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# KATESGROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

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*Date & time of meeting:* 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008, 7pm.

*Location:* New Christ Church Primary School, Milman Road, Reading, RG2 0AY

*Apologies:* Chris Bailey (CBA), Gareth Epps (GEP), Dave Aldred (DAL); Kevin Black deputising, Heather Plummer (HPL), Sgt. Nikki Pocock (SNP).

*Chair:* Kath Langdale (KLA).

*Present:* Kevin Black (KBL), David Boobier (DBO), Midge Dwyer (MDW), PCSO Katie Gillan (PKG), Omendra Gurung (OGU), Peter Kennedy (PKE), Mary McManus (MMC), Peter McManus (PMC), Rob Oldham (ROL), Carole Porter (CPO), James Sankar (JSA), James Schlackman (JSC), Carole Shepherd (CSH), Insp. Kevin Sinfield (IKS), Maria Soulsbury (MSO).

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## MINUTES

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### 1. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

KLA solicited feedback on the previous minutes. No issues arose and the minutes were approved.

KLA reviewed actions from last meeting.

- The first general EVA (not involving New Christchurch School) was described as positive, though took a while. ROL presented results of the EVA, included in paper copies of minutes, and will feedback as per agenda.
- The communications team have met and will feedback later in the meeting as per agenda.
- The Committee met with IKS for a more in-depth overview of Neighbourhood Policing on 11th June.
- Press attendance was not arranged for this meeting, but IKS agreed to organise for next meeting for NAG member photo

### 2. MATTERS ARISING

Concerns were raised over lack of distribution of minutes to non-email users. JSC apologised and agreed with KLA that she would deliver printed minutes/etc to non-email users. JSC to pass details of recipients to KLA.

KLA reported that Redlands NAG asked us to take on Highgrove Street as part of our NAG area due to its proximity and that it is part of Katesgrove Ward. Agreed by NAG.

### 3. CRIMESTOPPERS

IKS described Crimestoppers to the NAG:

- Crimestoppers is a nationwide system to anonymously phone in information to police
- In Reading, it is also commonly used by many drug dealers to set up their rivals and usurp them from their territory.

- Contact number is **0800 555 111**
- There is a current focus on promotion in Reading due to reluctance in the area to deal with the police.
- Registered charity, funded in part from lotteries commission.

IKS emphasised that Crimestoppers do not ask for names, in contrast to when dealing directly with the Police and Council. This can be beneficial to those who may be reluctant to take part in any court process. Information is typically passed on within 24-48 hours to Police. Police will then seek to verify as while some information has substance, some has none at all. IKS explained that it can also be used to report matter dealt with by the council, e.g. flytipping.

JSA suggested signs for lampposts to promote the service.

KLA asked for updated “Rat on a rat” posters which already exist on Southampton Street, which are rotting away. IKS suggested it would be worth contacting Michael Aries (Crimestoppers) to have these replaced.

IKS suggested poster for parent noticeboard at school, agreed by MSO – MDW suggested participation from Katesgrove school.

DBO suggested the same for MAPP Centre and Waterloo Meadows.

On the subject of notices, IKS talked about the noticeboard that has been obtained for Katesgrove. This needs a location to be mounted. Suggested that Whitley Street would be a good location, and that mounting on shop premises would be ideal since planning permission would not need to be obtained. Suggested that approaches are made to shop owners via NAG or TVP.

The noticeboard will be used to promote all NAG work, including EVA.

DBO or MDW offered to accompany a PCSO to approach shop owners, and also to try to recruit a shop owner for the NAG.

IKS will try to set up a Business Watch (equivalent of Neighbourhood Watch) with Liz Herbert.

DBO mentioned a business group that used to operate for Whitley Street.

#### 4. FEEDBACK

##### COMMS TEAM MEETING

MSO apologised to JSA for not contacting him regarding the meeting, and reported as follows:

- CPO MSO and GEP looked at Redlands NAG leaflet, keen to do something similar.
- GEP can produce flyers, text to be sent to him via email for presentation.
- Possible sponsorship was discussed; MSO had pupils at New Christ Church School write a letter to John Madejski to ask for sponsorship.
- Katesgrove NAG email address set up – [katesgrovenag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katesgrovenag@hotmail.co.uk)
- GEP to ask WSW to begin work on a NAG website.

KLA spoke to WSW and was informed that Reading Borough Council has arrangements with printers for favourable leaflet costs, example: £500 for printing for entire of Reading. May be able to get hints for good deals from RBC.

PKE suggested that the Residents Association and RFTRA (Reading Federation of Tenants' & Residents' Associations) may be able to help with flyers.

JSA suggested the Reading Evening Post (specifically the free Wednesday edition) could help

IKS said that if Madejski did give the group some money, Evening Post would be interested and we could use that for publicity.

KLA agreed to prepare to prepare text to send to GEP describing the NAG, introducing PCSOs, and also giving details of RBFRS Fire Safety initiative, along with details of the NAG email and future web page. PKG agreed to prepare text with details of the Police's home security checks. MDW agreed to supply details of the Katesgrove Residents' Association. Mockup of the flyer will be brought to next meeting.

### **Target distribution date: Aug-Sep**

IKS offered that for small scale distribution, TVP could supply up to a hundred. MSO relayed that GEP estimates 2,500 would required to cover Katesgrove.

JSA offered possible assistance from RBC.

KLA emphasised the "Don't ask, don't get" mantra, and suggested the NAG should not be afraid to ask any possible donor.

JSA brought up Police post (Avely Walk) delay as an aside, IKS reports that all necessary documentation is with RBC, IKS to email details to JSA to chase up.

MSO pointed out that group does not hold money and queried how the group will accept money from sponsors. IKS suggested direct invoicing of expenses to sponsors.

### **2<sup>ND</sup> EVA – AREA TWO**

ROL reported that the second EVA was held 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Items detailed in printed minutes, all items have been sent for action

Problems were primarily graffiti, overhanging vegetation, and waste mismanagement. EVA was attended by a Waste Support Officer (WSO), Matt Dady

Next EVA is next Tuesday (10.30am)

CPO said it was eye-opening, asked ROL about confrontation when RBC has to approach property owners with a view to enforcement. ROL said there is some but not too serious, mainly when dealing with flytipping and abandoned vehicles.

CPO Passed on good feedback regarding EVA from householders on Short Street.

IKS suggested bringing 29 July Waterloo Meadows EVA forward to involve Katesgrove School. MSO suggested it would be better to have them involved in their local area (area two), ROL agreed that we should wait until September and do that.

JSA, ROL has community walkabout on 1<sup>st</sup> July – similar to EVA. JSC to pass on JSA and ROL contact details, interested parties can contact them for information on this.

## **5. CURRENT INTELLIGENCE**

### **PCSOS**

IKS reported that PCSO Rod Holmes has collated evidence but was not available for this meeting. He has identified 6+ areas as drug dealing locations.

Some warrants have been recently executed in the Katesgrove area and arrests made.

Burglary and auto crime associated with drug dealing are still up. RHO identified 44 vehicles with Satellite Navigation systems on display.

## RESIDENTS

MDW has seen drug bags in Elgar Road. ROL says not many seen on recent EVA.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

PKE: Katesgrove Lane near tennis court saw possible drug deal in progress. Begging in Pell Street.

RHO felt tanning shop might be used for dealing when unattended.

KLA asked Katesgrove Residents Association (via MDW) to encourage residents to be more proactive in reporting issues.

IKS stated that his biggest concern is that information is based on individuals, which he is unable to pass on to the NAG. IKS encouraged the NAG not to focus on individuals but on areas.

JSA suggested drug hotspots map compiled by NAG members to show where member perception overlaps with TVP data.

KLA tasked TVP to produce hotspot map. PKE said Crimestoppers can also provide historical data.

IKS suggested NAG should door-knock to promote NAG and solicit issues. 350+ residents were talked to by TVP when NAG was set up, but there are 6,500 residents in Katesgrove. A NAG member + a PCSO may be a more personal approach.

KLA suggested priorities may differ across the (large) NAG area. Local surveys may identify prominent localised problems that can become a Quick Win.

IKS suggested plan needs to be crafted to get drugs information; couple of streets per evening/day?

CPO and KAL stressed residents local to each street should be the people going out. CPO said that action needs both to be taken and fed back for residents to take it seriously.

MDW volunteered to solicit feedback on Elgar Road and Francis Street; agreed to do this with PKG for 8<sup>th</sup> July during daytime, and 14<sup>th</sup> July during the evening.

IKS asked PKE and CSH for assistance. CSH said they will incorporate into their normal patrol.

KLA will do Alpine Street and Edgehill Street, PKG to email suggested dates for this.

IKS will supply record books for feedback.

IKS asked if GEP and WSW have any information from residents. JSC passed on that GEP has a compendium of issues to present. DBO queried whether Cllr. Richard Stainthorp had given any input, IKS agreed to chase Cllr. Stainthorp to encourage his involvement with the NAG.

CPO raised issues with Katesgrove underpass (by Hook and Tackle). KAL said this falls within the Town Centre NAG area.

ROL and JSA said Safer Reading Group could give assistance to the NAG. JSC will contact Emma Jones and invite her to present to the NAG.

DBO said that matters like the underpass can be passed on from Katesgrove Residents' Association. IKS also suggested Anti-Social Behaviour Action Group (ASBAG) co-operation. Information sharing is taking place between those groups and TVP.

KLA suggested the use of a drop box for NAG information.

IKS suggested Liz Herbert could contact NHW co-ordinators to solicit issues.

CPO reported that the traffic light at the end of Elgar Road is out. Council informed last Friday. MSO suggested follow-up calls. JSC stressed politeness as anecdotal evidence from NHW members suggests that rudeness will create delays.

## 6. PROBLEM SOLVING

IKS promoted Problem Solving evening on 23<sup>rd</sup> June – KLA and JSC to attend, MDW, CPO, and MMC also agreed to attend.

## 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> July

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### ACTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

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1. IKS to contact press for NAG member photo
2. DBO or MDW to accompany a PCSO to approach shop owners regarding the NAG noticeboard, and hopefully recruit to NAG.
3. Communications team to prepare draft of NAG flyer, to brought to next meeting:
  - a. KLA to prepare to prepare text to send to GEP describing the NAG, introducing PCSOs, and also giving details of RBFRS Fire Safety initiative, along with details of the NAG email and future web page
  - b. PKG to prepare text with details of the Police's home security checks.
  - c. MDW to supply details of the Katesgrove Residents' Association.
4. GEP to ask WSW to begin work on a NAG website.
5. JSC to pass on JSA and ROL details for contact regarding their community walkabout.

#### **Rob Oldham**

**robert.oldham@reading.gov.uk**

**RBC Streetcare can be contacted on 0800 834 035**

#### **James Sankar**

**james.sankar@reading.gov.uk**

6. IKS to contact Cllr. Stainthorp to encourage his involvement with the NAG.
7. JSC to contact Emma Jones of the Safer Reading Group and invite her to present to the NAG.
8. JSA to get map of Katesgrove area printed.
9. IKS to supply drug activity hotspots for map.
10. Neighbourhood priority feedback from residents:
  - a. MDW to door-knock on Elgar Road and Francis Street with PKG.
  - b. KLA to do same on Alpine Street and Edgehill Street with PKG.
  - c. Wardens to incorporate into their patrols.
  - d. IKS to arrange for Liz Herbert to ask NHW Co-ordinators via Community Messaging to gather feedback.