

Crosspool Forum Open Meeting - Thursday 28th April 2022.
St Columba's Church Hall 7pm

Present; Ian Hague (Chair); Steve Reynolds (Vice chair); John Drinkwater (treasurer); Gillian Drinkwater (min sec) Nick Duggan; Roger Kite; Angela Southward
Councillors: Tim Huggan; Mohamed Mahrouf; Ruth Misom
Apologies; Jude Murphy (Care in Crosspool manager) Sarah Stevens (Youth Parliament)
Guests; PCSOs; Pam Thompson & Phil Whittaker - Youth Parliament Cabinet Team (Sheffield); – Emma Hinchliffe; Parliament elected members, Zara, Anis & Isabela; plus 15 Crosspool residents
Ian H. welcomed everyone and asked if there were any matters arising from the Jan 27th Meeting? He thanked Angela for doing the Minutes & they were accepted as a true record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ian thanked the Councillors for their attendance with the local elections looming next week
A resident who had planted crocus on the verge adjacent to her house only to have their heads mown off by Amey with their first grass cut of the year!
Expert Tyres (Selborne Rd) were asked to remove a pile of old discarded tyres that had built up, but for a few from the weeks work, they had now been removed.
Cuore Siciliano restaurant closing on 30th April, a Mediterranean-themed restaurant reported to be opening on the site.
Hagg Hill/Back Lane /Stephen Hill road surface – redone 7 years ago – is deteriorating badly (see below).
Forum has been hard at work organizing Festival Week, and Summer Fayre – (see below).
Queens Platinum Jubilee; flags and bunting ordered for the precinct display. Steve & team hope to get these- and the hanging baskets up in the precinct, Sunday 29th May. King Ted's children will be helping with planting up the precinct planters – red, blue & white, Thursday morning 19th May.
Crosspool News, Facebook & Twitter feeds all have substantial hits – even from Russia!!
Clarion printing costs have gone up by 20%; Ian thanked Archers for their sponsoring part of our costs.
Police used a download from our CCTV for info regarding an incident earlier in March.
Defibrillator situated on wall at St Columba's has had new pads and a new battery is due. The national defibrillator register will not accept them for listing if they are not properly serviced – keeping them properly serviced is quite expensive.
The Lydgate Green gardening team has done “ a wonderful job” tidying & replanting – thank you to Steve and the friends of Lydgate green team.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John said some things have stayed the same and some got worse! 'Staying the same' has been that we have managed to keep our heads above water financially, accepting that some events (eg the Christmas party) cost more than they take in. We are fairly reliant income from Calendar sales, and the annual tree shredding event. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in this way! We are “very very fortunate” in having a number of local sponsors, private commercial, the SCC has been very helpful to us also. Our Tai Chi and Easy Exercise classes always have room to welcome more people.

'Things changing for the worse' include inflation starting to bite, with the Clarion costs having gone up the advertisers may well be asked to pay a little more – these increases will be staggered.
Insurance costs will most likely go up next year.

The very good news is that the Festival Week is going ahead – with excellent sponsorship, the street market is fully booked, and very grateful to see everyone come back. Scarecrow competition theme: Historical Monuments of the Last 70 Years, scarecrows to be displayed between Friday 24th June and Saturday 2nd July.

Thanks to the hard work by Steve & Ian, the forum has been promised: Sponsorship from: Cocker & Carr estate agent, Spar, Green Cross Pharmacy, Layers carpet shop & Alex Gage opticians. Donations

from: Ronaldo hairdressers; Tesco; Enhance hairdressers; Ellie's sandwich shop; Fish & Chip shop; Hudson's kitchen; Pet Shop; Charisma, & the Crosspool pharmacy.

Without "such strong backing it would be hugely difficult to operate". (The profits from the Festival Week will go to the charities, "Baby Basics" and "The Samaritans").

POLICE REPORT

Pam said it was "nice to see so many faces again"! Talking about burglaries from 28th Jan to now, there have been 9 in our area (entry through insecure doors, smashed patio windows and snapping off Eurolocks (still). Cash, jewellery & tools have been taken. The burglaries seem to have been daytime, but there were 6 attempts during the night.

There were 5 thefts of motor vehicles – on the increase across the city. Four vans, lots of VWs, Audi's, Skoda's, Seats, Range Rovers & Land Rovers. All keyless models –she reminded everyone with this sort of car to keep the keys indoors in a Faraday pouch or a tin - & use a 'Krooklok' steering wheel device as a discouragement. As the gold price has gone up, gold items are being targeted. Several youths are already serving time for various offences – some under 18. Mindless attacks on local allotments criminal damage on 3 Hagg Lane and 6 Marsh Lane – nothing of value taken. Lee Emmett is the new Police sergeant to the neighbourhood, Pam hopes to invite him to July Open Meeting.

The old 'police box/bungalow' at the crest of Lydgate Lane is due to open again - residents should see a police presence there, so do knock on the door. Sheffield has taken on at least 96 new officers (all under 25 years old). Pam's team presently has 4 PCSOs and 9 "bobbies" – all serving the 'North West' down to Broomhall.

How is Crosspool doing relative to other areas of the city? Pam thought there were fewer incidents here.

Are electric cars being targeted yet? Pam was not aware of any – they are more difficult to steal.. Resident saw a youth in hoodie who sped away on an electric bike. The police can't pursue these as if the rider falls off & is hurt they are liable. The individual might excuse his hood as being head protection– not to hide his face from cameras!

Can Pam & Phil pop up to the precinct at lunchtime, to check the school kids' behaviour? There have been some incidents in the precinct in the last few months. Phil said there is ongoing work with businesses and schools to try to resolve matters; a dedicated team regularly gives talks about crime, gang membership etc.

Phil then went on to explain exactly what a Eurolock is, and how they used to be fitted to UPVC doors (eg patio) as standard. These must be replaced with an anti-snap 3* or 5 lever mortice lock if door wood.

COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

Resident (Bob) was given a glancing blow by a van on a crossing recently. There seems to be no authority to control Sheffield parking – a scaffolding van was parked across the dropped disabled-surface 'bobbles' area at a street corner, and at times it is "horrendous" with commercial vehicles parking anywhere they please to visit the sandwich shops. Can we have visits from parking enforcement officers at 9-10 am, & again 12-1.pm to stop this?

Tim H said all 3 of the councillors have had meetings with parking wardens but will now "demand" they come up and do more. Ruth thinks it is quite feasible to ask for certain times to be targeted – a good starting point. (She asked for the resident's details to get back in touch with him).

Can the parking authorities access our CCTV? Phil W– the system can't be used for that.

Could railings be erected by the white zigzags to prevent parking here?

Implementation dates for the '20s plenty' traffic speed scheme? No date set for this. Zebra crossing white-lines and disabled bay need re-painted? (Steve mentioned how a team was sent up on 27th and only told to repaint 1 of our 3 faded zebras!) Ruth said they should be coming up to look at these problems shortly, as she has requested this. Extra disabled parking at the Benty Lane Scout hall? A disabled lady who attends Easy Exercise has difficulty parking to access the Scout hall. Councillors have promised a white 'H'.

Refrigerate Lorries running their engines? Mohammed said Cairns Rd and Selborne Rd residents had brought this up, but as there are no parking restrictions here, there is little action that can be taken. Wardens are definitely needed round here more frequently as pavement parking is an issue. He has shown the “extra engineered” junction of Selborne/Watt Lane/ Sandygate Rd to highways engineers and they admit they would never design something like that nowadays! So our problems are “definitely on the Council radar” , a “fundamental look is needed”. The councillors pointed out that anything not already written into the Amey roads contract is difficult to action. People use our streets to park and then bus it into town. This is known to happen with university & hospital staff, but putting parking permit signs just moves the problem along. The organizations have been told and should have emailed this to their staff. Use of rumble strips to slow cars down? These are very noisy in built-up areas. A 3 – D paint system is being trialled in London (said Tim) that looks to drivers as if there is a ramp in front of them, which makes them slow down. Carterknowle Rd has one of these.

Should people take photos of the car reg, where they are and send them in – or phone up the company advertised on the van etc. sides & complain? Yes, this is perfectly legal.

A garden landscaping van drives along the Manchester Rd footway and parks there all day? This is a police matter if he is blocking the footpath– send a photo to Pam.

Please can DYLS be put on the Carsick Hill Rd dangerous sharp bend? Ruth; they are compiling a list with the other wards of areas that need DYLS – it costs about £5,000 to advertise this is happening, so all the jobs needed ought to go on one listing Road condition of Lydgate Hall Cres? Amey is writing a report of the ‘patchwork’ condition of some roads awaiting mending. Many round here were done 7 years ago & have reached their limit (eg Stephen Hill/Back Lane/Hagg Hill) – we expect the surface to last 5 years . Residents were requested to report any breaking-up patches to Amey so they can be called to account and fined if the work is sub-standard. (Tim was asked to clarify the signing-off process once work has been done....)

Speed cameras arriving? – (“ smiley sids”...)Tim & Ruth have been busy mapping lamp poles to see where these might go.

CLOUGH FIELDS RIGHT OF WAY.

Roger Kite was asked to give the meeting an update on the dispute about the right of way through the ‘Clough fields riding stables’ site. He sits on the access forum for the Sheffield panel & they held a meeting two weeks ago, & he has submitted a Section 14 claim to the Rights of Way Unit – for which he is awaiting a response. He requested the councillors present put pressure on this team to get this done. He is aware that other local groups have submitted Section 14s as well – riders & walkers. It would be helpful to have a meeting of the RoW officer, Highways record officer, Roger and lead person of the riding fraternity, to look at the historical & legal evidence for a highway through the yard. He felt it was ridiculous there needs to be a public enquiry about this, as it is an ancient highway - & could easily be restored as a Restricted Byway – open to riders & pedestrians. None of the groups object to a diversion (provided it is constructed to the appropriate standard) , at the back of the stables. He feels it would be more sensible for the Highways Records dept to admit their mistake – you can see the road has been metalled in the past for some distance. (At the other end from St Anthony Rd this was probably always something more than a footpath too – but this has not been used for some time as such although access is not in dispute).

YOUTH PARLIAMENT CABINET TEAM

Emma Hinchcliffe (Youth Involvement lead for this), Zara, Annis & Isabella (school representatives) reported on this. Emma does youth work of all sorts – from careers guidance, to young people at risk, or who go missing, or who are at risk of crime. Sheffield has 3 elected members of the Youth Parliament – in north, east & west seats (related to the new LAC areas). They are elected every two years in February on their written manifestos to stand as local youth councillors, and in this area 13 young people stood for 5 seats. They hold cabinet meetings once a month, to look at city-wide priorities, but also work at community level on what is felt to need prioritizing as important to 11-18 year olds – though some are up to 25.

Between them the three spoke of their interest in politics, what a great experience this would be and give them transferable skills for the future, on how to represent individuals, & make changes to help their communities. Priorities for Sheffield are to push for votes at age 16, to help mental health & well being, with school support for individuals & extra-curricular activities. They felt their curriculums need to be more inclusive, with LGBT discussions , multi-cultural & diverse matters – learning eg 1st aid, the tax system, climate education, sexual harassment & rape culture, gang awareness etc. They will set up “community young advisors” to work at key issues.

They answered a few questions from the floor – eg at what stage are they affiliated to national political parties? no, they are politically neutral – everything is issue based, & they work in an area stretching from York to Humber. To what extent had they been involved already in issues in their local communities? Zara said there is “a huge” problem of sexual harassment in the corridors at her school. they said they have only been in post since Feb and their first cabinet meeting is only happening shortly. A question was raised about integration with other schools? They are linked to them all via specific teachers & student voices, by email. Some of the older ones will visit schools, but they are still holding meetings by zoom as big numbers are involved. They have already met city counsellors. (On being asked about their individual manifestos eco-labelling in shops was mentioned – but they were rather caught on the hop!). They said there was little political education in the schools, with few lessons on the national government structure and not many young people seem interested. Using the word ‘politics’ does turn people off but once issues are mentioned they feel involved. The three “do not want to stand out” at school – but want to reflect what they believe. They were asked to visit the Open Meeting again in a few months to give us feedback – and were happy to promote any of our community events through their schools.

EVENTS.

The Forum might hold a Car boot sale this year at the Crosspool Tavern – but not over the Jubilee weekend. Summer Fayre; Ian said many stallholders had been in touch (as Stannington Carnival is not going ahead this year) but some are not appropriate for our event. We do need helpers to man e.g. the coconut shy I, splat the rat, wet sponge and the book stall etc., refreshments by the WI. Sally (Festival team) emailed in some information; the programme of events will be delivered with the next Clarion. The end of May Bank Holiday being moved to Thursday 2nd June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3rd June will see a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee - – The Council needs to be informed of all street parties)

The next Open Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 28th July (St Columba’s Church hall)

It is hoped to invite our local MP to attend an Open Meeting, so day may have to be changed at some stage to a Friday