

Stocksbridge Community Forum

Meeting at The Venue on Wednesday 23rd March, 2016

Chair :Barbara Horsman 2888394; vice chair: Graham Helliwell 2882498

www.stocksbridgecommunity.org email: bob@stocksbridgecommunity.org

or contact Bob on 2888624

Present: Vince Varnam; Julie Grocutt; Ian Lucraft (Christchurch minister); Margaret Hughes; Jean Woodcock; Graham Silverwood; Peter Bunting; Mona Bunting; Sue Booker; Tracey Nicholls; Tracey Martin; Ivor Webster; david Hampshire; Beryl sharp; Elsie Newton; Joan Banks; Sylvia Parry; Graham Helliwell; Sue Abrahams; Doris Stubbs; Tony Peers; Anthea Peers; Barbara Horsman

Apols: Rebecca Hunt; Chris and Margaret Prescott.

Police Report- Inspector Phil Shaw

The situation is similar to January's report. Burglaries from dwellings are very low. There are no significant crime issues- no big spikes. There is a little autocrime and the message is : never leave tools in vans. A land rover was stolen in Bradfield.

The anti-social issues here have now settled down.

With regard to Wharncliffe, PSOs and Special Constables are thinking of co-ordinating a response team for most weekends in the year. If any quad bikes are spotted, ring 101.

The new police structures seem to be working well. When police are on duty up here, they are staying in the area for the entire shift- they might even be spotted sitting in a café, doing their paperwork. Deepcar Police Station is not closing, the PSOs are based there.

The crime that there is, is low-level eg damage to The Factory Shop name. TP from Bolsterstone Community Association said that a dozen issues had been flagged up but they didn't report anything because they never saw the police. Fly tipping was one issue. Can the police drive by more?

Can wireless cameras be used to track down racing cars between midnight and 3am. Insp. Phil shaw said that we must report these incidents, because then police can plan them into their agenda and resources can be allocated to them.

GS flagged up a problem which Step is having with youths in the undercroft of the Childrens' Centre. Lads use the lights to mend their cars and are abusive to staff who ask them to move on. They climbed into the outside nursery play area. Graham tried leaving a message using 101. Could we have a visit?

AP said that she had tried emailing insp. Phil Shaw on the address he had given her- but she said that it didn't work. Very perplexing- Insp. PS to check it out.

(phil.shaw@southyorks.pnn.police.uk)

Vince Varnnam- Streets Ahead

Several points were drawn to vince's attention:

1. TN why are half the lights on Hunshelf Park not working? Contact lighting on 2734567
2. BS re Moorland Drive- since resurfacing, every time it rains heavily, water collects far more than it ever did before resurfacing- the camber is different.
3. BH are the lights on footpath 27D (Upto Bolsterstone across the fields from Hollin Busk) going to be repaired?
4. DS "road ahead closed" signs are very confusing- sometimes they are, sometimes they're not closed. Vince explained that it was often a pre-warning that if you travel the full length of the road, it would be closed at the far end. There was an intention to create as little disruption as possible.
5. IS made the point that roads which were bus routes were in a very bad way-Nanny Hill and Cedar Road for example. Are there plans to improve these roads- including the lighting?
6. VV with regard to Unsliven Bridge, they're waiting for SCC to give them an answer. The 57 buses are too heavy for the state of the old bridge, which is believed to date from the early 1600s.

Ian Lucraft- part-time minister at Christchurch and Trinity, Hillsborough.

Three things the Methodist church wants to concentrate on now the new extension is nearing completion. And all three are for the benefit of the community which the church serves:

1. From the summer, they intend to open a new lunch club. The lunch club co-ordinator will prioritise those who live alone and who are isolated. This will happen on Thursdays, and requires a big team of volunteers.
2. Christchurch is taking possession of a 17 seat minibus with a lift on the back. It's a £50,000 vehicle to service the lunchclub (owned by Pittsmor and shiregreen Community Transport schemes) It will be available for others to use as group transport. Drivers will be needed.
3. There's an advert in today's Look Local for someone to run a locality team to attract isolated and vulnerable people- especially men. The job is for 2 days a week. There will be a social café running one day a week, where people will meet, connect to social and other services and develop links.

Ian added that they hoped that the new building would be completed by the end of May.

Cllr. Julie Grocutt- Neighbourhood Plan

This isn't a very positive report. Volunteers fluctuate. Attendance over the last two months has been very poor. The group could do with a consultant to do the hard work- someone with planning experience. The group is applying for funding but don't know what the costs are going to be- unless more committed people turn up, it might bite the bullet.

Sheffield City Council has rebranded the city as "The Outdoor City."

There is an urgent need for more volunteers to come forward if this project is to succeed.

STC has relaunched its website- information is on there.

The group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Town Hall at 7pm.

JG also flagged up the health strategy initiated by Stocksbridge Health Forum- to identify the health needs in the valley with a view to addressing the issues raised. Emily, from Sheffield University, currently studying for a masters degree, has agreed to collect in the information.

TP asked whether there was any chance of getting a student from either university to help with the neighbourhood Plan?

Minutes from The Health Forum meetings are to be found on our website.

Tracey Martin- Ford Lane Public rights of Way

Steel Valley Way , which used to run through Ford Lane down towards Sheffield wanted a flat, green route. They lost the right to keep the right of way outside the new development. Dransfields has closed the area off. Tracey checked with the planners- they had heard nothing of this change. Dransfields issued a request for a variation to the original plan through Stocksbridge Regeneration Company. This would take the right of way through the new retail area. Tracey made the point that there were no notices on site. Objections have to be in by April 1st- just one week left. Opinions are welcome at : nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk
DS attended a STC meeting at Fox House (part of the new development) two weeks ago, asked exactly what the new route of the public footpath was, and has heard nothing yet.

Sheffield City Council's "Keeping Well" scheme is inviting groups to bid for small pots of money to run projects in the community to keep the older generation out of hospital by providing activities, drop ins, lunchclubs etc. Stocksbridge is bidding for a pot whilst trying to organise itself into a cohesive group to deliver projects- something like "Stocksbridge Futures." This organization will be inclusive. Dr. John Cornell is chair of The Health Forum and has been encouraged to take the lead on this initiative.

There was a heated discussion on Valley Medical intending to relocate to the new development. The point was made that the surgery would be further away from them so the elderly would have further to travel. Were buses running into the new development? What would happen to the businesses on and around Manchester road? And the pharmacies?

*SA informed us that the fence around the library would be there until 27th July while a lift was installed and general improvements were made.

*BS told us that the origami at The Inman went well with 7 to 77 year olds enjoying themselves. And there were plans for Saturday science Days at Inman- you need to book.

*On 16th April, in Bolsterstone Village Hall there is a focussed day on the war memorial between 10am and 4pm. Come along and see what the research has discovered .

The chair thanked all the speakers and the local ads people. She apologised that fracking hasd been pushed off the agenda but would be the major agenda item in May.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, 25th May. 7pm the Venue**