

Burghfield and Mortimer Neighbourhood Action Group

Minutes of Meeting held on 22 November 2023 at Burghfield Village Hall

Present: NAG Members: Meghan Adey-Butt (TVP), Dominic Boeck (WBC), Graham Bridgman (Chair, SMPC), Nick Carter (WBC), Richard Coles (Secretary, Neighbourhood Watch), Robert Hubbard-Clark (TVP), Dudley Ives (Neighbourhood Watch, etc), Andy Murray (TVP), Richard Thorrington (BPC), John Wells (SMPC)

Others: 12 members of the public

1. Chair's opening remarks

GB welcomed everyone to the meeting and, for those who had not attended before, clarified who was who and how the meeting would be conducted.

2. Apologies for absence

None.

3. Minutes of previous meeting (27 September 2023)

Agreed.

4. Matters arising

Nothing not otherwise on the agenda.

RH-C had been delayed, so TVP report would be deferred. In the meantime GB took Parish Reports as the next item.

5. Parishes and other NAG representatives – reports and observations

Mortimer (JW) - shed broken into and theft of equipment. Discussion regarding reporting issues and the levels of action taken. Consensus that TVP do not get to hear about incidents due to lack of reporting.

Burghfield and Mortimer (all) – Tesco Express seemed to be a flashpoint for theft, going unchallenged by the staff because of intimidation. The same story is reported in of many shops in both villages, in particular Morrisons in Mortimer and both Co-Ops. The discussion primarily revolved on the severity of incidents and that, if a theft, robbery, or assault was in progress it should be called in as a 999 call - 101 should be used for non- urgent incidents.

The general perception of the public in the meeting was that not enough notice was taken of these incidents.

AM went into detail in explaining TVP procedures in judging the severity or otherwise of reports. He also referred to the resources available to respond appropriately significantly affecting response times (eg a disturbance would not be rated the same as a robbery in progress, or physical assault).

Brimpton (DB) – incursion on greenfield land.

NC raised the issue of issues with parking at the Burghfield Co-Op being impacted by other vehicles parking around school times – suggested a TVP conversation with the staff.

(Post meeting note – RHC communicated with Co-Op operations manager, and delivery timings would be altered.)

Question of Hermits Hill speed limit raised.

Four Houses Corner – reminder that a WBC public consultation meeting was due to take place on 11 December (from 18:00) at St John’s Hall, Mortimer.

6. Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Team Report

RH-C presented the report for 26 September to 22 November verbally (subsequently provided as the table below) (last period’s totals in brackets):

Crime type	Burghfield	Mortimer	Beech Hill	Sulhamstead	Wokefield	Ufton Nervet	Padworth
ASB	3	3	1	0	0	0	0
Criminal Damage	4	2	0	0	1	0	2
Theft from motor vehicle	0	4	0	0	0	0	1
Theft of motor vehicle	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary dwelling	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary non dwelling	1 (building site)	0	0	1	0	0	0
Theft	3	0	0	0	1	0	1
Assault-injury	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Assault - non injury	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13 (51)	16 (47)	1 (2)	1 (9)	2 (0)	0 (1)	4 (6)

AM and RH-C then spoke to the report and answered questions from those present – RH-C reported that crime figures were generally very low .

Various issues raised by meeting or expanded upon by TVP:

Door knocking or kicking, in Damson Drive, Mortimer – youths, and parents, had been spoken to.

Parking issues near St Mary’s school in Mortimer – GB advised that this was being discussed by SMPC.

Speeding in Mortimer and Burghfield – GB explained the Speedwatch process.

Continued issue of keyless entry theft - suggested use a faraday pouch (etc) for car keys repeated form previous meetings.

Request to add ‘Shoplifting’ incidents to the reported categories - TVP agreed. One member of the public commented on an observation of stealing at Burghfield Tesco, and consequent intimidation.

A substantial discussion ensued about what activities warrant TVP activity/intervention.

TVP commented that the YOT (Youth Offending Team) were doing excellent work and highly regarded- there was general agreement in the room that this was the case.

Trucks speeding through Burghfield are on the increase and causing concerns – RH-C promised to speak to the company in question.

7. AOB

None

(Secretary holds a voice recording of the entire meeting if further clarification is needed.)

8. Venue for, date and time of next meeting

St John's Hall, Mortimer (subject to availability). To be arranged in line with TVP shift patterns.

Post meeting – January date abandoned for lack of venue. Next meeting will be on 14 February at Community Centre in Mortimer.