
KATESGROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

Date & time of meeting: 10th October 2009, 7pm.

Location: Waterloo Meadows Children's Centre, Elgar Road, Reading, RG2

Chair: Maria Soulsby (MSO).

Present: David Boobier (DBO), Uda Chalk (UCH), Mark Cutler (MCU), Omendra Gurung (OGU), Narjang Gurung (NGU), Louise Keane (LKE), Mary McManus (MMC), PS Pete Moody (SPM), PC Richard Noone (PRN), James Sankar (JSA), James Schlackman (JSC), Carol Shepherd (CSH), Monica Smith (MSM), Insp. Kevin Sinfield (IKS), Cllr. Warrn Swaine (WSW).

Apologies: Cllr. Gareth Epps (GEP), Peter Kennedy (PKE), Kath Langdale (KLA), Cllr. Richard Stainthorp (RST).

MINUTES

1. NOTICES AND REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

JSC apologised for late production of minutes from last meeting, and announced he would be stepping down as secretary due to work commitments.

Update on actions from previous meeting:

- IKS reported that ASB data had been compiled and was supplied to the NAG. Council data is outstanding. RBFRS data shows almost no instances of ASB over the requested period.
- PCSOs are on leave/restricted duties, so not available for camera demo. Rescheduled for next meeting.
- JSA reports that funding was not forthcoming for Swainstone Road/Waterloo Rise lighting. WSW believes the situation may change soon, and the decision may be revisited.
- Invitation letters were drafted but unfortunately not delivered in time. Community wardens offered to assist with future deliveries.
- MCU produced some analysis from the NAG surveys, and this was distributed to members. Electronic copy to be published on NAG website along with survey results from TVP.

IKS informed the NAG that the survey draw winners picked at the last meeting had not yet received their prizes. MSO to invite winners and press to next NAG meeting.

2. THAMES VALLEY POLICE UPDATE

IKS informed the NAG that proposals to merge the Neighbourhood Action Groups with the Safer Reading Forum had been put forward, and are due to be discussed at a SRF meeting on 19th October. This would lead to a reduction in meetings, and possibly a better focus on quick actions, along with better access to SRF funding. The merged group would be chaired by a member of the community, and co-chaired by a local councillor. The SRF budget would be held in trust by Reading Borough Council.

DBO and UCH agreed to attend meeting to represent Katesgrove NAG.

IKS reported that TVP street briefings could be stepped up to canvass public problems more quickly, and NAGs could then act on them more quickly.

DBO and WSW both expressed concern that the merged group might be co-opted for political reasons, with control falling more towards councillors than the community.

IKS distributed crime stats for the last 3 months, as published on the TVP website:

- 216 reported incidents, down 108 on last year over the same period.
- Crime across Reading is down around 60% overall.
- ASB down in Katesgrove by 14 offences (around 10%)
- Nearly 200 seizures of alcohol since drinking control area was brought into force.
- Burglaries are up in the last few weeks, mostly at night.

An ASB hotspot map was circulated. Along with the survey data, IKS concluded that there were many areas where ASB had been reported but no clear long-term trends. Recent trends include mini-moto usage on Kennett Island, reporting that 9 section 59 notices had been issued recently.

MMC reported that an alleyway between Waterloo Rise and Hagley Road is unlit and had been attracting ASB recently. JSC reported that he had been informed this alleyway is not council property. JSA concurred that it must belong to the local housing association, along with adjacent land. MMC reported that she had been informed some adjacent land was council owned and could be lit. JSA to verify this, and if land does belong to housing association, supply details to MSM so that she can write to ask housing association to act on lighting problem.

3. OTHER UPDATES

JSA briefed the group on the Community Voice initiative; details to be published on NAG website.

IKS briefed the NAG on 'Operation Confidence' a TVP initiative to counter poor public opinion of community policing in the wake of reported suicides in Leicestershire following poor police response to community problems. Call for NAGs who are working on a specific community issue can take part.

IKS reported that the Katesgrove NAG website model is being adopted force-wide. WSW is to supply technical details to JSC, who will meet and present to police representatives.

PRN reported that work has been done on the newsletter. IKS suggested this may be put on hold pending the outcome of the SRF merger discussions.

4. 'THE TANK'

The play area known locally as 'the tank;' was identified by UCH as a possible problem hotspot. MSO is receiving reports from pupils that corroborate this.

IKS and MSO to visit during both daylight and evening hours to assess. IKS to organise for Friday 30th October, 1pm and 5pm.

JSA suggested a possible bid could be submitted for council funds, since the area was currently at the bottom of the list for rejuvenation funding according to MSO.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RDA reported that University of Reading Student's Union reps plan to join local NAGs and will be attending the next meeting. Also distributed sample of welcome packs now issued to students moving in to local areas with community information.

6. NEXT MEETING

PRN is to contact Hilton Hotel in Kennet Island and try to arrange it as a venue for the next NAG meeting, to be confirmed.

Next meeting is Thursday 19th November, **location tbc.**

ACTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Various documents to be supplied to JSC for website publication:
 - a. IKS: copy of NAG survey results.
 - b. MCU: survey analysis.
 - c. JSA: Community Voice information.
2. RBC to supply ASB information for previous year from 1st September – RST to request from Jo Daley.
3. PCSOs to demonstrate body cameras at next meeting.
4. MSO to invite survey draw winners and press to next NAG meeting.
5. DBO and UCH to attend Safer Reading Forum meeting to represent Katesgrove NAG.
6. JSA to investigate Waterloo Rise/Hagley Road alleyway situation.
7. WSW to supply technical website details to JSC.
8. JSC to meet with TVP representatives to present on website strategy.
9. IKS / MSO to organise visit to The Tank, Friday 30th October, 1pm and 5pm.
10. PRN to contact Hilton Hotel for possible NAG venue for November.

NOTES

** Details of some items discussed by Thames Valley Police cannot be publically minuted so as not to compromise police operations.*