

## COULBY NEWHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015 in Langdon Sq C Centre

**PRESENT** Councillors Jan Brunton and Geoff Cole, Rob Farnham (Principal Engineer, Parking and Traffic Engineering Dept. MBC) PC Alan Sanderson and PCSO Tony Hill (Coulby Newham Police Office) Debi Witehead (chair) Joan Cook (Sec) and plus residents.

**APOLOGIES** Joan Davies

**PC Sanderson** read out **Chief Inspector Dave Lamplugh's** comments on the crime situation in the town. He said the total number of crimes committed in January shows a decrease of 30% compared to those committed in December. He warned householders to remember to be secure when at home. Some burglaries have been committed while residents have actually been in. Two offenders are now in custody. *PC Sanderson said that for Coulby Newham the figures mean one burglary a month in an area of over 4,000 homes..*

There was an increase in Anti Social Behaviour here in January compared to the same time in 2014. Snowballing started as fun and got out of hand. Violence followed. Some youngsters at The Manor Youth and Community Centre have been causing problems within and outside the building resulting in early closing at times. Others have come from out of the area to meet there. They have bothered residents of Harvington Chase by jumping over back garden fences. The Police have attended several times, including once to a disturbance involving mainly girls. Trouble has spilled over to McDonalds and various suggestions made include restricting access to some after 7pm and to have a security guard.

The Manor belongs to and was named by the young people of Coulby Newham and Hemlington, although Youth Club Night is Friday night only. Councillor Brunton said the Rainbow is looking to giving them some time and space there and hopes to get more Youth Workers. As a result of all this residents present agreed that the **Police Priority should be the Harvington Chase area.**

At Thistle Rise cars are being parked on Coulby Manor Way both on the road and grass verge. This is near a bend and they are causing an obstruction. There were doubts on whether they were taxed or insured. Is this a Police matter or Council matter, as residents were previously told? PC Sanderson said it's a Police matter and he will check. Regarding tax - it only takes a second for a Police Officer to check on this.

The Proposals for **3 Pedestrian Crossings** for Coulby Newham were explained by **Highways Officer Rob Farnham.** Funding was approved in December and if all goes to plan the wheels can be set in motion in March.

On the B1365, a staggered two part **Toucan crossing**, just **north of The Gables roundabout**, would make things safer for approximately 130 Kings Academy youngsters, plus others, who cross to and from Hemlington every day. Each side would be light controlled via short red phases for pedestrian safety and to maintain the traffic flow.

A resident suggested making the Left lane which directs traffic from town straight onto Stokesley plus left into Coulby Newham - into Left Only as most traffic turns this way - and the Right Lane as Straight Ahead and Right. Rob noted the suggestion.

Asked if additional traffic from the housing estates to be developed south of Coulby Newham also Hemlington Grange have been taken into account he said they have and if the situation necessitates changing the crossings in future the arrangement there would prove no great problem or cost. He said Planning Applications have yet to be received to build on Hemlington Grange.

**Two Zebra Crossings** with Belisha beacons have been proposed for **Newham Way**. These would also be in two parts and staggered.

From Stainton Way roundabout the northbound Newham Way would be merged into a single lane. Bus Lay Bys both ways would allow the drivers to pull in. The first proposed Zebra crossing would be near the current crossing spot **north of the junction with Gunnergate Lane.**

A second Zebra **just south of the Fire Station roundabout** gave cause for concern. Several residents thought this too near this, the busiest roundabout. Even more traffic is expected in the future from the recently acquired Jomast retail site next to the surgeries.. Bottlenecks were predicted, especially on Friday nights and at holiday times.. With so many exits from the roundabout to be aware of perhaps Lights would make that crossing safer. The Bus Stop nearby would be moved along.

Residents requested a further pedestrian crossing to be sited on Newham Way near the Coulby Farm Way junction/Bus stops/Playpark. It takes ages to cross the road there. Traffic tends to pick up on this long stretch. Councillor Brunton said our Councillors have previously requested this too.

Proposals have been made to alter the **speed limit on the B1365 to 40mph** up to the TA then to 50mph up to the Boro boundary at Arcadia --- from the present National Speed Limit. The Community Council had recently voted on 40mph all the way from The Bluebell to the Boro boundary to simplify things and informed Steve Rigg, the Officer responsible, of our comments.

Rob said studies have been done and a lot of vehicles travel this road. Drivers use discretion and don't always aim for the limit. In 5 years there have been 6 accidents. He stated that the speed limit needed to reflect the characteristics of the road and be set at a level that maximised compliance by drivers. Any changes to existing speed limits have to be agreed with the Police, who are responsible for the enforcement of all 'moving traffic' offences, including speeding.

For pedestrians, there is no footpath or lighting on the B1365 and exits from Larchfield and The Coulby Pub are not immediately obvious. All agreed a footpath would make things a lot safer than walking on the grass verge. A request will be made.

Still on the subject of traffic, a resident wondered if a road sign could advise HGV drivers heading to the Parkway Centre from The Bluebell to drive straight on past Newham Way turnoff and turn next left at The Gables roundabout. There is a marked increase in heavy lorries now using Newham Way. Rob said this sort of thing is best worked by consent eg furniture and home delivery vans would always need access.

The Chair noted that TESCO delivery drivers will be in the minority here as all are advised to use Stainton Way. Any reported can be checked on by their times.

*"Have Highways Officers looked into the effect extra traffic in Dalby Way will have when Aldi and when/if KFC open for business"* Rob said they have and cannot foresee any problems.

The 20mph estate speed limits now in order all over town are proving a success. Both speeds and accidents have reduced since they were introduced. The quality of life for residents must have improved too.

**Kentucky Fried Chicken** company has contacted the Community Council to say they will be submitting a Planning Application to open a Restaurant Drive/Thru on the former Arundales site at the end of February.

There was some concern about the effect this may have on our elderly residents next door in Kirkley Lodge. As MBC Planning Committee assures Applicants that a decision will be made within 6 weeks everyone agreed to **bring forward the next Community Council meeting on 13 April to 23 March** for discussion and to accept KFC's offer for a representative to attend and answer our questions. Kirkley Lodge staff and residents will be notified too..

Recalling the decision made to allow Lingfield Ash Newsagent /Post Office to sell liquor a resident who attended that **Licensing Meeting** gave credit to Coulby's former Councillor Paul Thompson for his excellent presentation representing those in Coulby Newham - Against. He wondered why Councillors representing other areas of the town attended the meeting. They were in support. Some people present were very much out of order.

**Litter** is still evident around Coulby Newham. A Road Crossing Warden said the youngsters are not always responsible. In her experience 99.9% was dropped by parents. Councillor Brunton, as a Governor of Kings Academy will mention the litter problem to the Headmaster.

Credit and thank you's must go to a lovely lady resident who voluntarily litter picks around the Willowbank beck area and a gentleman resident who does the same around Woodrush.

**Councillors' Reports** Be patient when driving in town, especially on Albert Road and Grange Road around the Cleveland Centre. **Councillor Cole** said there will be disruption for several weeks while work is being done on drains etc. for the new Hotel above the Centre. This will take a few weeks.

Closer to home, huge investment in the Rainbow Centre is proving a success and more people are using it. The Gym is popular and Baths are excellent value for families. The new Reception area is finished and as a result the adjoining Library is now open for more hours.

**Councillor Brunton** said she is tired of the people who seem to be always criticising Middlesbrough. She is proud to be Boro born and bred. She is proud of the fact that despite all our disadvantages things are getting done. The Council is doing everything it can to attract new money. Millions of pounds have already been and are being spent in Middlesbrough from both private and public funding. eg The Boho, The Sports

Village, The Transporter,

The Rainbow, Town Hall, Middlesbrough College, Urban Park, there's more ..

and

***the Boro is now top of the Championship Table!***

The meeting closed at 9pm. Thanks to all who attended.

