

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 3 October 2018 at 7.00pm

Present:

- Cllr C Butchins (CSM Chairman - EBTC)
- Cllr Mrs S Parnell - EBTC
- Cllr R Butler - EBTC
- Cllr V Eni (Town Mayor) - EBTC
- Cllr S Rubner - EBTC
- Cllr E Silver - EBTC
- Cllr Mrs F Turner - EBTC
- Cllr P Choudhury - (Community Safety and Performance Portfolio Holder) HBC
- Cllr J Newmark - HBC
- PCSO 6269 C Ellis - Hertfordshire Constabulary
- R Williams - Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue
- D Wolstencroft - Clarion Housing
- S Nagler - Assistant Police Commissioner (Hertfordshire)
- R Jarvis - Neighbourhood Watch
- J Brown - Pensioners' Rights
- 12 Members of the Public
- H R O Jones - 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

13. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING NOTICES

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

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

The Chairman noted that these might follow after the meeting. In the meantime, apologies had been received from O Dowden (MP Hertsmere), Cllr S Brown (HCC), Cllr A Plancey (HCC), Cllr C Clapper (HCC), Cllr M Bright (HBC), Cllr G Silver (EBTC) and D Sweeney (Hertfordshire Constabulary).

15. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was RESOLVED that:

the minutes of the meeting of 18 July 2018 be approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman with the following amendment:

- **Apologies received from Cllr R Butler (EBTC) (Cllr G Franklin substituted).**

17. HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

The Assistant Police Commissioner (Hertfordshire) provided an outline report of local policing. Responding to a query from a Member of the Public, it was noted, in particular, that resources were being prioritised, i.e. the Police would only attend a burglary if the perpetrator was on the premises or if there was a threat of violence (otherwise a forensics team would visit the premises in due course). It was reported that a third of incidents involved mental health issues. In three and a half years the reports of domestic abuse cases had increased by 88%.

PCSO 6269 C Ellis emphasised:

- The need for the Police to ensure that good work was being publicised locally;
- The work of the Mental Health Triage Car (2 cars every shift) to help with cases and to help make referrals;
- Incidents of anti-social behaviour near McDonalds in Borehamwood;
- Appreciation for the thanks expressed to the Police for arranging extra patrols on Jewish holy days; and
- Acknowledging that some Members of the Public would prefer to meet a Police Officer rather than use the telephone system outside Hertsmere Borough Council Offices to contact the Constabulary.

18. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH POLICY

R Jarvis (Neighbourhood Watch) reported on the work in place to build a comprehensive database of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. He also highlighted the utility of a wallet for keyless car key fobs that was currently being sold (together with other personal safety items). It was noted that the services of Neighbourhood Watch (covering some 11,000 households in Hertsmere) could be advertised on Town Council noticeboards, its website and the Town Crier magazine.

19. HERTS FIRE AND RESCUE

R Williams (Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue) reported on:

- The importance of smoke detector inspections;
- Home visits by the service; and
- Fit, Fed and Read project (which was applauded by Councillors - a 5 day life course for disadvantaged children which promoted skills in confidence and discipline).

20. CLARION HOUSING

D Wolstencroft (Clarion Housing) reported that:

- It was recognised that a percentage of Clarion residents would not have internet access or proficiency in using devices to access information electronically and that the association would need to be mindful of how it reached out to this category of person;
- A residents' engagement day had been planned for November 2018; and
- Difficulties in communication with Council representatives were noted on occasion because of the need for data protection waiver forms to be signed (noting that it would be helpful for improved mechanisms for Councillors to speak to a designated representative at Clarion Housing when taking on cases for residents) - Councillors at both Town and Borough level could be provided with blank copies of these documents.

Responding to queries raised at the previous CSM, she reported that:

- There were often reasons why houses were empty for a short period of time (e.g. an elderly person moving to a care home)
- Comments about vermin and rubbish were noted and Clarion worked very closely with Environmental Health at HBC to tackle this issue; and
- Concerns were noted about young people causing a nuisance and Clarion worked very closely with Hertfordshire Constabulary in seeking to provide a safe and pleasant living environment for its residents and their neighbours.

21. COUNCIL REPORTS

Cllr P Choudhury - (Community Safety and Performance Portfolio Holder HBC) reported an increase in 35 new Police Officers across the whole of Hertfordshire. HBC paid for PCSO's in the area with match funding from the Police Commissioner. It was further noted that applications for funding to the Police Commissioner for local schemes (e.g. speed indicator devices) were available until mid-November 2018.

A written report was received from Cllr T Hone (Executive Member for Community Safety and Waste Management HCC). This included the following areas:

- Transfer of governance of Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (with a collaboration board being established);
- Libraries in Fire Stations project;

- Cybercrime;
- Fire Protection; and
- Trading Standards.

22. OPEN SESSION

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

- Concerns about reports of increases in knife crime at a national level;
- Concerns about broken glass at Bus Shelters (this was noted as a concern for HCC);
- Drug dealing across County lines;
- Increases in the demand for safeguarding (especially in cases of missing persons and missing children);

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

It was noted that the remaining meeting dates for 2018/19 were as follows:

- 30 January 2019 at 7.00pm
- 27 March 2019 at 7.00pm

at 7.00 pm at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT.

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

- 20 February 2019 at 7.00pm
- 1 May 2019 at 7.00pm

24. CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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