

Stocksbridge Community Forum
Meeting at The Venue on Wednesday 27th July 2016

Chair: Barbara Horsman 288 8394 Vice Chair: Graham Helliwell 288 2498
www.stocksbridgecommunity.org email bob@stocksbridgecommunity.org
– contact Bob on 288 8624

Present: Norma McKay, R Catterall, S Catterall, Joyce Wallen, Margaret Derbyshire, Beryl Sharp, Joan Banks, Elsie Newton, Ian Sutton, Jean Woodcock, Ivor Webster, David Hampshire, M Hughes, Sue Booker, Jane Parrott, Jon Brook, Samira Lahfa, Graham Helliwell, Kathryn Giles-Bowman, Martin Brannan, Barbara Horsman, Rebecca Hunt

Apologies: None

Police Report – Sergeant John Kirkham

John apologised for being unable to provide a period comparison due to administrative cuts in the Police.

John said that he had seen Facebook mentions about a spate of burglaries in the area. There have been around six incidents currently including sheds and outhouses. This number was high for this area, but in the grand scheme of things, isn't that many.

John warned everyone to be more vigilant against devious perpetrators by not leaving windows and doors open – especially in the warmer weather. John also told people to check the locking mechanism on patio and UPVC doors as some older ones are easy to snap. Replacing these is a small job.

John welcomed people to email him - john.kirkham@southyorks.pnn.police.uk if they needed advice or help with this or any other safety/security matters.

Some issues with anti-social behaviour were then raised and John explained that due to the recent cuts in police numbers, availability of officers and PCSO's was low as time was ordered to priority incidents first, which takes up most of the time. Next was task incidents which have a 5-day limit on them and patrols, which meant that there isn't always time to be visible over such a large area as there are only 11 officers and 13 PCSO's over 5 shifts.

John said that it had been recognised by the Chief Inspector in a recent report that Community Policing had diminished and so was hopeful that would be remedied soon as although officers were trying to deal with issues, they were so thin on the ground that things are getting missed.

Several people commented on the increase in the number of people driving at high speeds around the streets at the moment; taking advantage of the low level of police presence. It was commented that the 20mph speed limit signs were a waste of time as hardly anyone stuck to this.

John replied that the 20mph signs are usually accompanied by speed bumps and agreed that although they would receive a report of speeding, they would probably be too busy to attend.

Everyone was told to persevere with reporting on the 101 line for non-emergency incidents as repeated reports were flagged up to be investigated with trends and patterns identified, but to call 999 in an emergency.

Kathryn asked how effective CCTV is.

John replied that this depended on the clarity of the footage plus whether the person on the CCTV was known as otherwise they could be difficult to track down.

Kathryn then asked whether the ANPR systems in Fox Valley, Lidl and Co Op could be used?

John replied that it was difficult to prove the speed of cars on all systems.

John was then asked what the current response time is.

He replied that this was completely dependent upon the priority of the incident, what other incidents required attention at the same time and where the officers were at the time.

The effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch and CCTV was then discussed as members felt that the community was being too helpless.

It was decided that the November meeting should include crime prevention advice; including online fraud, identity theft, Neighbourhood Watch advice etc.

The Town Centre Businesses – Kathryn Giles-Bowman

Kathryn is the proprietor of Oceanic and came to the Forum to inform everyone of the formation of Stocksbridge Chamber of Trade. An association for businesses in Stocksbridge, mainly along the High Street and sole traders in the area.

With the opening of Fox Valley, existing traders in Stocksbridge want to benefit from the new development and so have created the Trade Association to work together to do so. Unlike Fox Valley, the rest of Stocksbridge has not had the funds supplied to regenerate or repair meaning that the High Street is now looking shabby. One of the objectives of the new Association is to obtain improved signage to point out that the main road/Manchester Road is still the centre of Stocksbridge.

Another issue to be tackled by the Chamber is parking for customers. Many people who want to shop along Manchester Road don't know where they can park or for how long so the Chamber want to be able to direct them. For example, in the Lidl car park; although restricted, parking is still allowed for up to 1½ hours completely free.

The bottom end of the car park doesn't belong to Lidl and is free for all day parking but there is seldom space currently as the lack of parking for staff at Fox Valley (staff of shops and in the offices have severe restrictions on parking and are not allowed to park on the main site) means that they are parking there, on Nanny Hill and on streets, impacting the number of spaces available to customers.

Also along the main road, the Chamber are trying to locate premises owners in order to get something actioned for the old Co Op building which is falling into disrepair.

The Chamber have already looked into removing the obstructive barriers in the precinct with the idea that this could have been converted into more parking, but unfortunately the ground beneath the pavement is unstable as there was housing with cellars there previously and the ground was never filled properly.

Kathryn also stated that the Christmas Light Switch On is planned to be in the precinct as it has previously.

There was then a discussion regarding the current bus services in the area. The decision as to whether the Barnsley bus continues to come to Stocksbridge is in consultation at the moment, plus changes to the SL bus route means that it will run less frequently but will run in both directions around Stocksbridge.

Valley Medical Centre's plans to move into Fox Valley were then discussed but it was clarified that this wouldn't happen for at least 5 years.

Barbara asked Kathryn whether many businesses had got involved in the Trade Association?

Yes, most have got on board. There was a Chamber before – Stocksbridge Business Development Forum, but this was bought by Sheffield Chamber which shifted the focus away from Stocksbridge, hence the formation of the new Association.

Graham suggested that they joined up with the Neighbourhood Plan group to be included in any regeneration rather than being a stand-alone entity.

Barbara asked what the people of the Community or SCF could do to help?

Use and support the businesses in the High Street. The new Chamber was still in it's infancy at present but Kathryn will inform the Forum in the future of any progression etc.

Stocksbridge Community Health Forum – John Cornell

The Health Forum meet the 2nd Friday of every month at the library.

Recently, Dransfields had found two schemes that could benefit the health services in the area.

The first is an initiative focused on keeping people well in the community. This means less formal care, reduced admissions and more community activities to improve general health and wellbeing. Communities can bid for some of this funding if they express an interest. Only small amounts of money are available.

The other initiative is Well North (Chair is Lord Andrew Mawson), a Public Health England initiative linking local authorities and the private sector to improve the health of people living in 9 areas in the North of England with innovative volunteer schemes to reduce the burden on the NHS and encourage and support residents and professionals to work together, using local knowledge and networks to seek out people in the community who can both generate and benefit from change.

The intention is to evolve SCHF into a group that is able to bid for this funding, but irrespective of either scheme, the belief is that the Stocksbridge area will be better able to improve health and social care issues if the current groups are more coordinated.

Everyone agreed.

Adverts/Announcements:

Stocksbridge and Penistone Fairtrade are combining to get a petition signed asking the Government to update the law so that large companies are made to take responsibility for the working conditions of overseas workers.

Samira Lahfa introduced herself as Leigh Buchanan's line manager and reminded everyone that although Leigh was unavailable at the moment, if anyone needed a Community Support Worker to call 0114 205 7120.

Pennine Community Transport runs from Holmfirth to Fox Valley on Wednesdays.

There will be a Social Evening held by Don Valley Probus on Thursday 1st September at Christchurch Hall at 6pm. Les Walker will be speaking and there will be hot food, a quiz, a raffle and more. Tickets are £7.50 and proceeds go to the club.

**The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 28th September at
The Venue at 7pm.**