

Agenda Item 9

Public Meeting with the Police:

A public meeting was held at Holmefield House on Monday 10th October the meeting was attended the Barrowford and Pendleside Community Beat Officer PC Lorna Bolton accompanied by the newly appointed PCSO, Tim Horsley Community Protection Coordinator

including 4 Parish Councillors and the Clerk. Mr. Lynagh who initially asked for the meeting Chaired the meeting.

The discussions centred on Anti-Social Behaviour and traffic concerns in and around the Wilton Street, Bullholme and Holmefield Garden area.

The main problems could be broken down into three main areas:

1. Juvenile anti-social behaviour particularly persistent kicking of doors as they passed, verbal abuse which in some cases was intimidating to older and more vulnerable residents.
2. Traffic problems including speeding within the Wilton Street Bullholme area which often ran into the early hours of the morning.
3. Possible drug dealing on the car parks and Bullholme within this area.

PC Bolton and Mr. Horsley spoke about initiatives currently being developed to help address both the anti-social behaviour and the vehicle speeding, noise nuisance from adapted exhaust systems and the general culture amongst many younger male motorists on both speeding and nuisance driving.

The current method of policing is an intelligence led model with the Police expecting the public to provide information and CCTV footage where available. This can if necessary be done anonymously. PC Bolton urged the residents to consider fitting CCTV to their dwellings.

It was suggested by different speakers:

1. That both the Nursery and Barrowford Celtic be approached to fit a CCTV camera to their changing facility.
2. That a barrier be installed at the Bullholme side of the bridge and locked each evening.
3. That Barrowford Parish Council consider fitting additional cameras to Holmefield House to cover Wilton Street.

It was decided that a follow up meeting would be held possibly after bonfire night when the room was available.

Parish Council perspective:

The Parish Council could help resolve these problems directly in a number of ways.

1. The Parish Council could beef up its CCTV system at Holmefield House to incorporate a wider perspective and better peripheral view.
2. Encourage better co-operation with both the Police and the Local Authority with perhaps suggesting the resurrection of the old Community Safety Partnership meetings which disappeared under austerity measures.
3. The installation of a barrier on the Wilton Street Bridge would be problematic for several reasons which include:

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- Allotment Holders, the Nursery, Barrowford Cricket Club and Barrowford Celtic have unrestricted access to Bullholme at all times.
- Who would lock and unlock the barrier?
- Would cycles be able to pass the barrier as Wilton Street forms part of one of the essential accesses to the wider cycle route network?
- Numerous vehicles including residents of Wilton Street use the Bullholme as a turnround as parked vehicles and carriageway width make it difficult to do a three-point turn.

CCTVC at Holmefield House:

There will be costs involved in updating the current system but these can be met from the existing Holmefield House repair budget and should be carried out as part of the general maintenance programme.