



## Ampt Hill Community Safety Group

**Minutes:** ACSG Meeting held at Waitrose Meeting Room 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**Present:** June Hutley, Tim Norman, Helen Armitage, Lloyd Hynes, Peter Downing, Alan Read  
**Apologies;** Philip Whiteley

The Chair welcomed new member Alan Read.

**Minutes** of 13<sup>th</sup> January were agreed.

**Matters arising:** none except Willow Way which is an agenda item

### **Agenda Items:**

**Parking by Russell School.** Lloyd has been approached by several residents concerned at dangerous parking practices in the vicinity of the school, which is undergoing expansion building work. Parents dropping off their children are parking on double yellow lines, on blind corners, and across the pavement; even double parking. Their actions are not only inconsiderate but highly dangerous. Although the camera car has been seen in the area, it was after school dropping off time so didn't encounter the problem. In any case some yellow lines are missing and there are no signs warning against illegal parking, so enforcement would be difficult. Some residents have started deliberately parking obstructively to prevent other vehicles being able to park in the area. It was decided that ACSG should contact CBC Dunstable to request that the van visits before 0900 and write to the chairman of the school governors and the head teacher. Also in sending the minutes to the town council, to CBC, and to the police, we should send a covering letter drawing attention to this problem, and requesting a police presence at the appropriate times

**Blocking of footpaths by parked vehicles in Ampt Hill & Maulden.** Members have noticed the increasing parking of vehicles with two, or even four, wheels on pavements or verges. As it isn't illegal parking, providing there is enough room left for prams or mobility scooters to pass, there is little we can do.

**Double parking in Church Avenue** A similar problem, restricting road width to a single lane.

**Landscape Character Assessment from CBC.** Members are encouraged to read this interesting document from CBC and express their views.

**Report on the Community Watch Schemes meeting of 12 February.** Peter attended this meeting which dealt with Control Room response times for 999 and 101 calls. Between 0500 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 0500 on 12<sup>th</sup> they received 197 999 calls and 1023 101 calls. The response time for 999 calls should be 20 seconds, which was achieved in 97 percent of cases. Response time for 101 calls should be 30 seconds but has been immeasurable. There are 15 people taking the calls. Anyone ringing the 101 number should record the time taken to answer. Jim Hicks commented on the parking on paths issue, and whether it was the council or the police responsibility to deal with it. He pointed out it isn't an offence if enough room has been left for pram or mobility scooter. There had been much opposition to the amalgamating of the 3 control rooms and there has been no further progress. There is £10,000 of PCC funding unallocated which they hope to roll over to next year to add to the new allocation of £20,000. Juliet Wright is now the coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch, and Speed Watch.

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**Closure of B530** There was some confusion over the timing of these closures. One website says between 9 and 3, and another says overnight.

**Fibre East Exhibition** ACSG have been invited to help steward this event. We don't feel it's an appropriate occasion for our presence.

**Response from CBC regarding Willow Way** After the last meeting Helen drafted a letter from June to Joy Craven, asking for her intervention. Within days we had received definite commitment from CBC to undertake this signage, but have queried the number of signs that would be needed. They are consulting us about the appropriate locations for these.

**Unaudited accounts for 2014** Tim said that at the end of 2014 there was £137 in the account. We have since spent £30. So there is now £107 in the account.

**Colette Paul communications** John Plummer had forwarded to Streetwatch volunteers various informational communications from Colette Paul about staffing levels and budget cuts, her complaint about press reporting of the nightclub case, and urging reporting of Hate Crimes to 101.

**Local Crime Statistics.** Lloyd expressed the view that the crime statistics completed by Roger Wheeler don't contain sufficient information (for example what is 33 percent non-counting fraud?) and volunteered to produce more meaningful statistics for the group.

**Parkside Hall Event** June and Helen will attend this Inner Wheel and Rotary Extravaganza on ACSG's behalf. June will bring the A frame and leaflets.

**AOB** Helen mentioned that the town hall planning agenda had an opening date for the Dandara car park of the end of June/beginning of July. There will be 100 spaces. She drew attention to the campaign being organised by health centre staff about the Houghton Close parking problem, which Nadine Dorries has now taken up as a cause and is planning to speak in Parliament. She also noted that the contract with Amey has been renewed but is no longer self-regulating, but now under the direct control of CBC.

Alan mentioned the problem of lorries being directed by Satnav up Park Street which is too narrow to accommodate them. One resident's wall has been knocked down three times and several cars have lost or damaged wing mirrors. ACSG should ask CBC to contact the satnav mapping HQ and get them to amend directions to avoid Park Street.

**Time, date and venue of next meeting;** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April in Waitrose Meeting Room at 6.30pm

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