

Thorpe House Residents' Association



Minutes for Annual General Meeting 18 April 2008 at St Paul's Church & Centre 7.00 pm

Present

Richard May (Chair) (**RM**)

Pat Bradshaw (Treasurer) (**PB**)

Dave Holt (Secretary) (**DH**)

Andrew Hogan (**AH**)

Andrew Foster and the other Andy, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

Pam Horner, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive

Stephen George, Director, Neighbourhood Watch.

Rachael Graham (**RG**), our local Community PCSO

Councillors Denise Reaney (**DR**), Ian Auckland (**IA**), Peter Moore (**PM**), Bob McCann (**BM**)

Frank Taylor (candidate at upcoming election)

(The following may have been in audience - please advise Secretary)

Sheila Forshaw (**SF**), Ken Bower (**KB**), Lyn Bower (**LB**)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Rev Murray Brown

Minutes from last General meeting 15 January 2008 Approved

Election of Committee

The present Committee to continue in post were elected by a show of hands.

The Chair introduced the Guests and Councillors

Sylvia

RM informed us that Sylvia Brinnen, who was our Secretary, is now undertaking a 2 year treatment programme for breast cancer. He said that we all miss her, and look forward to having her back with us.

SY Fire & Rescue

Speakers Andrew Foster and Andy ?

Spoke about their service to supply and fit fire and smoke alarms, including special alarms for those with hearing difficulties who would not have their hearing aid in at night. This £400 system uses a special transmitter with a vibrator placed under the pillow and a flashing light. Available free of charge. Please contact them if you know someone who would benefit.

They also take referrals to carry out a risk assessment of your property to check existing alarms and replace if necessary, or install when none. The message was "Don't let complacency take over! Just one piece of advice could save your life!"

Visit takes 20-30 mins. No mess, just small screws to fit alarm to ceiling.

Thorpe House Residents' Association



SYPTE (The Transport Executive)

Speaker Pam Horner

Introduced the functions and responsibilities of the Transport Executive, which are to :

Administer everything, although they don't run the buses

Maintain 3500 shelters and 7000 bus stops.

Provide information and journey planners.

Own and / or manage bus stations.

Administer local rail network, serves much of South Yorks outside Sheffield.

Provide small grants for local services which wouldn't exist due to non-viability to commercial operators, eg. many Sunday services, some rural community services, and our own service 33

Assist Stagecoach with management of tram network.

Questions from audience

- The last bus number 1 from Meadowhall which is contracted to First but not run since before Xmas. Pam will take this up with First.

- The number 20 has not been reliable for some time. Pam explained that each route must have a contract to run from the Traffic Commissioner, and this is being breached if it doesn't run as advertised, although there are many problems faced by bus operators like traffic congestion (eg. Hillsborough on the 20 route, although much improved with bus-gate cameras), and the requirement for drivers to take proper breaks.

- Why are no tickets issued on local rail for Concessions? These services are contracted anyway, unlike the buses who must claim back. You do not need a ticket for insurance purposes.

- Why is live information sometimes wrong? The GPS system is used by the bus operators to track their vehicles, and SYPTE may use that information, but have no control over it.

- Why do some stops not have timetables? There is a programme to fix this.

Pam would be happy to follow up specific examples of problems, but needs the actual date and time of your problem, contact her with the information, rather than the bus operator or travel information line (who pass information to the bus operator). Ultimately the bus company is responsible for their service. In future PTA should have more control over the service. Pam can already deal with problems and bus companies directly. 01709 515151 is based in Sheffield Interchange and can pass on damage reports to shelters and stops.

Currently piloting a similar system to London's Oyster, which should speed up boarding, unlike savers which slow things down on a Monday, but it would be very expensive to implement.

Concessionary passes already help as no cash is needed.

Crime In The Community

RM reviewed the incidents since the last meeting

Various allotments have been broken into.

Attempted breaking of windows, group of 6 jobs involved. Two Committee members help track, no police response.

Theft from THPO, Detective Constable took statement and CCTV evidence.

Phone box Upper Albert Road vandalised, 10th time in 3 years, BT have indicated that they want to remove it completely.

Job damage to external boxes at THPO, bottle thrown at sub-post-master, culprits identified. Police



Thorpe House Residents' Association

asked to take no action but do now have fingerprints on file.

THPO windows attacked again, on CCTV. Known culprits, Police informed.

Thorpe House Road garden gate and wall demolished by 5 yobs including a female.

Upper Albert Road, group seen kicking a bus.

Upper Albert Road, 3 caught stealing CD's from a car. Cautioned.

Scooter of red colour being ridden recklessly on the pavement.

School boy beaten up, taken up with Police.

Racial abuse reported to 999. Police attended in 12 mins. THoRA have attempted to follow up the activities of this well known culprit but Police can only find 3 reports in last 12 months. This highlights a record keeping problem as RM knows of 50 reports, all with incident numbers. The good news is that this persistent problem is currently very quiet.

Lees Hall Avenue, car window broken, sat nav taken.

Newfield bridge, the flower bed has been 'trashed'.

Illegal off-road bikes

This problem has returned. The Committee has a video and photographs, passed on to Police.

Committee will be consolidating our collective information and making Police aware.

AH Challenging Education who state they only have to be a good landlord, SCC parks and woodlands have not replied. Good news that the Police caught one on Saturday. Land does not belong to Police they just have to deal with problem. Those responsible for the land don't take responsibility.

IA now also asking questions and pressing for action to be taken. Also attending Newfield actions groups. There are some anti-motorbike measures as part of the building contract, pressing to put in ASAP.

A student from Newfield highlighted that the gate which should protect students is never closed. Huge potential danger to students.

IA reminded that Police need to know where illegal bikes are stored so they can collect. Also if Council accommodation then SCC can take action.

RG confirmed how the bike was caught last weekend, sufficient PCSO's dropped off and could cover area, hence apprehend. All resource had moved in on this one so not spread out when other bikers appeared.

PM highlighted that there have been less reports due to more Police operations. Unfortunately there will be less Police resource next year and the year after due to cut-backs.

RM stated that once Police have the bikes they can be crushed or a large fee has to be paid for their return. A recent operation in Rotherham also revealed a drugs problem.

He warned that this problem is literally on people's doorsteps, ruining peace of mind.

'Let's have the motorbikes crushed before a child is crushed'

Rose Hogan commented that no helmets are worn and up to 3 on a bike. Could kill themselves and could kill one of us. Don't sit back and think it's someone else's problem.

RG sympathises as her house backs on to a field.

Information from a resident resulted in this bike being picked up. People are living next door to these bikes and are keeping quiet. If informed where these bikes live Police can put a plain car outside and collect the bike.

Thorpe House Residents' Association



There will be bike operations this summer again.

Required to issue a warning to bike or rider first time caught.

Looking to put signs on trees and planters to issue warning, then as the warning has been given the bike can be confiscated.

BM The Doncaster facility has not removed criminal riding. If you don't get involved problem will continue. A concerted effort is the only solution. Area Panel have OK'd signs so this is now with the Council's legal team.

Keep pressure on local councillors and they will press Police / council employees.

Neighbourhood Watch

Speaker Steven George

They are the biggest voluntary organisation in UK. 170000 members nationwide, 3000 schemes, 50000 households(?). Coordinator must be backed, first step is getting support from your neighbours. Watching over your neighbours is not as common now, there are less natural communities due to greater turnover.

Other services eg. Council may have information which is useful to you.

SY Watchline not working, run by SYP. Recorded police message to nominated person. Eg. bogus callers in your area, fore-warned is fore-armed.

Regular meetings of Coordinators, every two months. Police have a SLA so have to attend. Crime reduction information. Email, while not compulsory, is very effective to those who have.

Best bet is to pass the information over personally to neighbours, as they will also tell you things. Could put paper through letterbox. Also have minimum one meeting a year. Some more often, maybe after quarterly meeting. Conversations, find out what they see and what's going on, what people are concerned about, can feed this back.

Cost of time. In return certainly appears to be less crime in areas which have NW. Get signs on lampposts. Get crime prevention information. Another means to put pressure on local authorities. Some insurance companies give discount if belong to an active watch. Signs should be removed if scheme ends, don't lie as there is a registration process.

Full support is available, including look over your house for vulnerabilities.

How many houses? Average 15-20. Some have much fewer. Whose burglar alarm can you hear, who's property can you see? How far away don't you know people. Remember a larger Watch gives more people to help the coordinator.

Wendy A Zealand our local NHW Coordinator has a list of watches which exist, process of confirming which are active.

RM offered those with problems hosting a venue that ThoRA will pay for room hire, probably here at St Paul's Centre.

Thorpe House Residents' Association



Treasures Report

Pat Bradshaw

£431 in the bank. This reserve has increased over the years.

Fully audited by accountant which has passed.

General meetings do not receive Council funding.

Thank you to everyone who has paid their £2 or £1 subscription. These pay for the hire of the meeting room.

AOB

DR Project on ASB and CCTV

Following on from requests by community. Install pole with mobile camera which detects movement and turns to record movement. Hope to fund to put in hot spot areas and can be rented. Keep posts but move cameras about. Make impossible to tell which have dummy cameras. In 3 months time there will be more information. Hopefully vandal proof.

Litter problem, especially lunch times. Street Force being pushed for metal bins in walking directions from the shops. However, proposed locations get knocked back by people who don't want bins outside their house!

Dave, resident, requested presence of Police to patrol Lees Hall Road at lunch times.

RG confirmed that she does that road sometimes.

RM pointed out that it's a Council responsibility and Rachel can't give out £80 fines.

RG will ask the council contacts. However tickets can only be given to those over the age of 18.

Take-away (La Bella). A relative of the proprietor spoke, takeaways served from 12.30pm. 9 out of 10 young people eat in the premises and he collects their rubbish and places in his own bin. At convenient times he picks up containers including those from neighbouring shops. He respects our area.

RM confirmed that he has seen him collecting litter.

Various residents commented that the biggest problem was polystyrene containers.

PM. Follow up to presentation in January meeting about field service hospital in **Afghanistan**. Bob has received Afghanistan medal. Council has officially recognised their work, and a copy of the motion has been passed to RM.

BM Grafitti. Council training and cleaning kits. Contact Bob through Richard for more information.

Next meeting 24 June 2008. 7.30pm.

Meeting closed