



**Birch Hill & Hanworth Neighbourhood  
Action Group**  
**09 February 2009**  
**6.15 - 7.25 pm**  
**Committee Room, Birch Hill Community  
Centre**



Present: Councillor Chas Baily, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Mrs Gill Birch, Bracknell Forest Council  
Ian Boswell, Bracknell Forest Council  
Councillor Alan Browne, Bracknell Forest Council  
NO Lucy Chimerick, Thames Valley Police  
Alex Danek, Resident  
NSO Michael Foot, Thames Valley Police  
PCSO Hilary Hyslop, Thames Valley Police  
Pat Kennewell, Birch Hill & Hanworth Community Liaison Group  
Sharon Leahy, Sainsbury's (Petrol Station)  
Jo Legg, Chairman  
PCSO Michelle Noone, Thames Valley Police  
Sue Sarginson, Birch Hill Primary School  
Jason Weekes, Jason Charles Jewellery  
Sergeant Charlie Winter, Thames Valley Police  
Peter Worsnip, Resident  
David Young, Resident

In attendance: Ron Clark, Resident  
Katharine Simpson, Bracknell Forest Council

**Action Points**

Minute	Item
1	<p><b>Notes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p><u>Speedwatch on Leppington</u></p> <p>There had been positive coverage of the Speedwatch exercise carried out with children from Birch Hill Primary School on Leppington in both the Bracknell News and the Bracknell Standard. The children had enjoyed taking part in the exercise and it was hoped that further exercises would be arranged in the near future.</p> <p><u>Environmental Visual Audit</u></p> <p>It was hoped that the bus stop at the top of Leppington outside the Community Centre would be replaced with a new style shelter and the Police would be following this up with the Borough Council.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the litter bin in the underpass near Sainsbury was scheduled for replacement and it was expected that a litter bin would be installed on Ringmead opposite Finmere (near Frobisher).</p>

## Review of 2008 Priority Issues

The NAG reviewed the work that had taken place to tackle priorities over the past year and the following points were noted:

### Speeding

The Police Roads Safety Team was assessing the suitability of Hillberry and Frobisher as potential mobile traffic camera sites.

A letter had been sent to the Borough Council in November requesting that Archers Strips be installed in Ringmead to monitor traffic speeds and requesting that 30mph speed limit roundels were painted on the Hanworth Road entrance to Birch Hill. But, to date, no response had been received.

It was agreed that the Police and the Neighbourhood Action Group had carried out a significant amount of work to address the problem and it would now be up to the Borough Council to take action to reduce the problem. It was agreed that the lack of response from the Borough Council would be followed up.

**(Action: Ian Boswell)**

Councillor Mrs Birch had submitted a request to the Borough Council to improve the roundabout into Hanworth Road/Ringmead and the installation of 30mph signs and it was hoped that a decision might be imminent.

It was felt that despite the significant amount of speed enforcement work that had been carried out by both the Police and Speedwatch volunteers there had been no significant lasting impact on drivers and the most effective way of reducing traffic speed on Ringmead would be to alter the road layout.

### Parking

The Police had written to all residents in Oakengates warning them that they would receive fixed penalty notices if they parked on the pavements. Three vehicles had been ticketed in recent weeks, despite the warning letters, and the police would continue to monitor the situation.

The DVLA were removing untaxed vehicles and this had helped alleviate the parking situation slightly.

Bracknell Forest Homes have written to all tenants and leaseholders warning them that any unroadworthy vehicles taking up communal parking spaces would be removed and to date 71 vehicles had been removed.

The Borough Council and Bracknell Forest Homes would be working together to develop plans to try and alleviate the parking situation in the worst affected areas of the Borough including four roads in Birch Hill and Hanworth.

### Litter and Environmental Matters

Volunteers participating in Birch Hill Community Association's regular litter picks had found that the area was improving.

The area around the recycling bins, which had been highlighted as a concern

during the Police Environmental Visual Audit, had now been cleared up. A fence would be installed around the area in the spring.

It was agreed that following the success of the recent Big Tidy Up event another would be held and a suitable date would be identified.

**(Action: Jo Legg/Pat Kennewell)**

The headline results of a questionnaire, distributed to every household in the Borough, asking people to identify what they considered to be the main concerns for their neighbourhood were circulated. Overall 1,300 responses had been received from across the borough; of which 112 related to matters of concern in Birch Hill and Hanworth. The top three areas of concern were:

<u>Borough Wide</u>	<u>Birch Hill and Hanworth</u>
1 Speeding	1 Parking
2 Police visibility	2 Litter
3 Parking	3 Police visibility

During the period April to December 2008, Birch Hill and Hanworth had experienced a 33% increase in the level of serious acquisitive crime when compared to the same period the previous year:

	<u>No. of Incidents</u> <u>April – Dec 2007</u>	<u>No. of Incidents</u> <u>April – Dec 2008</u>
Theft from vehicles	30	55
Theft of vehicles	21	26
Burglary of dwellings	21	22
Assaults	24	27

There had been a 5% drop in the level of criminal damage reported in the neighbourhood for the same period. The CADIS database showed a 18.4% fall across the six most commonly reported categories of anti-social behaviour.

The Group noted that the level of car crime had increased across the Borough and the Police were running campaigns warning people of the risks and reminding them of the need to remove valuables from cars and make sure keys were not left in obvious places.

A request had been made to Thames Valley Police to set up an official police point in Sainsbury's and this would mean the local police team would be able to spend more time in the community. A police desk had been set up in South Hill Park.

It was agreed that the priorities for the coming year in Birch Hill and Hanworth would remain speeding, parking and littering.

3

**CADIS Reports**

The Group considered data relating to the two most frequently reported types of anti-social behaviour: dangerous driving and harassment during the period January to December 2008.

	<p><u>Dangerous Driving</u></p> <p>During the period reported there were 104 reported dangerous driving incidents in the Birch Hill and Hanworth area. The three most frequently recorded locations were in the vicinity of Sainsbury's Petrol Station, the lake at South Hill Park and Oakengates; which were thought to relate to speeding past the roundabout, off-road motorbikes at South Hill Park and parking on pavements respectively.</p> <p>It was noted that for a one year period the figures were not particularly high and this was encouraging.</p> <p><u>Harassment</u></p> <p>During the period reported there were 31 reported incidents of harassment in the Birch Hill and Hanworth area. The main areas where harassment was reported to have occurred were in public areas for example shopping parades.</p> <p>It was noted that for a one year period the figures were not particularly high and this was encouraging.</p>
4	<p><b>Neighbourhood Issues</b></p> <p><u>Kebab Van</u></p> <p>A number of health and safety checks had been made on the Kebab Van and these had all been passed.</p> <p>The Police were monitoring the kebab van and would be meeting the Borough Council's Licensing Team to discuss their concerns about the van's location.</p> <p>The Police were thanked for their continued support and assistance with the matter.</p> <p><u>Aldi</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that Aldi would be opening in May and that there was no basis to recent rumours that the first floor of the building would be converted to flats.</p>
5	<p><b>Online Forum</b></p> <p>Online Forums for three neighbourhoods in the Borough were being piloted through the Council's website. The pilot would run until the end of June when a decision would be taken over whether online forums should be developed for all neighbourhoods.</p> <p>There had been little public interest shown in the Birch Hill and Hanworth forum and it was thought that this was due to a lack of publicity about the facility.</p>

6	<p><b>Feedback from Neighbourhood Action Group Chairs' Meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Neighbourhood Action Group Chairs' meeting held on 7 January 2009 were noted.</p>
7	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><u>Police Beat Surgeries</u></p> <p>The Police would be holding regular beat surgeries with the next one scheduled for 19 February 2009 at 5.30pm at the Community Centre.</p> <p><u>Community Notice Board</u></p> <p>A number of residents made no use of either the library or the community centre, where the majority of community notices were displayed. The possibility of installing a community notice board somewhere central was raised and it was agreed that Aldi might provide a suitable location.</p> <p>The local Cub Pack had a community events page on their website (<a href="http://www.9thbracknellscouts.org.uk/community/">www.9thbracknellscouts.org.uk/community/</a>) which could be used to publicise local events.</p> <p><u>Cyclists on Pavements</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the Borough Council's Response to Alex Danek's enquiry about unmarked cycleways would be resent.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Action: Alan Browne)</b></p> <p><u>Anti-Social Behaviour Conference</u></p> <p>Jo Legg had been asked to give a talk about the work of neighbourhood action groups at conference looking at anti-social behaviour on 19 May 2009.</p>
8	<p><b>Dates of Future Meetings</b></p> <p>It was noted that future meetings of the Birch Hill and Hanworth Neighbourhood Action Group would take place on:</p> <p>Thursday 21 May 2009, 6pm, Birch Hill Primary School  Monday 20 July 2009, 6pm, Birch Hill Community Centre  Thursday 3 December 2009, 6pm, Birch Hill Primary School</p>

This page is intentionally left blank