

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL (EBTC)

COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING (CSM)

MINUTES of a meeting held at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT on Wednesday 2 October 2019 at 7.00pm

Present:

- Cllr C Butchins (CSM Chairman - EBTC) (in the Chair)
- Cllr Mrs Rebecca Butler - EBTC
- Cllr A Collins – EBTC
- Cllr V Eni
- Cllr Mrs S Parnell – EBTC
- Cllr J Newmark
- Cllr S Rubner - EBTC
- Cllr Mrs P Strack – EBTC
- Cllr M Vince - EBTC
- Cllr P Choudhury (HBC) Community Safety and Performance Portfolio Holder
- S Alford – EBRA
- Sgt. M Cann (1000) – Hertfordshire Constabulary
- 6 additional Members of the Public
- H R O Jones - EBTC Town Clerk

[Only those attending on behalf of an organisation and/or wishing their names to be included in the Minutes are recorded above.]

Abbreviations:

- EBTC - Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council
- HBC - Hertsmere Borough Council
- HCC - Hertfordshire County Council
- EBRA - Elstree and Borehamwood Residents' Association
- BETTA - Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association

13. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING NOTICES

The Chairman, Cllr C Butchins, welcomed those present to the Town Council organised CSM.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from O Dowden MP, Cllr P Kaza - EBTC, R Jarvis (Neighbourhood Watch), A Dismore AM (London Assembly: Barnet and Camden), Cllr T Hone (HCC), Cllr C Clapper (HBC), A Grady (Borehamwood Brass) and Cllr A Plancey (HBC - Mayor).

15. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was RESOLVED that:

the minutes of the meeting of 5 June 2019 be approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

17. POLICING

The meeting received a policing update report from Sgt. M Cann (1000) – Hertfordshire Constabulary. Of particular note was the fact that the much publicised issue of knife crime was very low in Elstree and Borehamwood by comparison to the London Boroughs. In the previous year, 17 incidents of possession of weapons were reported. Operation Sceptre was in place to combat knife crime at a national level. It was noted that a talk on knife crime was taking place at Meryfield School on 9 October 2019.

Operation Granite encouraged residents to take measures to protect themselves against burglary, especially in the darker winter months. Burglaries were slightly up in Borehamwood but were low by comparison to other areas.

Reference was made to the Leeming Road stop and search powers recently invoked to deal with weapon possession. The key protagonists in the incident had been arrested.

Attendees were reminded of the OWL scheme and encouraged to sign up online (which was deemed to be a very simply and quick process): <https://www.owl.co.uk/>.

It was noted that Police Surgeries took place on a monthly basis at Borehamwood Library on Shenley Road (first Wednesday of each month from 11.00am to 1.00pm).

It was also noted that incidents could be reported to the Police by texting “66099” and entering “Borehamwood”. Sgt. Cann kindly agreed to provide the Council with some literature on this topic.

The Constabulary was thanked, in particular, for its assistance in providing an excellent service over the Jewish New Year period.

18. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There was no report.

19. HERTS FIRE AND RESCUE

There was no report.

20. CLARION HOUSING

There was no report.

21. COUNCIL REPORTS

A comprehensive written report was provided by Cllr P Choudhury - (Community Safety and Performance Portfolio Holder HBC) giving an update on initiatives from a Borough Council perspective. It was agreed that a copy of this report be appended to the minutes at **APPENDIX A**.

A written report was received from Cllr T Hone (Executive Member for Community Safety and Waste Management HCC). It was agreed that a copy of this report be appended to the minutes at **APPENDIX B**.

22. OPEN SESSION

Observations about local policing and community safety from the floor included:

- The need for well lit areas in winter months, especially alleyways and public footpaths;
- The need to prevent pavement bicycle riders and pavement car parkers (it was noted that the enforcement of double yellow lines rested with Hertfordshire County Council);
- The suggestion that the introduction of youth clubs in Elstree and Borehamwood would help to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime among young people (it was noted that Cllr Mrs P Strack was organising a meeting to consider this matter with Hertswood Academy and that the Leeming/Aycliffe Big Local might be a source of funding a youth club project);
- removal of racist graffiti and the need to report racial abuse as a “hate” crime; and
- in light of the s.60 and s.35 powers invoked at the recent and much publicised Leeming Road “machete” incident, the need to keep the topic on the collective agenda for all relevant authorities.

23. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY REPORT AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

It was noted that the remaining meeting date for 2019 was as follows:

- 4 December 2019 at 7.00pm

at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT.

It was further noted that the next date of the Transport and Road Safety Forum would be as follows:

- 23 October 2019 at 7.00pm

24. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Date:..... CHAIRMAN.....