

Stocksbridge Community Forum
Meeting at The Venue on Wednesday 27th January 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: Joan Banks, Elsie Newton, Barbara Horsman, Rebecca Hunt, Phil Shaw, Ivor Webster, Margaret Derbyshire, Sylvia Parry, Jean Long, Dennis Rolfe, Ray Aldous, Maureen Aldous, Graham Helliwell, Maggie Birt, Mark Gleadall, Brian Howard, S Howard, David Hampshire, Martin Brannan

Apologies: Margaret Hughes, Jean Woodcock, Roy Bettney, Julie Grocutt

Police Report – Inspector Phil Shaw

Phil was pleased to state that there wasn't a lot to report for the area – no trends or spikes in crime. House burglary numbers are very low at the moment; any that have been reported have been in the Hilsborough/Crookes area.

Other burglary (sheds, garages etc) numbers are also down. There have however been a few reports of vehicle crime, particularly vans, with tools being taken.

There has been some antisocial behaviour from 1 particular individual but this is being dealt with.

Phil then spoke about the recent restructure of the policing teams. It has been 4 months since two teams were merged into one Local Policing Team over a 5 shift pattern. Officers are encouraged to stay in the community rather than being based in stations, with reporting done via mobile devices, meaning that visibility in the community is higher.

So far there has been no notable difference in crime rates but this will be continually reviewed as the new structure is still relatively new.

Graham Helliwell asked about the best way to report crime as he had heard that this should be done via email now but pointed out that there are still some people who do not have email.

Phil replied that reporting can still be done via telephone on the 101 number (999 in an emergency) but that fuel station drive-offs should be reported electronically.

Other crimes may be reported via email if this is easier

Barbara Horsman enquired as to whether the CCTV is working outside the library or monitored.

Phil replied that he would find out

Tom Newman then raised the issue of quads/bikes in Wharncliffe Woods and the signs getting vandalised regularly.

Phil replied that there had been fewer reports of this recently but said he would speak to John Kirkham as he had been working on this.

Steel Valley Project – Tom Newman

The Steel Valley Project was established in 1988, originally working with British Steel to plant trees. Over time this evolved into many things working with the community such as rehabilitation, out of work training etc.

SVP work with many agencies including PRoW departments, TATA, SCC, Stocksbridge Town Council, Bradfield Parish Council. They also work with schools and are constantly involved in various events to raise funds.

Tom then gave examples of some of the recent projects undertaken by SVP including improvements to Fox Glen. Tom added that he hopes to have the Christmas Carols returned to Fox Glenn as part of reconnecting with the history of the Valley.

There will be an event held on 18th June to raise funds for SVP to celebrate the new Little Don Link trail starting at Pea Royd.

A SCF member mentioned that the footpath looked blocked off through the new development.

Tom replied that there are fences but that it is passable.

Graham Helliwell asked how people could volunteer.

Tom replied that this can be done through a referral, a meeting or people simply walking in. SVP are always looking for volunteers.

Graham Helliwell asked whose responsibility the trees around Fox Glen were.

Tom stated that it was the responsibility of SCC Parks (0114 2500 500) but that they will not cut trees unless they are dead, dying or dangerous.

Barbara Horsman asked about the wildlife in the area.

Tom answered that there was a good mix of wildlife in the Valley as there is both very high and very low land – a good mixture of habitats.

The hedgehogs like the lower habitats, there are many species of birds including buzzards and there is one of the only populations of mountain hares here

Tom hopes to get funding to improve and conserve all habitats in the valley.

Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes from the November meeting were agreed.

Joan Banks asked whether the Tour De Yorkshire is going to finish in Fox Valley.

Yes it is.

Barbara mentioned the success of the ALDI job fair at The Venue, with around 600 people turning up to apply for 30 jobs.

Reports & Updates from Local Groups & Projects

Fox Valley – Barbara commented that someone had said to her that we are lucky to get such a large amount of money spent on the area.

NHS England turned down the application from Valley Medical Centre to move into the new development. There is some funding available that Dransfields are trying to get in order to still facilitate the move.

There are some concerns that if the surgery moves, the dentists and pharmacy will also move, making this whole area redundant.

Graham Helliwell stated that after discussions with the practice manager, they haven't definitely had the bid turned down, so there may well be NHS funding yet.

Streets Ahead/Amey: Vince Varnam had provided a handout detailing the current road works (attached).

Stocksbridge Town Council. Cllr Julie Grocutt was unable to attend the SCF meeting but she had emailed a report:

The new website is in development and should be up and running by the end of the month. It will link into the Neighbourhood Plan and there will be surveys for people to participate in.

The Council has endorsed the Health Strategy project and receives regular update from the Health Forum.

STC have been in meetings to resolve the issue with Unsliven Bridge.

STC continues to support local groups with grants.

Graham Helliwell commented that the Town Council website should link to the SCF website.

Adverts:

Fairtrade. Fairtrade Fortnight will be 29th February – 13th March and there will be a breakfast theme.

There will be an event held at the Leisure Centre on 5th March promoting this where there will be free bananas, cereal and juice and subsidised tea and coffee will be available.

There will be a raffle held on 8th May – prizes are goods donated by Co Op. Proceeds will pay for events and packs for schools.

Inman Pavillion. Science for children on 12th March and later the following week.

Steel Valley Beacon Arts are performing Peter Pan 22nd – 27th February at The Venue. Please support it.

SCCG. The position of Drop In Coordinator has been readvertised.

Dementia Group. The group are meeting once a month and anyone is welcome to join. A film, Still Alice, is being shown on Wednesday 24th February at 1.30pm at The Venue. All welcome.

Stocksbridge Transport Forum. Next meeting to be held on Monday 4th April at the Library.

Friendly Wednesdays running weekly at The Venue. A drop in group for anyone. The group is user led so will be whatever attendees want it to be.

Christian Centre. The new community worker has started and will be involved with the Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade and schools.

4SLC. The big pool area has been painted and there is water in the pool ready for opening on 2nd April. Schools, pent aqua and sub aqua groups are already booked in. details of public sessions are to follow.

4SLC are looking for another Trustee.