Preedy	WBC
Alison O'Meara	BFC
Angus Ross	WBC
Ann Marie Kennedy	TVP
Barry Bailey	Churches Together in Crowthorne
Louise Truscott	Hope Zone
Mike Gower	Sandhurst Youth worker
Georgie Morris	C.R.O.W
Pauline Jordan	WWPC
Penny Hunt	Secretary Copenhagen Walk residents' assoc.
Sharon Cripps	BFC Library services
Simon Ingle	WBC Community Engagement Officer
Stuart Matthews	Edgbarrow School
Katy Hughes	WWPC
Mel Saville	CPC
Nathan Paulden	Buckler's Park Resident – Stakeholder Group

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Cllr Plume (WWPC Chairman)
Cllr Mr McKenzie-Boyle (CPC)
Cllr Mrs McKenzie-Boyle (CPC)
Cllr Bob Wade (CPC Chairman)
Vicki Kurlus (BFC Community Safety Officer)
Cllr Heliar-Symons (WBC)
Thames Valley police (Wokingham PCSO Neighbourhood team)

2. Election of chairman and vice chairman for the CCNAG

There were no nominations or elections for the chair or vice chair of the group. It was decided by those present that these posts could be appointed into at the next meeting.

Cllr Simon Butterworth was elected as the chairman of the meeting.

3. Agreement and adoption of Terms of Reference for the CCNAG

Draft terms of reference for the group had been pre-circulated.

All present agreed that the draft terms of reference should be adopted, subject to the caveat that they should be reviewed after one year.

4. Frequency of meetings

It was unanimously agreed that the group should aim to meet quarterly.

5. Location of meetings

It was unanimously agreed that three meetings should be held at alternating venues hosted by CPC and WWPC and there should be one 'travelling roadshow' per year.

6. Ways of working

A discussion took place concerning whether there should be a Neighbourhood Forum which met to identify concerns to raise to the CCNAG who should determine the priorities and undertake follow-up actions. Those present did not think that this way of working was suitable. All present preferred to have a straightforward CCNAG which discussed and followed up actions.

It was felt that a shared mailbox which was monitored by the two parish clerks (WWPC and CPC) would be an effective way to raise concerns and identify priorities to bring forward to the CCNAG meetings for action. This would act as a 'triage service'.

The public should be reminded that the shared mailbox is not a reporting method for antisocial behaviour, criminal activity etc. These matters should still be reported via the correct reporting channels. An auto reply could be generated on the shared mailbox which could act as a signposting service for people raising concerns, directing them to the most appropriate avenues for help.

Action: Parish Clerks to arrange for a shared mailbox to be set up for the use of CCNAG and for the content of the auto generated response.

7. Agreement of standing items for agenda

Those present liked the idea of a guest speaker being invited to meetings to talk about initiatives in the community. If they could not attend and speak, then a statement or report which was pre-prepared and circulated would be beneficial.

A quarterly report from the Bracknell and Wokingham TVP Neighbourhood Teams for Crowthorne would be very helpful.

It was also agreed that a quarterly report from Bracknell and Wokingham borough representatives on matters relevant to the CCNAG would also be helpful.

8. Concerns raised by the public recently for consideration : –

a) Antisocial behaviour

Both parish councils have experienced pockets of antisocial behaviour, particularly over the summer period last year, which has re-emerged again recently. Both parishes are keen to ensure that the groups concerned are not simply moved on from one open space to another, crossing the borough and parish boundaries, but that the root cause of the antisocial behaviour is tackled.

b) Youth activities

Both Reading football club (Kix) and Crowthorne Rugby Club (CRC) have offered to provide youth activities.

CRC reported that they have also experienced antisocial behaviour on their land. They have found that by speaking to the youths, they do engage well and tend to move on. CRC also reported that in their view drugs and alcohol is an issue with the youths congregating on their land. They have spoken to the groups requesting that they refrain from damaging the pitches. CRC is very happy for the club land to be used for youth activities.

PCSO Anne-Marie Kennedy reported that a majority of the youths who are behaving in an antisocial manner in the parks are under the influence of alcohol or cannabis.

TVP have embarked on conversations with the CPC clerk with a view to running a workshop/early intervention for youths and families where cannabis use is an issue and to combat knife crime. The planning for the workshop is in the early stages call, however, the Parish Council is likely to agree to facilitate the workshop.

Mike Gower from Sandhurst use reported that he makes two visits a week to the parks in Crowthorne.

c) Littering and anti-litter strategies

Georgie Morris from CROW reported that lots of people had volunteered to undertake litter picking. Great work is underway to secure 'litter free' status for Crowthorne.

The public are encouraged to report any letter they find in Crowthorne on an app called Littergram. The litter pickers can then target their litter picks on the areas where there are reports of litter.

A community volunteer, namely Sean Laurie, had been instrumental in encouraging people to undertake litter picks which have received lots of coverage on social media. Unfortunately, he has some family difficulties which he is dealing with at present.

CPC and WWPC reported that they had had success with D of E volunteers from Edgbarrow School and the Girlguides carrying out regular litter picks.

CPC has also recently awarded grant funding to Edgbarrow School for assisting the school in enabling a whole year group to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. A large element of the scheme requires the participant to carry out a certain number of volunteering hours in the community. It is hoped that some of the pupils will opt to undertake environmental tasks such as litter picking to improve their local community.

Mr Matthews confirmed that the school will be looking to place a large number of pupils into the volunteer schemes in the community and will be looking for a list of opportunities for the pupils to participate in.

The Bracknell Forest 'Take Pride' scheme for litter picking is currently closed to new volunteers.

Wokingham Borough run a similar volunteering scheme for people to 'Adopt a Street' and litter pick in their neighbourhood.

It was queried whether contact could be made with the Bracknell Forest Council Youth parliament about their potential involvement in litter picking, if there is an ongoing need and insufficient resources in the community for litter picking.

d) Fly tipping

The police are able to prosecute fly tipping offences where there is robust evidence such as CCTV. The Borough Councils work with the police on the prosecution of fly tipping.

Some local councils such as Warfield have invested in CCTV cameras to assist in capturing footage to aid prosecutions.

CCNAG expressed the view that it would help if news of successful fly tipping prosecutions could be shared widely on social and print media to act as a deterrent. The group asked if the Borough Councils could ensure that any communications confirming successful prosecutions are shared with local media e.g. Ollie Sirrell from the Bracknell news.

CRC were concerned about what they perceived to be a recent fly tip of tyres at the cycle racks at the CRC/Broadmoor Meadows SANG car park. CPC's Clerk confirmed that the tyres had not been fly tipped. They had been gathered as part of a litter pick by a private individual and then left in a central location at the rugby club for ease of collection by Bracknell Forest Council. The clerk has contacted BFC to arrange collection and understands that CROW and CRC have also made their own reports.

e) Parking

CPC reported that they had had complaints about parking at the junction of Wellington Road and the High Street, where vehicles park on the pavement whilst their owners visit the barbers and other nearby businesses. PCSO Kennedy stated that unfortunately due to resourcing TVP can only follow up dangerous parking. All other complaints about parking need reporting to the traffic wardens at the borough for their attention and action.

CPC reported that a consultation and scheme for no waiting/parking restrictions in the vicinity of Buckler's Park on the Old Wokingham Road, Ellis Road and Old Sawmill Lane had been received from BFC and would be shared with WWPC. This area has been subject to many complaints by residents so it is anticipated the scheme will be well received.

f) Speeding

Various complaints about perceived speeding issues in the village are received from time to time.

There have been recent speed traps set up in Duke's ride and Waterloo Road. The CCNAG queried if the speed traps could be undertaken at night as this is when the speeding issue is most apparent. Due to health and safety issues the police confirmed that the mobile speed traps are only undertaken during the daytime.

g) Noisy exhausts

PCSO Anne-Marie Kennedy confirmed that the police are able to issue section 59 notices to a person and a vehicle provided that they see the car with the noisy exhaust themselves.

Any footage the public capture of car or motorbikes being used with noisy exhausts is helpful to the police in gathering 'intelligence', however, and can be submitted via the Crowthorne neighbourhood policing email address which is available on both the CPC and WWPC website.

Some members of the CCNAG reported that there are particular issues with noisy vehicles on Tuesday evenings after a club meeting at pinewood.

PCSO Kayleigh Matthews was setting up a speed watch group in order to train volunteers to use speed detection equipment from which notices could be issued warning residents that they had been caught speeding. The scheme was suspended during the Covid pandemic but is expected to re-launch at some point.

A CCNAG member asked for confirmation of whether a PSPO (public space protection order) had been obtained at Buckler's Park. Alison O'Meara from Bracknell Forest Council stated that was not the case. The only PSPO in the entire Bracknell Forest area is in Bracknell town centre at the Lexicon.

9. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The group agreed that Neighbourhood Watch schemes should really be set up and run at very local level within the neighbourhoods where people live.

Both parish clerks were asked to upload posts to social media to encourage residents to set up and participate in Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

TVP has an app which does provide very local level alerts. Residents should be encouraged to register their details on the app so that they receive alerts which are relevant to their area.

10. Neighbourhood Police Team Update

The PCSO's for Crowthorne (both Bracknell and Wokingham teams) are requested to provide updates to the CCNAG at its next meeting.

11. Agenda items for next meeting

Both Bracknell and Wokingham police and WBC and BFC borough representatives are invited to provide updates relevant to Crowthorne at the next CCNAG meeting.

12. Next meeting date

The group agreed that the next meeting should take place in approximately three months' time, a date to be established by the CPC and WWPC Clerks and circulated.

The meeting ended at 8:38 pm.