

Hazlemere & Chepping Wycombe NAG

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 15 April 2010 at Sir William Ramsay School

Attendees:

Peter Cartwright	-	Bucks County Council
Sgt Andrew Deane	-	Thames Valley Police (TVP)
David Gresswell	-	Flackwell Heath Neighbourhood Watch
PC Sue Jacobs	-	Thames Valley Police (TVP)
Jean Johnson	-	Chepping Wycombe Parish Council
Sandy Macdiarmid	-	Chairman / Penn & Tylers Green RS
David Onslow	-	Flackwell Heath Resident
Alex Slater	-	Hazlemere Parish Council
Graham Phillips	-	Hazlemere Parish Council
Dennis Watson	-	Loudwater Resident
Les Willis	-	Chepping Wycombe Parish Council

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Barbara Grierson, Madeleine Howe and David Johncock.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting

Sandy Macdiarmid thanked David Onslow for checking the Minutes prior to publication.

The Minutes were agreed as accurate.

3 Matters Arising (not on the Agenda)

The following documents had been circulated since the last meeting:

- on 14 March
 - a sample Neighbourhood Priority Profile
 - a 'Name That TAG Poster'
 - the Street Dreams brochure;
- on 19 March
 - the TVP NAG priorities questionnaire;
- on 26 March
 - the April newsletter from the Hazlemere & Chepping Wycombe Neighbourhood Police Team (NHPT);
- on 9 April
 - analysis of the Sir William Ramsay School survey.

Sandy Macdiarmid observed that again the NHPT newsletter was packed with news and made good reading. He noted with approval that the newsletter was now dated the month that was beginning, not the month just ended as had hitherto been the case. Such a dating approach made the newsletter appear more timely.

The news that PCSO Tony Mahood had been given a Police Commendation shortly before leaving TVP was well received.

Andrew Deane reported that two new PCSOs were now in training. One would be allocated to Tylers Green and Loudwater; the other would become an additional PCSO for Hazlemere. They were expected to become operational around 1 July.

A new Commander, Superintendent Gilbert Houalla, has been appointed with responsibility for the High Wycombe Local Police Area (LPA). He has arranged a meeting with all NAG Chairs in the LPA, to take place on 22 April.

4 NAG Priority - Speeding

Andrew Deane reported that the Hazlemere **Speed Indication Device** (SID) was again fully operational. A priority is to operate the SID at various locations between 7.00 and 9.00am to collect data on speeding hot-spots. Such site analyses are needed before speed gun deployment. This particular SID automatically records speed statistics for all passing vehicles that are measured. Each SID in operation needs to be accompanied by a police officer or PCSO.

By contrast a **speed gun** requires attendance by two officers: one to operate the gun, the other down the road to stop speeding vehicles, take driver details and issue the speeding tickets.

Dennis Watson was keen to offer help in SID operations, thereby reducing dependence on the attendance of police officers / PCSOs. Andrew Deane will ask if it is permissible for NAG members to provide such support.

Action – Andrew Deane

Dennis Watson asked what could be done about vehicles with **noisy exhausts**. Andrew Deane said that the Environmental Protection Act defines the acceptable level of decibels. Any member of the public who observes a vehicle with an exhaust that is believed to be too loud can give the registration number to the police, who will send a letter to the registered owner. The same applies to observed cases of speeding. Andrew Deane has supplied an example of a warning letter given to motorists who are observed to be speeding. This is attached.

5 NAG Priority - Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

Les Willis reported on recent problems in **Rayners Avenue** involving track-bed ballast and other stones being thrown from the railway bridge down to the road. A complicating factor in dealing with this is that TVP jurisdiction does not extend to railway property, which is the responsibility of British Transport Police. Peter Cartwright, being aware of the railway safety implications of ballast removal had contacted Bucks Fire and Rescue Service about this matter who, in turn wrote* to British Transport Police about the incidents. Within a matter of days the fence at Rayners Avenue had been repaired and the problem appears to have been resolved. [**A copy of this letter is circulated with these Minutes*].

Andrew Deane gave an update on the recent "**Awareness Campaign** as to how a Criminal Record may affect a young person's future". Holmer Green Senior School, Royal Grammar School and Sir William Ramsay had been invited to submit entries created by their students, but only Holmer Green chose to participate. The closing date had now passed and entries were about to be reviewed.

Action – Andrew Deane

The last two meetings had discussed the **Neighbourhood Priority Profile** (NPP), a multi-page document designed to identify and record progress on NAG priorities. The unanimous view of NAG members was that the NPP had potential, but that the form needed to be shorter, simpler and free of jargon. Andrew Deane had agreed to look at the creation of a simplified version. Andrew reported that, as the NPP was a standard format, no simplified variation was permitted. He added that each year he maintained three NPPs, one for each NAG Priority. [*Andrew Deane has supplied copies of the three NPPs that he maintained for 2008-9, for ASB, parking and speeding; these accompany the Minutes*].

Regular '**Have Your Say**' meetings, where members of the public are invited to meet with the police and discuss their concerns, are held throughout Hazlemere & Chepping Wycombe. Some of these meetings are well attended, eg Park Parade, Hazlemere; others less so, eg Tylers Green Village Hall and Cedar Barn, Hazlemere. It is felt that there is a major advantage in being in a location that already has plenty of foot traffic, such as Park Parade. Other locations having fewer people in the vicinity result in a correspondingly lower attendance. David Onslow thought the Flackwell Heath 'Have Your Say' meetings should be switched to the centre of the village, for example The Community Centre.

Andrew Deane is keen to hold these meetings in conjunction with other events that draw a large audience. David Onslow suggested that the Flackwell Heath Football Tournament should be one such event. Sandy Macdiarmid observed that, in some cases, publicity for 'Have Your Say' meetings is limited to the monthly NHPT newsletter. He suggested that timely reminders issued by the Ringmaster service a day or two prior to each meeting could increase local awareness and improve attendance.

Action – Andrew Deane

Andrew Deane reported that **Carrington Infants School**, Flackwell Heath had continued to suffer from ASB, but the police were gaining the upper hand.

The two previous meetings had discussed the **survey** that had recently been undertaken among **Sir William Ramsay (SWR) School** students. PC Sue Jacobs had been engaging with the SWR School Council on a questionnaire to determine students' views of the locality: positives, negatives and courses of action to improve matters. On 9 April Sandy Macdiarmid had distributed an analysis of the 49 questionnaires (comprising many more responses, since some forms had been completed by two or more students) to NAG members. It was interesting to note that vandalism / graffiti / ASB was recognised by students as the most pressing local problem (with 33 nominations, from 77 total responses), followed by "insufficient recreation areas / activities / youth clubs" (14 nominations, out of 77 responses).

Andrew Deane reported that the TVP / Wycombe District Council '**Name That TAG**' campaign had yet to result in any tags being identified. He suggested that the NAG consider the provision of a **Graffiti Wall**, a surface where graffiti could legitimately be sprayed, and repainted on a regular basis so that fresh graffiti could be added. Alex Slater was concerned that this would attract outsiders to the area. Sandy Macdiarmid had carried out some internet research, but could find no instance of a Graffiti Wall being an unqualified success. Andrew Deane reported similar findings.

David Gresswell reported that a new resident of Flackwell Heath had complained of ASB and the theft of a bay tree. Sue Jacobs recognised this report and understood that PCSO Daton Beckford had visited the resident.

6 NAG Priority – Burglary

Andrew Deane reported that there had been no increase in the relatively low level of house burglary. However there had been an increase in shed burglaries, underlining the need for a general improvement in shed security. There had been recent significant arrests in Loudwater of some culprits.

The police recommend the use of <http://www.immobilise.com>, a free website for registering private possessions and company assets. Registered items and ownership details are viewable on the police national property database, which can facilitate their tracing and recovery.

Andrew Deane also reported an increase in metal thefts from buildings, occasioned by an increase in scrap metal prices.

David Gresswell reported on the recent theft of a charity collection bag from a Flackwell Heath resident's property. The resident had noted the registration number of the collection vehicle and passed this to the police.

A neighbour of Jean Johnson in Tylers Green had similarly experienced the theft of a charity bag, collected by an unmarked vehicle.

7 Youth Involvement

At previous NAG meeting Jade Blades gave a very interesting presentation on the work of **Street Dreams**, the charity that generates projects for children and young people. Jade Blades gave some details of its then current programme of Youth Events taking place in Loudwater, Bourne End, Flackwell Heath, Hazlemere and Wooburn Green.

As requested, Sandy Macdiarmid had written an account of youth problems experienced in Tylers Green and had sent this to Jade Blades.

Sandy Macdiarmid asked if there had yet been a report of the overall success of the Youth Events. Peter Cartwright suggested that a report might be given at the next LCP meeting on 20 April.

Andrew Deane considered that **Rose Avenue Youth Centre** needed additional funds to improve staffing levels, and asked if the NAG could help obtain such funds. Sue Jacobs reported that the Youth Worker is Stuart Parker and the Youth Centre is currently open:

Monday	18.30 – 21.00 hours	for 16-18 years age group
Tuesday	18.00 – 20.30 hours	for 10-13 years age group
Thursday	18.00 – 20.30 hours	for 13-16 years age group.

Notably, it is not open on Fridays and Saturdays.

Stuart Parker has six part-time workers and is happy to liaise with NAG members. Stuart Parker reports to the Area Manager for Youth Services in Bucks, Mary Lewis who is based at County Hall, Aylesbury.

Peter Cartwright observed that staff are hard to recruit and retain, especially because of the higher remuneration that is available in such nearby locations as Hillingdon and Slough.

David Onslow asked about the Local Community Partnership (LCP) as a source of funds. Peter Cartwright understood that the LCP has money for youth funding, and that there is a poor take-up.

Alex Slater agreed to liaise with Stuart Parker on behalf of the NAG to discuss requirements.

Action – Alex Slater

8 Communications

David Gresswell had asked if Christ Church, Flackwell Heath would use their email mailing list for the distribution of the monthly Neighbourhood Police Team newsletter. He had been advised that this would not be possible as many recipients objected to the receipt of material unconnected with the Church. However the Church agreed to display the newsletter on its notice board.

The David Gresswell / David Johncock authored NAG article / **policing priorities questionnaire** had now been published in the Spring 2010 issue of the Chepping Wycombe Parish Council (CWPC) Newsletter.

Andrew Deane advised that the CWPC questionnaire had so far generated 15 responses. The TVP NAG priorities questionnaire had been distributed at schools and Have Your Say meetings, and had resulted in another 85 responses to date. Total responses, although not great, were at a slightly higher level than that achieved by last year's survey.

Andrew Deane showed the meeting the NAG priorities questionnaire created by the Hughenden NAG. This took the form of a four page centre-spread pull-out in the Hughenden Parish Council Newsletter. The Hughenden NAG had arranged collection boxes for completed questionnaires at various locations throughout the parish.

9 Any Other Business

Alex Slater had heard rumours that Wycombe District Council had allocated £100,000 for CCTV cameras, and that CCTV monitoring would be installed at Rose Avenue, Hazlemere. Andrew Deane had not heard of this, but will make enquiries.

Action – Andrew Deane

In his experience as a magistrate, Graham Phillips felt that levels of respect for the police had declined. In particular, youths engaged in ASB often responded only to what they considered "real police", and not PCSOs and British Transport Police. Andrew Deane could not confirm this experience.

10 Next Meetings

The dates / times of the next two meetings, to be held at Sir William Ramsay School, are:

Thursday 27 May 2010, at 7.30pm
Thursday 8 July 2010, at 7.30pm (provisional)