

Crowthorne Community Neighbourhood Action Group (CCNAG) notes

Meeting Thursday, 16 September 2021 at 7:30 pm at the Morgan Centre

Attendee	Organisation
Mel Saville	CPC
Richard Price	CPC
Carole Doran	CVAG
Chippy McCleod	Crowthorne Rugby Club
Patrick Kelleher	Pineridge residents' association
Colin Philpott	Pineridge residents' association
Ann Marie Kennedy	TVP
Mike Gower	Sandhurst Youth worker
Barry Bailey	Churches Together in Crowthorne
Katy Hughes	WWPC
Aaron Plume	WWPC
Nicholas Martin	WWPC
Anita Weare	Pineridge residents' association
Christopher Smith	Pineridge residents' association
Simon Butterworth	CPC

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Bob Wade
Cllrs Bruce and Tina Mc Kenzie-Boyle
Cllr Simon Sever
Cllr Janet Rogers
Alison O'Meara - BFC
Louise Truscott – Hopezone
Penny Hunt – Copenhagen Walk Residents' Group
Anita Taylor – Girlguiding
Wokingham Police Neighbourhood Team
Cllr Angus Ross
Vicky Kurlus - BFC
Cllr Pauline Jordan

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 Aaron Plume was elected as the chairman of the meeting.

3. Approval of minutes of 17 June 2021 meeting

Minutes of the meeting were proposed by Cllr Simon Butterworth, seconded by Mr Chippy McCleod and all those present voted to accept the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 17 June 2021 meeting

Melanie Saville, CPC Clerk circulated a written report from Cllr Mrs McKenzie-Boyle from a meeting held the previous evening with the BFC Advisory council and Chief Constable, with matters pertinent to the issues raised at the June CCNAG meeting.

1. Policing

The below are the questions raised at the BFC Advisory Council meeting last night (15 September 2021) with Chief Constable and the Superintendent. Comments from Cllr Mrs McKenzie-Boyle are in italics

I challenged the PCC Matt Barber who was also in attendance and who gave a presentation about what he has been doing on what he will be focusing on.

Apparently 'strong local policing', and said we have the 'highest number of police officers ever'.

So I said I am sure the PCC will be interested in the questions I am about to raise with Chief constable as both are **non**-contributory factors to strong local policing whether or not we have a the highest number of police officers – and where are they?

NAG

The PCSOs have been told should they attend this community forum it will be on their own time. They will not be paid while attending.

We have no police presence in Crowthorne's community.

Apparently, this meeting was arranged on a rest day for the PCSO. I was told that it might be better if there were times that could be more convenient. However, it is a core function of a PCSO to attend.

***Comment from me:** Mel goes to a lot of trouble to ensure availability of all contributors. Mel and I have received a message from the Chair of the NAG in Sandhurst who has the same problems, however it seems that Sandhurst has 3 PSCOs who were all on the same rest day and couldn't attend!*

Police Coverage

One PCSO is on light duties for a couple of hours a day after being off sick.

One PSCO has left and has not been replaced

The Community sergeant has been replaced and the new sergeant has not attempted to make contact with the Clerk or me as Ward Councillor.

Our Clerk was told that Crowthorne was to share a PCSO in Sandhurst – it hasn't happened. Sandhurst has two PSCOs

We have no police presence in Crowthorne's community.

The Chief Constable said there is a 'pause in PCSO recruitment'

***Comment from me:** There is little communication from the Bracknell sergeant. See comment above with regard to PCSO staffing.*

Police Point

The new fire station in Crowthorne was heralded as a tri service establishment and was built with community safety in mind. TVP has told their PCSOs not to use it.

Legal and General offered a police point in Buckler's Park community centre when it was built. TVP declined the offer.

Sandhurst has a police point in the Memorial Hall.

We have no police presence in Crowthorne's community

The superintendent stated it was not necessary to have police points as the police are now mobile with their devices and cannot be seen to be immobile manning a desk.

***Comment from me:** If we had a full-time PSCO or police officer that might be the case. I spoke to our asst fire chief officer when I first heard this, who said that the facility was used by on call firefighters therefore there would be no interaction or debasing of the social distancing rule. The police area is totally dedicated. Colin Dudley Chair of the Authority was told that the placement of the fire station was not a suitable location. This was after many months of consultation with TVP.*

Face to Face Policing

Should any of Crowthorne's community needs face to face with the police they will have to go to Reading or Loddon Valley.

We have no police presence in Crowthorne's community

Comment from me: Not answered

initiatives far away from the local policing. Lots of buzz words, lots of 'sign posting' but no what we are going to do for Bracknell and its Wards and Parishes.

Members present challenged the assertion from Cllr Mrs McKenzie-Boyle that there was no police presence in Crowthorne and commended the work of PCSO Ann-Marie Kennedy. It was noted that whilst there are examples of ASB and 'low level' crime within Crowthorne, and appreciated the problems that these cause for residents, that the police are focussing on more serious issues elsewhere.

2. Rugby Club SANG

Melanie Saville, CPC Clerk circulated a response from BFBC regarding the issues discussed at the June meeting regarding the Rugby Club SANG:

The SANG land has not yet been transferred to the council. It remains Barratt Homes' responsibility.

The attached plan shows the 8 parking spaces nearest the road which will be transferred to the council along with the SANG land.

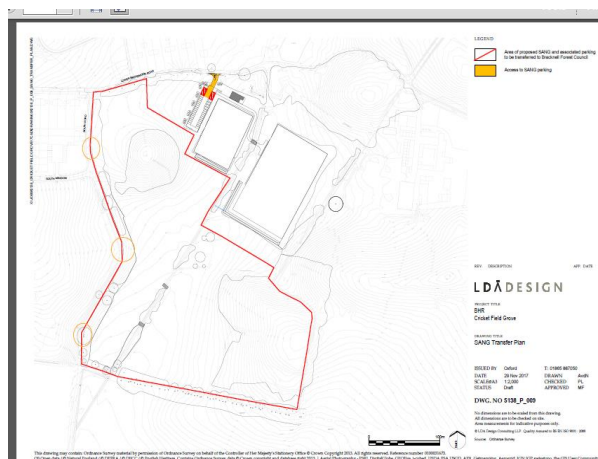
This isn't quite the final version, as the red line strays into the road to the west side of the site in this version, but otherwise it is correct.

Natural England's involvement would be required as SANGs are intended to be freely accessible 24/7, and making them inaccessible to people arriving by car could be an issue. As you rightly say, the Buckler's Forest car park has been locked at night after levels of anti-social behaviour there became a problem, but that was led by Legal & General (now CALA Homes) not the Council.

We have installed gates at the Blue Mountain car park which is a combined drop-off zone for the Kings Academy and parking for the SANG.

One of the issues that would have to be dealt with if residents are prepared to lock up in the evening and unlock gates early in the morning is their personal security. I think we have some experience of this at Lily Hill Park, Westmorland Park and Blue Mountain, but I don't have all the details myself.

It would be worth checking the distance from the housing at Cricketfield Grove to the SANG. If this is under 400m it *might* be possible to block off the SANG parking spaces and make it too narrow to turnaround in the car park access leading to rugby club barrier. I'll do some measuring in GIS, and then perhaps we could talk to Natural England about a temporary solution. This would require co-operation from Barratt Homes *if* there is any mileage in this idea.



Mr Chippy McCleod spoke further on the matter, noting that the rugby club was experiencing problems with youths coming to the club area on scooters and bikes and causing a nuisance for neighbours. The parking area has not yet been handed across to BFBC and is still the responsibility of the developer, Barratt Homes.

He noted that there are no lights or bins provided by the developer and that the club are still having to clear up litter. He expressed concerns over the costs the club incurs in disposing of the litter.

He noted that the club would like a barrier and reported that a temporary barrier put in had to be removed as it was preventing use of parking spaces.

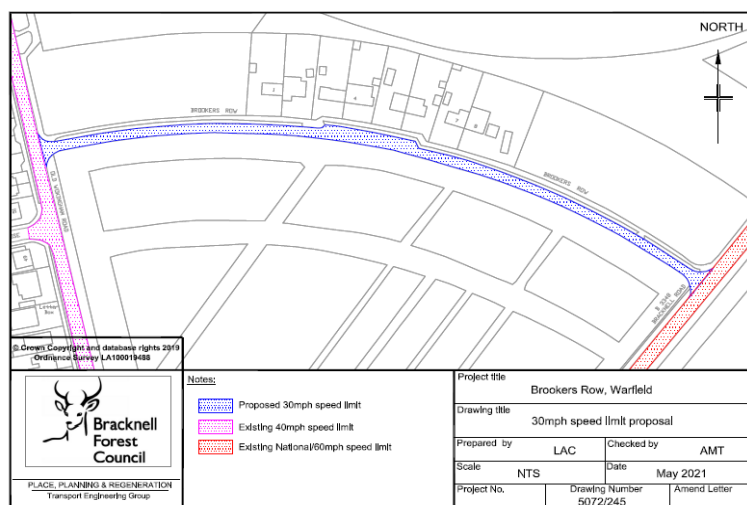
He noted that there is still some ASB but the club have spoken to the youths. He expressed a willingness for the club to work with others in resolving the issues.

3. Brookers Row speed limit proposals

Melanie Saville, CPC Clerk circulated a response from BFBC regarding the issues discussed at the June meeting regarding speeding on Brookers Row, a matter raised at the ‘Have Your Say’ event held in the community in the summer of 2020.

Last year the Council received complaints from residents of Brookers Row, Crowthorne that the road was being used as a short cut for cars to avoid the Old Wokingham Road/Bracknell Road junction. As part of the of the investigation into this issue it was noted that the speed limit on the road was National Speed Limit/60mph despite it being predominantly residential in nature. It was suggested that a reduction in speed limit would act as a deterrent to motorists continuing to use this road as a through route. Subsequent speed surveys carried out on Brookers Row showed that the existing vehicle speeds meet the criteria laid down by the Department of Transport for a 30mph speed limit and as such provision has been in this years’ Capital Programme for this to be carried out.

The attached drawing (5072-245) shows the extents of the new speed limit being proposed. Any comments or objections to the speed limit proposals, together with the grounds upon which they are made, should be sent in writing to Andrew Hunter, Director of Place, People & Regeneration, Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1JD, or email to highways.transport@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, to be received by him no later than 3rd September 2021.



One member enquired regarding a speed indicator device previously located on New Wokingham Road. PCSO Ann-Marie Kennedy reported that she had followed up on this matter with WBC highways officers and been advised that the device had broken and had been removed for repair or replacement.

4. E-scooters and cyclists of footpaths (Copenhagen Walk and Alcot Close)

Melanie Saville, CPC Clerk circulated a response from Cllr Mrs McKenzie-Boyle to an email sent to the BCF Highways Team regarding the issue

The issue of electric scooters is an emerging one and as such there is no specific signs that we have suitable. In any case, signing to assert the illegality of electric scooters in any one location merely implies that it is legal elsewhere. They are classed as a motor vehicle and as such cannot be used on footpaths in the same way you can't drive on them. I believe that they cannot be used on the carriageway as they are not classed as road worthy, i.e. no mot/insurance etc. Neither do I think that users of the scooters will take much attention of street notices, or signing, especially as a large number of the users will be aware of the restrictions when they purchase the scooter. Physical barriers such as staggered barriers need to leave sufficient room for mobility scooters and wheelchairs, and so would have little effect on electric scooter users as they are much smaller and nimble.

We are waiting to see if the Dft will be giving guidance to Highway Authorities as to how to manage the situation. As I say, currently TVP are holding the line that they are being used illegally and can be enforced.

Conceptually, electric scooters are classed as an environmentally friendly, low carbon and sustainable mode of transport. If at any point in future they are legalised for use on the highway (some consider a strong possibility) then despite the difficulties and concerns we will be required to accommodate them somehow. As such, physical constraints which prevent their use could require removal.

We think its best at the moment to leave the enforcement to the police.

Members noted that the problem with E-Scooters is predominantly around school times, with issues of noisy motorcycles later at night. It was noted that there are no-cycling signs up around Copenhagen Walk and Alcot Close but that they may be obscured or too high to see.

PCSO Ann-Marie Kennedy offered to provide some information to Edgbarrow School regarding the matter. Members expressed concerns that the late-night moped riders were involved in drug dealing. PCSO Kennedy reported that the police were aware of the concerns.

One member noted a comment from the previous meeting about providing footage of noisy vehicles so that the police could follow up and queried the ability to submit footage via the TVP online reporting tool. Following discussion, it was suggested that the tool be tested to ensure that reports fed down to the correct departments / officers.

5. Ellis Road, Old Wokingham Road and Old Sawmill Lane parking restriction proposals

Melanie Saville, CPC Clerk circulated a response from BCF Highways Team regarding a proposal to implement parking restrictions along a section of Old Wokingham Road and at the entrances to Old Sawmill Lane and Ellis Road

With regard to parking issues around Old Wokingham Road junction with Ellis Road I have asked an engineer to visit the area to gather any evidence of parking issues, although I confess we have not yet found any to speak of. If you have any evidence it would be very much appreciated. We have also approach Wokingham Borough Council to liaise with them.

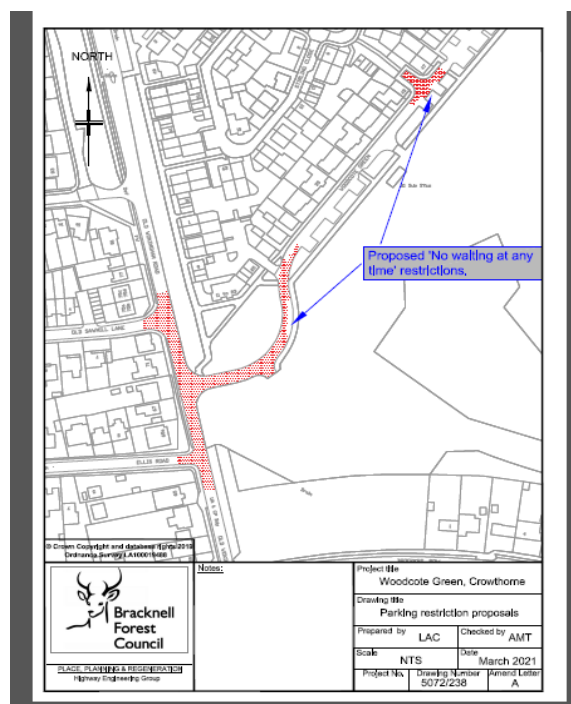
Subsequent email from BFC with proposals for consultation:-

Subject: Woodcote Green & Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne - Parking restriction proposals

Following complaints regarding obstructive and unsafe parking in Woodcote Green and Old Wokingham Road, the Council has discussed the issue with local residents, developers and Wokingham Borough Council and has developed the parking restriction proposals shown on the attached plan.

The proposals aim to prevent parking primarily in the entrance to Woodcote Green and around the junctions of Old Sawmill Lane and Ellis Road with Old Wokingham Road. The Councils policy with regards to parking restrictions is that they will only be considered where parking is consistently causing an obstruction or a road safety hazard and observations have shown that this is happening at these locations.

Any comments or objections to the waiting restriction proposals, together with the grounds upon which they are made, should be sent in writing to Andrew Hunter, Director of Place, People & Regeneration, Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1JD, or email to highways.transport@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, to be received by him no later than 10th July 2021.



Katy Hughes, WWPC Clerk, reported concerns raised by residents and the parish council regarding the proposed double yellow lines on the entrances to Ellis Road and Old Wokingham Road.

Mel Saville, CPC Clerk noted that in future additional parking would be available at the community hub but that this cannot currently be accessed from the main road. The parking on site at the Hub is intended for Hub facility users, however there are also inset parking bays on the area outside the Hub car park which provide additional car parking for SANG and Hub visitors.

Cllr Plume expressed disappointment that BFC had again declined requests for a pedestrian crossing of Old Wokingham Road at or near Ellis Road, where many residents cross to access the Buckler's Park SANG or bus services towards Crowthorne Station. Those present supported Cllr Plume's

assertions (including PCSO Kennedy). The CPC Clerk was requested to restate this request to BFC's highways department.

5. Reports from stakeholders

a) **Bracknell Forest Borough Council**

No further report received other than those updates already given by the CPC Clerk

b) **Wokingham Borough Council**

No report received

c) **Neighbourhood Policing Team**

PCSO Ann-Marie Kennedy reported that a youth workshop has been scheduled for 12th November, to be held in Sandhurst. The workshop will be open to invited vulnerable and at risk youths and families from Crowthorne Parish and Sandhurst who have been identified via the secondary schools, TVP and children's social care. She reported that guest speaker Mark Prince from the Kiyon Prince Foundation will be attending to speak about the dangers of knife crime and that there will be presentations from Marijuana Anonymous and from staff at Broadmoor Hospital to talk about the long-term impacts of drug taking. She noted that Crowthorne Rugby Club, Sandhurst Rugby Club, Crowthorne Tennis Club and Pinewood Boxing Club were running a follow-up 12-week training program after the workshop.

PCSO Kennedy noted that funding support for the workshop had been received from the Crowthorne Educational Charity, the venue had been provided by Sandhurst Town Council due to the fact it has two large halls to facilitate the two strands of the workshop and that the sports clubs were providing and funding the follow up 12 week training program themselves.

Mike Gower noted that he had not been aware of the plans for the event, and would support future events, potentially helping to provide speakers etc.

d) **Crowthorne Parish Council**

CPC Clerk Mel Saville reported that the council is still receiving reports of mopeds and ASB but not as many reports as the previous year.

She noted that there are still issues with youths gathering and leaving litter. She noted that a member of CPC staff had received verbal abuse from youths at the Morgan Recreation Ground this evening and that she has requested permission to release footage of the incident to TVP. She noted that the perpetrators were known to the member of staff and requested some support from the PCSO to tackle the issue.

CPC have used the Neighbourhood Watch information from the WWPC website to mirror the content on the CPC website.

e) **Wokingham Without Parish Council**

Cllr Plume noted that the issue of parking at Buckler's Park had already been discussed.

He reported that there continues to be an issue with fly tipping locally and noted that annually WBC had seen almost 2,500 incidents but that prosecution rates were low. He reported that WBC had recently purchased four sets of mobile CCTV cameras that have caught some incidents. Cllr Plume reported that new CCTV had been installed at Pinewood, in part to tackle this issue.

Katy Hughes, WWPC Clerk reported that Neighbourhood Watch information had been added to the council's website and information shared on the council's Facebook page.

6. Update on youth activities

It was noted that this issue had been covered in the matters arising and reports from stakeholders.

7. Matters of concern raised to the NAG prior to the meeting

Mel Saville, CPC Clerk noted that a new email address for raising issues has been set up, with thanks to Cllr Simon Butterworth for his assistance in this.

The email address for raising issues to the CPC and WWPC Clerks for inclusion / discussion at future meetings is: nag@crowthornevillage.co.uk

8. Matters of concern raised at the meeting

- Mrs Carole Doran enquired about door-to-door salespeople, known as 'Nottingham Knockers'. She noted that a recent seller had been aggressive and rude when they had declined to purchase items. PCSO Kennedy noted that these were often from schemes established by charities and noted that they do often target affluent areas. Mel Saville, CPC Clerk, agreed to distribute 'No Cold Calling' stickers after the meeting to various attendees and stakeholders to share with their neighbours and groups.
- Mel Saville, CPC Clerk noted that in response to Cllr Mrs McKenzie-Boyle's comments at the recent BFC Advisory Council meeting that a meeting had been offered with senior officers at TVP to discuss how TVP can support the local Crowthorne policing presence with more resources.
- One member asked whether there were events planned for half-term. It was noted that Sandhurst Town Council is expected to run its annual fireworks event, but that other events Wellington College fireworks event had regrettably been cancelled.
- Pineridge resident Mr Patrick Kelleher reported on the ASB that residents had endured over the summer of 2020 and expressed gratitude to WBC and TVP for working collaboratively with residents to introduce measures to reduce ASB and to provide more visible community patrols. He noted that levels of ASB had been significantly lower this year. He noted that a list of suggested actions had been forwarded by the Pineridge Residents' Association to WBC and TVP, which will be forwarded to the Clerks for inclusion in the minutes, and which could form a future discussion point.

Recommendations submitted to WBC from Pineridge Residents Association:

Our small village is administered by two adjoining local authorities. This division of responsibility has led to inconsistencies and delays in service provision, not least of all in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour. We therefore call upon Wokingham Borough Council, Bracknell Forest Borough Council and Thames Valley Police to set up a Joint Task Group with a "one village" focus to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in Crowthorne. The Joint Task Group should publish a strategy and action plan for tackling these issues and provide local Neighbourhood Watch Groups with half yearly update reports. This strategy should include a particular focus on:-

- working with our senior community school to further promote good citizenship amongst pupils
- reviewing the adequacy of Youth Service provision in Crowthorne Village
- tackling alcohol and substance, including under-age drinking
- jointly funding a mobile CCTV camera to monitor ASB hotspots. The camera will act as a deterrent and also enable officers to respond in a timely and cost-effective manner

With specific regard to Bigshotte Park, we wish to make these further recommendations:-

- The creation of a TVP/local authority/residents Liaison Forum to meet monthly at Bigshotte Park between March and September. The forum will provide an opportunity to exchange views and update residents on the actions being taken to tackle ASB.

- Firm and effective action to be taken to tackle the problems of nuisance drinking and littering
- Problem Solving Task Group to review its position regarding a PSPO and to ensure that full regard is given to the many, many complaints made to Wokingham Borough Council, in addition to those made directly to TVP
- The installation of a mobile CCTV camera during the summer months to monitor Bigshotte Park, it's former car park and the turning head adjacent to 60 Holmbury Avenue
- Permanently suspend the practise of hiring out the football pitch until such time as adequate off-street parking is made available, together with match day car park marshalling.

Mel Saville, CPC Clerk noted that the Have Your Say meeting held at Bigshotte Park in summer 2020 had been very well attended and very successful, but that regrettably a follow-up meeting had not been possible due to covid restrictions on large gatherings.

Mr Barry Bailey suggested that a case study might be added to the information on the council's websites about Neighbourhood Watch Groups that summarised what the Pineridge Residents' Association had achieved.

9. Suggestions for guest speakers for future meetings

Following the written report from CPC Cllr Mrs McKenzie-Boyle, members requested that the Police Crime Commissioner, Mr Matthew Barber, be approached to speak at the next meeting, to discuss police resourcing and priorities.

10. Next meeting date

The CPC and WWPC Clerks will liaise with those unable to attend today, to identify a date for the next meeting that borough representatives are able to attend.

Cllr Plume thanked everyone for attending.
The meeting ended at 9:15 pm.