

**Blackfen Forum**  
**Notes of a meeting held on 11th July 2007**  
**At Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall**

**Present:** Councillor P Craske Councillor G D'Amiral, J Hollier (Bexley Council), M Wearing (Bexley Council), members of Blendon & Penhill Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team, together with 39 members whose names are recorded on the attendance sheets.  
The meeting was "chaired" by R Kelly (V/Chairman).

**1 Apologies for absence:** were received from Councillors B Beckwith, V Clark, P Cammish, K Perrior, P Catteral, and N Betts, C Britnell (BVSC) Inspector S Ashenden and Sgt B Sherlock (Metropolitan Police), M Brown (Blackfen Girls' School), K Cope and D Rudland.

**2 Introduction:** The Chairman, E Denning welcomed all to the meeting before passing over the "chair" to R Kelly.

**3 Minutes of last meeting** (14th March 2007) had been previously circulated. It was agreed that they were a true record. Proposed I Hadley seconded J Holmes.

**4 Matter arising** (not otherwise on the agenda): Use of land adjacent to 2 Wellington Avenue. The result of an appeal hearing has now been advised. The use of the land as a builders yard is (with portacabin) is lawful. The Councils' decision to refuse a Lawful Development Certificate in relation to the use of the land for a scrap metal yard was upheld. All items associated with the scrap metal business including signage must be removed from the premises by 2 September 2007.

**5 Equal Opportunities Policy:** A proposed policy was circulated. Proposed by I Hadley seconded by B Bigginton that this be adopted by the Forum. Carried. (Copy attached)

**6 Finance:** A grant has been received from Bexley Council towards "Core Administrative costs 2007/200822" together with a "Discretionary Grant" towards costs incurred during previous years. No "bid" would be made this year towards the costs of any "Special Project" but may be considered in future years.

**7 Traffic and Parking:** Councillor Craske informed the meeting that proposals to extend the double yellow lines at the corner of Days Lane and Blackfen Road had been publicised. The deadline for any objections was 13th July.

A resident of Maple Crescent drew attention to the danger caused by motorists regularly disregarding the "One Way" signs in order to avoid waiting at the traffic lights and requested that strong action be taken. This was supported by other members. Police responded that they were aware of the problem and that during the previous weeks action had been taken against offending drivers. She also complained that drivers constantly parked in Maple Crescent with their vehicles overlapping and obstructing the "drive over" access to both her and her neighbour's house. She was invited to discuss this in

detail with Cllr Craske at the end of the meeting.

**8 Litter:** The Secretary reported that the "clean-up" of litter at the rear of Blackfen Parade had proved to be very successful and that thanks were very much due to the Safety Neighbourhood team and their partners for all the hard work entailed. He was hopeful that similar schemes would be undertaken at the rear of Gloucester and Wellington Parades.

**9 Street clutter removal project:** A presentation was made by Jo Hollier, Assistant Highways Manager, Bexley Council, outlining details of a scheme to be implemented on behalf of the Council's Regeneration Team and for which funding was available. The aim was to improve the overall appearance of Blackfen shopping centre thus promoting the shops and the entire area as a desirable place to visit and would be similar to a scheme already implemented in Crayford. The focal point of the area would be the Woodman public house. (She has been in consultation with the owners who are intending to re-vamp the frontage and who would work in partnership with the Council.) Proposals under consideration within the "Shopping centre" included, lighting, parking facilities, signage on private forecourts, paving and re-surfacing (including some private areas), railings and bollards, litter bins, tree planting and an alternative site for re-cycling bins. Various comments and suggestions were made "from the floor" including:-  
De-linuation required between public footway and private forecourts for the benefit of pedestrians.

Provision of hanging flower baskets on street columns.

The lack of shelters at the bus stops. (Cllr Craske responded that this is the responsibility of TFL but that he would forward a request).

Could the Wellington bound 51 bus stop in Wellington Avenue be moved to Westwood Lane (by the Woodman) to avoid late night disturbance to residents in Wellington Avenue?

The views and suggestions of the "Blackfen Community" are welcomed and it was agreed that a small sub-committee be appointed for further discussions and liaison with Ms Hollier.

A vote of thanks was expressed to Ms Hollier whose presentation was considered to be very encouraging.

**10 Police Issues:** The secretary introduced members of the police team and pointed out that the most appropriate meetings at which to raise specific policing issues were the regular Ward Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel meetings although the police officers would be available after the meeting to discuss any individual problems that members might have.

Blackfen Parade "Capital Clean Up Campaign". PCSO Ian Kaye described the problems faced and the measures taken to resolve the issues. This had involved the full co-operation of local residents and traders with much of the rubbish clearing and cleaning tasks being undertaken by offenders under the "Community Pay Back" scheme. The result of the SNT and their partners working together with traders and local residents as a community project had been to restore amongst traders and residents a sense of pride in their locality, which in turn has led to a reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour. The SNT will continue to work together with the residents to maintain this progress.

Councillor Craske stated that he had helped for a couple of hours on the final day of the "clean up" and knew just how much hard work and organisation had gone into the project and how

much had been achieved and proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded to all concerned. Comment was made from "the floor" that since completion of the clean up there had been at least two incidents of "fly-tipping" in the alleyway. The possibility of utilising cctv mobile cameras to detect offenders should be considered. It was also pointed out that the "alleygates" are frequently left open.

P.C Cliff Bolton then advised members of a current series of burglaries which affected all three wards and in which the thieves gained entry to houses with a view to obtaining the keys and stealing high value cars parked on the driveways. The more common ways in which entry was gained were explained and appropriate crime prevention advice given.

### **11 Any Other Business:-**

The Secretary stated that copies of the SNT ward newsletters, together with leaflets providing details of Youth Centres and other activities available for young people were available for any members interested.

He also expressed his thanks to Dave Barnes who had kindly set up a web-site for the Forum, [www.blackfenforum.org.uk](http://www.blackfenforum.org.uk), and who took care of all the technical details. The site had proved popular and had already attracted nearly 2000 "hits".

I Hadley expressed his congratulations and stated that it was one of the few sites containing local information that was regularly updated.

A question was raised re planning application requirements for work currently being undertaken at premises in Blackfen Road. This will be dealt with directly by Clr Craske.

Concern was expressed at possible plans for the closure of Queen Mary's Hospital.

Clr Craske responded that any such plans would be opposed by Bexley Council during any consultation process.

The Vice Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.