

BROXTON COMMUNITY FORUM
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall
31st March 2010
(6.00pm -7.00pm Drop- in)
(7.00pm – 9.00pm)

Subject: Spotlight on the Emergency Services

Present: Councillor Ann Wright (Chair)
Councillor Mike Jones
Councillor Neil Ritchie

Speakers: PC Rob Bolton, Cheshire Constabulary
John Salt, Fire & Rescue Services
Gary Ashby, Paramedic, Ambulance Trust
Yvonne Goodwin, Community Safety Warden CWAC

Officers: Debra Brown, Rural West Area Working Team
Elaine Grant, Rural West Area Working Team

Also in attendance, members of the public, other representatives of the emergency services and Officers and visiting Parish Councillors (11 Officers, 27 residents)

Summary

The Chair, Councillor Ann Wright welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Presentations from the Emergency Services

1. Cheshire Police

PC Rob Bolton updated the meeting with the current activities of the police in the local area. This included unmarked police cars, which had produced great results with arrests of people coming into the area to commit criminality. There was also active patrolling of the A49 regarding complaints about motorcycle activity and traffic enforcement in the Broxton and Farndon areas.

Rob stressed the importance of working with partners e.g. Home Watch, Community Wardens as this was producing results with arrests taking place that were directly linked to phone calls.

2. Fire & Rescue Services

John Salt gave a presentation which focused on the Fire & Rescue Service's involvement with the community and working with partners and young people. John stressed the importance of engagement with the community through the home safety checks (663 delivered in Cheshire 09/10 in one day with partners) and free fire alarms and also the importance of working with young people especially alongside other organisations such as the Prince's Trust. The following points were highlighted:

- The Fire Service is improving response times by moving to a GIS system

- The Fire Service with the LSP is focusing on key targets i.e. ASB and deliberate fire setting
- The Fire Service is supported by cadet groups and around 400 volunteers
- The Fire Service deals with a wide range of incidents e.g. chemical, terrorist threat, RTA's, water rescues
- The Fire Service is working with young people on car safety and fire safety
- The Fire Service are working on 'one stop shop' service at Malpas fire station

A question was raised about cut backs in the rural service. The changes to be made are around the number of seats on each engine being reduced but not the overall response service.

A question was raised about Fire Fighters driving through the village with their hazard lights on. Is there anything that can be done to let people know who they are and why they are trying to get through the traffic?

Cheshire Fire Service can be contacted on Tel: 01606 868700.

3. Ambulance Service

Gary Ashby provided the meeting with an update of the First Response service in the local area. The Milton green Ambulance Station was fully operational with one ambulance and a rural patrol car. During his presentation Gary also highlighted:

- Of the 8 million calls, 70% don't need to go to hospital
- Measured on call to connect- despatch within 90 seconds, 90% of the time has been achieved
- Joined up working – the Paramedic can talk directly to the GP and district nurse
- Drive to Survive campaign
- Alcohol and Young People initiatives
- Talks to schools, Age Concern etc.
- Emergency aid courses can be delivered (parent/toddler groups)
- Free 2 hour training in the use of defibrillators/ one in every village (Help with grant through British Heart Foundation).

Action: When running First Aid courses, please inform parish clerks so that the information can be published in the Parish newsletters etc. (GA)

4. Community Safety Wardens

Yvonne Goodwin Community Warden Supervisor updated the meeting on the work of the Wardens which included working with the public and other agencies on:

- Abandoned vehicles and unacceptable/dangerous car parking
- Animals/livestock
- Anti-social behaviour
- Business visits

- Cycle patrols (cycle safety workshops in schools)
- Damage to and unkempt gardens
- Assisting with traffic control
- Fly tipping/graffiti
- Parking outside schools, visits made to Farndon and Tilston.

In order to achieve results there is a need for good intelligence via the call centre and partner agencies. Feedback is also important. Wardens can be contacted on Tel: 0300 123 7033.

Councillor Wright thanked all four presenters and opened the forum to any other issues.

Tattenhall Day Centre (managed by Age Concern)

Concern and confusion was expressed by residents and local Parish Councillors over the future of the Tattenhall Day Centre and the motivation of Age Concern. Residents were aware that Age Concern had suffered cuts in funding and were now consulting with volunteers to find alternative types of personalised support and services. It was believed that these cuts would affect the most vulnerable elderly people and those in rural isolation who are disproportionately affected. The consultation period would end on the 12th April and a final decision on services would be made on 22 April 2010.

CWaC Councillors explained that the Council had not cut its grant to Age Concern for 2010/11 but were aware that Age Concern needed to make savings this year.

Residents were urged to write to Age Concern to express their views as up to this point only 18 letters had been received from service users.

There was also a call from the residents for the Rural West Ward Councillors to lend some weight to this issue and to write to Age Concern about the way the consultation had been handled so far.

It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged with Age Concern with the request to preserve the voluntary run day centres. An analysis on costs could be requested from Age Concern to see if it would be possible for the centres to be kept going and to run in tandem with the proposed new services.

Suggested contact for Age Concern
Jill Walters is the Chief Executive
David Rudd is Chairman of the Trustees.

Date of Next Meeting

10th June 2010, Tilston War Memorial Hall

