

Chesterton Anti-Social Behaviour Meeting

St Andrew's Church Hall – Wednesday 2nd April 2008

Present: - Lil Speed - Chair
PCSO Ali Woolmer
Maureen Tsentides - Cambridge City Council
Chris Bull - Cambridge City Council
Cllr Blair
Cllr Huppert
Pat Daniels – Granta Housing Society
Debra Darlow - Granta Housing Society
16 Residents

Introductions

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the ASB meetings were to be resuming. The meetings are designed so that residents can air their views and concerns regarding ASB to officers of the council and the police.

Matters Arising : -

- There is a faulty street light and a broken fence in Mortlock Avenue. This is to be reported to the City Council's repair team.
- A resident raised a question concerning Police priorities in terms of 999 calls. PCSO Woolmer explained how calls for service are managed.
- A resident asked officers to define 'Anti-Social Behaviour'. Maureen Tsentides (MT) advised that Anti-Social Behaviour is defined as 'Actions which can cause harm and or distress' this can be a number of things including, harassment, intimidation, vandalism, graffiti and flytipping for example.
- A resident read out a letter from the Cambridge Evening News detailing a number of incidents of harassment and possible assault. The resident asked if this could be considered as ASB. MT advised that it possible that this could be considered as ASB and the ASB team may be able to take this on as a case, more details would be required before confirming this.
- A resident brought up an incident when wing mirrors of the cars in Scotland Road were vandalised. The incident happened some time ago.
- A resident advised that there is an empty property on the corner of Scotland Road and Martin's Stile Lane. This property is privately owned.
- There have been incidents of flytipping and a lot of litter in Martin's Stile Lane. There has been a dumped trolley in the lane also. Residents were

advised that incidents of flytipping should be reported to Streetscene on tel: 458282. Another resident advised that supermarkets are responsible for their own trolleys and if not collected by them, they are fined.

- There is an issue with dog fouling in Discovery Way. The City Council Dog Warden is aware and there are adequate dog bins but they are not always used. It was mentioned that it could possibly be a tenant of Discovery Way whose dog is responsible for the fouling. Granta Housing Association advised that they would look into this.
- Echo House windows have been smashed. There is believed to be a group of youths who gather in the area. PCSO Woolmer will pay attention to the area while on patrol.
- There was a discussion around CCTV.
- Concerns were raised by a resident concerning Stourbridge Common. A resident advised that there has recently been an issue with binge drinking on the common and at Ravensworth Gardens. PCSO Woolmer advised that the areas common for groups of youths to congregate are regularly monitored by PCSOs, any alcohol found can be confiscated and groups can be moved on. They also target the source of the problem, i.e. where the alcohol is purchased. PCSO Woolmer asked that residents report incidents to the police and use Ecops so that these problem areas can be tackled.
- A resident asked why Ecops and meeting minutes are not used to raise incidents or feed into crime statistics in the north sector but are in the east sector. It was suggested that this issue is raised with the sector sergeant and/or the inspector.
- An example was given where by working together and reporting incidents to the council and to the police, an ASB issue was successfully resolved.
- A resident asked if ChYPPS were still carrying out outreach work, it was agreed that providing diversionary measures is a good way of resolving some issues. The Dec is still operating and ChYPPS are recruiting more officers to improve this area of their service. It was mentioned that more is needed for young people to do in the area to discourage them from congregating and causing problems.
- A resident asked what types of crime are high in terms of figures at present. PCSO Woolmer advised that figures fluctuate for a number of reasons, for example burglary have been a high priority recently as there has been a gang committing a number of offences. Arrests were made and as a result the number of incidents significantly reduced.
- A resident asked that when there is a 'gang of youths congregating' should the police be informed, the resident advised that this has been done but they were met with an unhelpful response and police don't attend. PCSO Woolmer again advised that these type of issues are the sort of thing that

PCSOs will deal with so it would be unlikely that this would be a priority for Police Officers to attend unless there was the potential of offences being caused. He advised residents to report any issues as all information is useful to the police and it can also be used to influence his own priorities. PCSO Woolmer advised again that Ecops is an extremely useful way to contact the Chesterton team.

- There was a discussion concerning the Chesterton Policing team in Chesterton as the team are currently short of 2 officers. PCSO Woolmer advised that the recruitment process is in motion. There is a new PCSO starting soon and the vacant Community Beat Manager (CBM) position is out to advert. Currently PC Karen Lewis is the CBM for the area and PCSO Woolmer is the Police Community Safety Officer (PCSO). Residents commented that the previous officers were extremely proactive in dealing with issues in Chesterton and their wish is for the new team to continue this good work. PCSO Woolmer said that he is obviously extremely keen also to carry on this work.

Next meeting – 9th June 2008 at 7.30pm

Venue: Shirley School, Nuffield Road.