

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 18 July 2018 at 7.00pm

Present:

- Cllr C Butchins (CSM Chairman - EBTC)
- Cllr Mrs S Parnell - EBTC
- Cllr S Rubner - EBTC
- Cllr G Franklin - EBTC (Substitution)
- Cllr E Silver - EBTC
- S Nagler - Assistant Police Commissioner (Hertfordshire)
- S Alford - Elstree & Borehamwood Residents' Association (EBRA)
- R Jarvis - Neighbourhood Watch
- 4 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.]

01. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING NOTICES

The Chairman, Cllr C Butchins, welcomed those present to the first Town Council organised CSM. In his opening remarks, he emphasised the importance of enabling local groups and residents to have a forum where issues concerning local policing and safety could be discussed. He also highlighted the value in enabling service providers with an opportunity to communicate effectively with the public. He thanked those present for attending the meeting and indicated that he was eager for input and suggestions, especially in terms of themes for future meetings but also in suggesting improvements to the administration of the CSM.

02. INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves and explained their reasons for attending the meetings (see attendance list above). The Chairman and Assistant Police Commissioner (Hertfordshire) both felt that future attendance by Hertfordshire Constabulary, Fire and Rescue and Clarion Housing would be advantageous.

03. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr R Butler (Other Business) (Cllr G Franklin substituted), Cllr Mrs P Strack (Other Business), A Grady (Borehamwood Brass), D Sweeney (Hertfordshire Constabulary) and Clarion Housing.

04. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

05. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION

The Chairman's report on the purpose of meeting was received.

Terms of Reference

It was RESOLVED that:

the Terms of Reference CSM be agreed as follows:

“Community Safety Meeting

The aims of the Meeting are to consider, advise and make recommendations concerning community safety and policing matters relevant to the Elstree and Borehamwood area and to liaise with the appropriate authorities including Hertfordshire Constabulary, the Fire Brigade, Neighbourhood Watch, Housing Association(s), Hertsmere Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council (and any other bodies that may be appropriate).

- i) To provide a public meeting for discussion and constructive ideas concerning the provision of community safety services and policing in Elstree and Borehamwood;***
- ii) To make representations to the relevant authorities on national and/or local consultations;***
- iii) To raise awareness of services; and***
- iv) To assist in the dissemination of information and public education on Community Safety Matters.***

Whilst the Town Council has no direct jurisdiction over policing, it does have a power to spend money on crime detection and prevention measures (Local Government and Rating Act 1997, S.31). The Community Safety Meetings will work in parallel with the Transport and Road Safety Forum and will operate on a similar basis.”

Representation

It was RESOLVED that:

the Town Councillor representation of CSM as agreed at Annual Council meeting on 16 May 2018 be noted as follows:

COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING (5)

Chairman	Cllr C Butchins
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Mrs S Parnell
Councillor (1)	Cllr S Rubner
Councillor (2)	Cllr Mrs P Strack
Councillor (3)	Cllr R Butler

06. HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

The Assistant Police Commissioner (Hertfordshire) provided an outline report of local policing. It was noted, in particular, that it had been difficult recently for the service to reach its targets due to the unusual spell of hot weather and the increased policing associated with the World Cup football tournament. He emphasised the need to educate the public on the importance of using the emergency (999) telephone number only in circumstances where they were faced with violence or threat to property. Other areas of his report included the increase in cyber-crime (scams and hacking), historic sexual offences, national problems of child grooming, drug misuse and terrorism. The Assistant Police Commissioner concluded by reminding those present that a budget was held to fund community initiatives that contributed to promoting community safety.

07. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH POLICY

Through the Chairman, those present congratulated R Jarvis (Neighbourhood Watch) on recently receiving The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

It was noted that c.11,000 addresses were covered by Neighbourhood Watch in Hertsmere and c.138,000 in the whole of Hertfordshire. The availability of the OWL system (communication system between Neighbourhood Watch and the Police) was highlighted.

08. HERTS FIRE AND RESCUE

There was no report.

09. CLARION HOUSING

There was no report.

10. COUNCIL REPORTS

There was no report.

11. OPEN SESSION

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

- A perception in there being fewer CCTV cameras than previously (it was noted that the “grainy footage” of some CCTV cameras was difficult to use in evidence);
- Opportunities were available for individuals to take on the role as Independent Custody Visitors;
- A perception that the 101 telephone number was not always answered quickly by operators;
- Problems had been noted with CCTV cameras in Aberford Park. It was suggested that increased lighting could be arranged by Hertsmere Borough Council for users of the Community Centre in Aberford Park, especially in the darker months of the year;
- Concerns were raised over the increased likelihood of field fires in light of the current spate of hot weather;
- The narrowness of some streets and the ability of emergency vehicles to use these for access was raised as an issue;
- Empty Houses, vermin and rubbish (Clarion Housing issue);
- Children playing on or near roads (Clarion Housing issue);
- The re-siting of the Fire and Ambulance stations was queried by some Members of the Public.

12. CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

The remaining meeting dates for 2018/19 were as follows:

- 3 October 2018 at 7.00pm
- 30 January 2018 at 7.00pm
- 27 March 2018 at 7.00pm

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

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