



## **Burghfield & Mortimer Neighbourhood Action Group**

### **Minutes of Meeting Held on 08.01.20**

Present:

Royce Longton	NAG Chairman/WBC – Burghfield and Mortimer Ward
Debbie Fisher	NAG Secretary/Wokefield Parish Council
Dave Kilshaw	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Graham Bridgman	WBC – Burghfield and Mortimer Ward
Graham Harris	Burghfield Parish Council
John Wells	Resident
Mike Warner	Padworth Parish Council
Nick Carter	NAG Vice Chairman/Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Ross Mackinnon	WBC
Rob Perry	Thames Valley Police
George Townsend	Thames Valley Police
Sue Nix	Thames Valley Police

Apologies:

Dudley Ives	Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Watch
Ian Morrin	Burghfield Parish Council
Pennee Chopping	Upton Nervet Parish Council



## **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Meeting opened 19:00.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and all present introduced themselves.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were noted.

## **3. Minutes of the previous general meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16.10.19 were approved as correct.

## **4. Declaration of Interests**

No declarations were made.

## **5. Matters arising**

### **Closer Links with the Willink School**

Ian was unable to attend the meeting so he will send an update via email shortly.

### **Speeding Escalation Process**

Details of the speeding escalation process were sent out to the Parish Clerks on 01.12.19.

### **Grazeley Green/Goring Lane Crashes**

Our Neighbourhood Policing Team do not have access to the collision reports as these held by the Roads Policing Department. Data from the traffic reports is shared with WBDC (who monitor contributory factors). The Secretary will contact WBDC to see if the reasons for the crashes can be established.



## **Burghfield Scout Hut Parking**

This issue has been added to the Wokefield PC meeting (20.01.20) agenda.

## **Hollybush Lane Overgrown Hedgerows**

The Secretary raised a problem log with WBDC & the hedges have been cut back.

## **St John's Church Car Park Speeding**

SMPC are paying to install raised speed humps in the car park in an effort to prevent/reduce speeding as it is not possible to close off either of the entrances to avoid it being used as a cut-through.

## **Unauthorised Encampments Strategy**

The Hampshire County Council/Basingstoke & Deane injunction was supported by witness statements from the Police, Council employees and members of the public who had been affected.


If an injunction is to be pursued, it will be necessary for each Parish to provide evidence of previous encampments, associated damage/crime experienced and associated costs prior to requesting WBDC to support the application.

There is ongoing concern that TVP are not using Section 61 as often as they could as they have introduced their own protocols (not required by law) which add an additional layer of criteria to be met.

The general feeling is that if Section 61 was always invoked when the required legal criteria was met and voluntary departure from the site was not achieved, then the West Berkshire district would be less attractive for future unauthorized encampments.

The Secretary asked if WBDC has any plans to provide additional Traveller sites - WBDC is due to publish its new local plan this year for consultation but the contents are not yet known (there is usually a section on traveler sites within the local plan). A point was raised that the travellers that use these sites are generally semi-static rather than transient so additional sites/pitches may not ease the unauthorized encampments problem.

The Government is proposing to strengthen Police powers to tackle unauthorized



encampments and has issued a new public consultation to test the appetite for such a change. The consultation covers criminalizing the act of trespassing, broadening the existing categories of criminal trespass and broadening police powers to deal with trespassers.

Here is the official consultation description & means of recording a response:

### **Consultation description**

We would like to consult on measures to criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales.

We would also like to consult on what an alternative approach to this could be:

- amending section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to permit the police to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites located in neighbouring local authority areas
- amending sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to increase the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return from 3 months to 12 months
- amending section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to lower the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised from six to two or more vehicles
- amending section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to enable the police to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway

### **Ways to respond**


[Respond online](#) or

#### **Email to:**

[UnauthorisedEncampmentsConsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:UnauthorisedEncampmentsConsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk)

#### **Write to:**

Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments consultation,  
Police Powers Unit,  
6th Floor NW, Fry Building,  
Home Office,  
2 Marsham Street,  
London,  
SW1P 4DF



Here is the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-police-powers-to-tackle-unauthorised-encampments>

Any Councils, organisations, land-owners, business owners and members of the public can register a comment/opinion. The more supporting comments recorded, the more likely that this proposal will be taken forward.

The NAG will invite Paul Hendry (WBDC), Alan Hawke (TVP) and Nick John (TVP) to an open meeting to discuss: TVP use of Section 61; the potential application for a district level injunction for sites experiencing these incursions; the Government proposal to extended police powers to tackle unauthorized encampments.

## **Multi-Parish Community Conversation**

A suggestion was made to consider running a multi-Parish open day/event where residents from neighbouring Parishes could come together to meet with Parish Councillors, the Police & possibly representatives from other local organisations to discuss cross-boundary issues and/or raise new concerns.

We could showcase a couple of known issues such as speed/traffic related problems, youth facilities or anti-social behavior/crime followed by a Q&A session and perhaps the means to leave written details of issues/concerns for those who do not want to voice their concern(s) publicly.

This will require some more thought and considerable planning if it is to go ahead.

It was suggested that the Chairmen of the local Parish Councils be contacted to see if they would like to meet to see if there are any cross-boundary issues that might benefit from a multi-Parish discussion/plan of action.

## **Multi-Parish Speed Limit/speeding Review**

The general consensus was that each Parish is dealing with its own speed-related issues but a suggestion was made that a combined approach by multiple Parishes might have a bigger impact and have more chance of achieving a positive outcome.

SMPC is in the process of acquiring an ANPR camera but there are stringent requirements that have to be met if the data produced is to be used by the Police. It is hoped that this camera can be shared with other local Parishes as it has been acquired.

## Local Publicity for the NAG

The NAG has been actively asking local Parish Councils to post the NAG agendas and minutes on their websites/notice boards to try and improve the NAG profile and reach more residents. Wokefield and Mortimer already do this and Burghfield is in the process of looking into this.

The NAG doesn't have a budget so setting up a formal website and resourcing its maintenance and quality control is not possible at the moment.

The NAG is also referenced on Facebook.

## 6. TVP Update

Recent crime figures from TVP for Burghfield and Mortimer:

	Criminal Damage	Theft	Burglary Business	Burglary Residential	Assault with Injury	Assault No Injury	Robbery	Theft from Motor Vehicle	Total
<b>Mortimer</b>	15*	1	1	2	0	2	0	4	25
<b>Burghfield</b>	5	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	12
<b>Sulhamstead</b>	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Beech Hill</b>	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
<b>Padworth</b>	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
<b>Wokefield</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ufton Nervet</b>	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	8

\*7 of which were part of a catapult incident

For fuller details of all crimes reported in our area please type 'Pangbourne NHPT' into Google and click on the link (<https://www.police.uk/thames-valley/N473/>).



## **7. Reports from member Parishes**

### **WOKEFIELD**

Nothing to report.

### **BURGHFIELD**

The diversion signs for the James Lane road closure is currently directing traffic down Mans Hill (which has a 2 tonne weight limit) – this is not the WBDC agreed route which is down Hollybush Lane. The resident who raised the problem will contact the contractor and ask them to move the signs to the correct locations.

Commercial vehicles have been parking in the road outside of the Hollies development which is causing safety issues with road users.

### **SULHAMSTEAD**

Nothing to report.

### **PADWORTH**

Nothing to report.

### **MORTIMER**

#### **St John's Church Carpark Vehicle Damage**

Car windows were broken during a Sunday service which was reported to the Police.

### **ASB**

There has been a recent spate of anti-social behavior by a group of females in Mortimer. The Police are aware and have added the details to their patrol plan.

### **UFTON NERVET**

Nothing to report.

## BEECH HILL

Nothing to report.

### 8. AOB

None.

### 9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 29.04.20 7pm.

**Meeting closed 20:47.**

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Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline
Contact WBDC to see if the reasons for the Grazeley Green crashes can be established.	Secretary	Next NAG Meeting
Update on Scout Hut Parking following Wokefield PC meeting to be held on 20.01.20.	Debbie Fisher (Wokefield PC)	Next NAG Meeting
Invite Paul Hendry, Alan Hawkett & Nick John to an open meeting re unauthorised encampments & the potential application for a district injunction.	Secretary	ASAP – Date TBC
Contact the Chairmen of the local Parishes (via the Clerks) to see if they would like to meet to identify any cross-boundary issues that might benefit from a combined approach.	Secretary	Next NAG Meeting