

**Kent Dartford Local Board
20th March 2008**

At Wentworth Primary School

Notes of meeting

Present: Mr Tom Maddison (Acting Chair), Mr John Muckle, Mrs Ann Allen, Mrs Christine Angell, Mr Ivor Jones.

Apologies: Mr Bertie Bassam

Members of the public 12

Notes from the previous meeting - approved

Declarations of Interest

None

Member Community Grants

Brent School have applied for a Member Community Grant from Mrs Angell for their wildlife garden. She is proposing to give the school £1150 towards this project. Because Mrs Angell is a governor of the school she declared an interest and therefore sought approval for this from the Local Board.

The remaining members of the Local Board present agreed that she could give the School this grant.

1) Matt Roberts Dartford Borough Council Manager of the Community Safety Unit

Matt spoke about the Dartford and Gravesham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). It is a statutory requirement for Local Authorities and Police to work together in this way. Dartford and Gravesham have a single CDRP. Strategic agencies form a strategic group, below which is a support group comprised of mainly officers who carry out much of the work of the CDRP. Both Dartford and Gravesham have their own joint public safety units (Police and Councils staff co-located). This is a joint operations unit. There are a number of sub-groups of the CDRP as well, that work on specific issues e.g. youth sub group, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour.

The Community Safety plan is being produced by the CDRP.

The role of the CDRP is to create a safer, cleaner place to live work and socialise. Priority areas include acquisitive crime (burglary etc), anti-social behaviour, public confidence, substance misuse, violent crime and young people. However, Crime is falling overall in Dartford.

The Public Safety Unit is a joint centre, Council Staff and Police work together.

Tools that can be employed include for example covert and overt CCTV, Section 59 Warnings on illegal motorbikes, served on rider and bike. Also possible are dispersal orders, test purchase operations e.g. with trading standards.

Q. Can the PSU be contacted?

A yes, it can, 01322 343434

Q. What can be done on specific places where young people are hanging around? E.g. in the underpass.

A. Possibility of an overt or covert camera in this case.

2) Neighbourhood Policing in Dartford - PC Pete Steenhuis,

Neighbourhood Policing is now implemented in both Dartford and Gravesham. There is 1 PCSO per Ward and 1 PC per Neighbourhood Policing area.

PACT meetings – these are Partners and Communities Together. We don't want these to be police driven. PACT process identifies key people in the community and works with them to identify and solve issues. However, not all PACT initiatives will be Police driven e.g. dog fouling for example. The PSU can deal with issues as a partnership.

A sergeant and 9 PC's can also be drawn upon for high profile presence, if needs be.

Q. fireworks are being let off very early. Is it possible to reduce the time when they can be let off?
A Police are working on this but won't solve it on their own. It ts about education and changing peoples perceptions.

Q No one answered at the PSU the other day.

A) People in PSU all react to incidences and are sometimes out. DBC is looking to recruit a public reassurance officer and will make sure people get called back and a response.

Q. There have been bogus callers at temple hill

A Contact details for each areas PCSO's are on Kent Police website.

Q. Regarding the first PACT meeting, what publicity was there for the meeting?

A. All the PACT's are being set in place by the beat officer, so publicity might vary. They are an excellent initiative but need to be owned by the community.

Heath PACT and Friends of the Heath attended by a good mix of people. People don't want to attend another talking shop. When actions happen as a result, people will see them making a difference and want to attend.

Sutton at Hone PACT is working very well as well, all singing from the same song sheet and making life easier with the working together.

Q. There is a problem in this area, at weekend's there are regular groups of people walking between Dartford and Crayford that are roudy and 'tanked-up' from night spots in the Town. A Police provide dedicated resources on a Friday and Sat night including knife arches, drug testing. Grab a cab scheme moving 600 people per night and very successful. CCTV available on some routes and can be deployed on some lights for hotspots. Kent Police have excellent liaison with the London Met Police.

Q. If the bulk of Police are to be based in new headquarters at Ebbsfleet, what happens if the roads are gridlocked? Might this prevent Police getting around Dartford?

A No shouldn't do. Police will be using satellite stations e.g. at Bluewater.

Q Will Police be familiar with geography of area?

A yes, they also have GPS.

Q What are the helicopters used for?

A They are used at night and owned by Essex Police. Used for missing children, nuisance motorbikes, stolen cars etc. Essex people have the facility also to log onto Essex Police website and find out what the helicopter is doing in any one area. Kent may look into obtaining the same facility.

Q. Concern over PACT's. There are lots of groups e.g. residents associations, parishes etc. Some people coming together all the time and nothing is changing.

A. PACT does slightly different thing from the role of elected members.

Q Why is it that all issues in Bluewater are put into Parish of Stone. This pushes up crime figures for Parishes, adversely affecting insurance.

A trying to take BW out of Parish and have it as a separate reporting area.

Q. There is a problem with Public sex on the heath.

A. To help this, the road alongside the heath is going to be a clearway (no stopping) but Highways have had problems in implementing this.

Q. Can the issue of Fireworks go into the Borough News?

A Yes and the housing department. The Link goes to all tenants and lease holders. The Forum news goes to all Dartford residents.

3) Town Centre Developments and reducing Crime – Paul Buckley, Dartford Borough Council

The LDF sets the broad strategy for development in Dartford. There is also an action plan that is about getting things done. The LDF looks forward to 2026. Anticipate that the core strategy will be adopted by 2009. Town centre plan adopted by June 2009.

North of the A2 there will be 15000 new homes, 32,000 new jobs. 3 Primary areas for growth.

The Town centre will have an area action plan and incorporate what people have said in consultation. There are concerns about safety, the number of clubs and bars, conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists on footpaths. People want more CCTV, more police, a ban on drinking in public areas. They also want improvements in the evening economy such as café/restaurants and encourage a range of activities into the town, new homes and jobs. New Developments design out crime, for example through designing new public open spaces and safer walking routes.

Q. Is there going to be new hospital provision for all these houses?

A. The plans are discussed with the PCT/ hospital trust and they are aware of developments.

Q. Is there going to be separate cycle paths in the town centre?

A. This would involve a larger land take. New cycle path being created through Central park

Q. Is there going to be parking for all these new houses?

A. Car use is looked at in the stages of planning to reduce the reliance on car journeys. For example, options such as Fastrack are taking cars off the road.

Mr Tom Maddison, Acting Chair of the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and speaking.

Date of the next meeting: - 18th June 2008 - Venue to be confirmed

Meeting finished at 9.00pm