

POKESDOWN COMMUNITY FORUM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER  
AT ROSEBERY PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

**Present:** Roxanne Kapperud (Chair), Pam Ruthvan (Vice-Chair) Andy Jones (Secretary), Rob Saunders (Treasurer), Sgt. Steve Federico, Sarah Speakman-Jones (BBC), Martin Broad (BIAC), Cllrs John Beesley, Jane Kelly & John Wilson.

**Residents/Traders: 43**

**Welcome & Apologies**

Roxanne welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Roxanne thanked everybody for supporting the monthly markets over the past year and advised that the Committee was currently looking at planning a Christmas market for late November/early December. More details would be emailed around to members on this in the next few weeks.

**Police Update – Sgt Steve Federico**

Sgt Federico told the meeting that overall crime across the Boscombe and Pokesdown area was down, particularly in relation to dwelling burglaries and theft from motor vehicles. However, he stated that theft of motor vehicles had significantly increased and this was primarily down to vehicles being left unlocked.

Sgt Federico advised that personal crime such as burglary and anti-social behaviour was down 16% with criminal damage 22%. However, he told the meeting that the statistic quoted in relation to criminal damage didn't take into account the significant criminal damage that had occurred overnight in Southbourne on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Although no arrests had been made to date a positive outcome was anticipated from current enquiries. A local trader advised that some of the CCTV footage captured outside her business may help the police in catching the offenders. Following a meeting with the Council it had been agreed that the Environmental Team would remove graffiti from private land free of charge in connection with this incident due to its severity.

Residents were told that Atlas House had recently failed a health & safety inspection with extensive work being required to remedy the issues raised. The owner decided not to undertake the works required and has since left the property.

A number of residents raised the issue of cycling on pavements as a concern and asked that more police resources were dedicated to deal with it. Sgt Federico advised that Officers were tasked with dealing with this problem but that other more serious issues such as drug crime took priority.

**Video – Pam**

Pam showed a short video of some of the beautiful rural parts of the town where lovely walks and cycle rides could be enjoyed.

**Boscombe Independent Advice Centre – Martin Broad**

Martin told the meeting that the BIAC had recently opened its doors after obtaining a 3 year lottery grant. He went on to outline the types of issues such as unemployment, the loss of a loved one and relationship breakdown that can cause severe depression with people not knowing who to turn to for support or advice. Martin stated that the Centre was staffed by a number of fully trained volunteers who would be only too happy to sit and listen and provide the help and advice that people need in dealing with these types of issues. The BIAC also

and advice that people need in dealing with these types of issues. The BIAC also offered a number of drop-in sessions at various venues across the area throughout each week with details being available via their website or from the leaflets that he had left at the front for people to take away with them.

Following discussions with the lottery commission Martin was confident that further funding would be made available for the Centre to continue to provide a vital service post 2016.

### **The Council's Vision for Pokesdown – Cllr John Beesley**

Cllr Beesley acknowledged all the hard work that the Forum had put in over a sustained period of time in seeking to radically improve the Pokesdown area and made particular mention of the Green and the train station.

Cllr Beesley stated that it was a priority for the Council over the next 10 – 15 years to continue to regenerate the Boscombe and Pokesdown area and that significant time and resources would be made available to achieve this. Whilst he sympathised with people who wanted to solve certain core issues sooner he didn't see this as being possible with the current level of local government funding being what it is and the Council's commitments to dealing with issues in other parts of the town. Cllr Beesley advised that particular focus would be on providing good quality affordable family housing, continuing to improve the retail environment and tackling drug issues in the next few years. He said that he was seeking additional government funding in order to achieve this.

A general discussion took place regarding the remaining empty shops in Christchurch Rd and the frustrations that there had been in trying to contact a number of the landlords and get them to rent out their properties. Cllr Beesley asked for a list of the properties that were still boarded up and stated the he would speak to the Planning Enforcement Team to see what more could be done to tackle this issue and get the properties open for business as soon as possible.

An issue was raised by a resident of Parkwood Road as to why a couple of street lights are still not working despite her raising the issue with the Council on several occasions. Cllr Beesley asked Cllr Wilson to look into this and update her accordingly as soon as possible. Frustration was also expressed by other residents as to why issues such as these were not taken seriously by the Council. Cllr Beesley advised that this should not be the case and to make either Cllr Wilson or one of the other Ward Members aware if this continues to happen in the future. It was also noted that certain residents had experienced a problem in trying to report issues through the Council's website.

Cllr Beesley was asked why there are so many yellow lines around the Pokesdown area which prevented people parking up to visit the shops. He advised that this issue should be raised with the Council's Highways Team to see whether yellow lines in certain areas could be removed to provide additional parking.

A comment was made in relation to the number of HMOs in the local area. Cllr Beesley stated that it was a policy of the Council to continue to buy these properties where possible and convert them into much needed affordable housing.

### **New Food Waste Collection Service – Sarah Speakman-Jones**

Sarah stated that the Council was determined to improve upon its excellent recycling rates and saw the introduction of its food waste collection service in March 2014 as being pivotal to this. The scheme would be rolled out to 65,000 residents and would also include those living in flats.

Sarah advised that the Council had successfully bid for 2 pots of money, one of which would pay for a new recycling centre and the other for a new fleet of refuse collection vehicles. Sarah told the meeting that the current collection days would remain and that the new vehicles would be equipped to collect both refuse and recycling on the same day. This would save on costs and help to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. The scheme will be rolled out in March with the new bins and kitchen caddies being delivered to residents a couple of weeks prior to that.

Pam showed the meeting one of the new history boards and invited people to come and have a look. She also encouraged people who were interested in the history of the local area to join the newly formed History Group.

**Next Meeting:** Roxanne informed residents that the next public meeting which would be the AGM would take place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 at the Metropolitan Church.

The meeting was brought to a close at 2115.