

**Notes of meeting of Friends of Thringstone and
other interested parties to discuss anti-social behaviour/
crime and disorder within the village held at
Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 24th November 2005**

Apologies: Cllr. Rod Evans
Rowena Summers
Ray Neal
Sandy Newton

Present: Nita Pearson
Cllr. Pam Clayfield
Dave Everitt
John Carr
Jan Cufflin
Niels Nielsen
Brenda Simpson
PC Ian Holland
Deb Terry, Housing Officer, NWLDC
Kate Richards, Anti-social Behaviour Officer, NWLDC
Amanda Tattersall, Springfield, Thringstone
Cheryl Shipman, Springfield, Thringstone
Ian Bull, Glebe Road, Thringstone

NP explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and other such areas of concern. A meeting of this type had been discussed at previous meetings of Friends of Thringstone, and NP welcomed the 'forum' of speakers, Ian Holland, Deb Terry and Kate Richards, and thanked them for coming along to address the group.

At a meeting of Friends of Thringstone, and a meeting of the proposed Thringstone Residents Association, mention had been made of an escalation of petty crime in the village following the re-housing of a family from another area. It was pointed out that due to data protection, publishing details of minutes giving names of families/addresses is not advisable. DT said that she needed to know who problem tenants were, or have full details of any resident's concern before she could answer any queries, and this should be done direct to her on 01530 454545 extension 484. She gave out some cards detailing this number.

CS pointed out that she was aware of some families in the village with youngsters who have ADO/behavioural problems, but that this was not unusual in any area. DE pointed out that a place is only as good as its worse area, and asked why there were boarded up flats in the Woodside area. He felt this was unacceptable, created the wrong impression of the village and made the area look neglected, which could impact on the attitude of residents. JC mentioned that Friends of Thringstone regularly promoted the idea of being responsible for your own litter, and said that litter bin provision, which has been discussed before, was still lacking in the village. DT said that the flats referred to had been secured following the tenants leaving their property. One flat had now been relet, and the other was likely to be relet within the next 2 weeks. This matter had taken so long because of issues with the tenants who had left.

DE said he was concerned that, despite having reported 18 months ago that there was a loose cable near one of these flats, nothing had been done. This was noted.

NN asked the position with regard to the house on The Green on which work had started earlier this year and which now seemed abandoned again. NP reported that she had tried to ascertain the current position with the officer at the council responsible for this prior to the meeting, but had been unsuccessful. She intended to pursue this matter, and would report back in due course.

Discussion took place on the removal of fencing in Springfield, and from the property adjacent to The Bulls Head, known as Ashby Lodge, and PC Holland said that 3 youths had been apprehended over this issue, but there was insufficient information to charge them.

IH then detailed the crime statistics for Thringstone. In the last 60 days, there had been 19 crimes – 8 were assaults, one deception, 2 theft, 4 criminal damage and 4 other issues. Zero crime would be ideal, but 19 actual crimes is a low figure for any area. IH said that he needed more community help to deal with crimes, and reports weren't always made. He suggested that, in the future, he might have a fortnightly surgery or a drop in slot at the community centre for people to come and chat to him. Having more bobbies on the beat would be the ideal situation, and there will be a community support officer for the area in due course, who will be more visible, but who will have limited powers.

JC said that it was comforting to see someone in a uniform on the streets, and this could act as a deterrent.

NP asked how people should contact PC Holland. The best idea is to ring through to the main Police number on 0116 222222 and ask for PC 494 Ian Holland. Leaving messages for him is not always the best option. He does have a radio when he is working in the community which calls can be patched through to, as NP had found earlier that day.

JC said that he had resurrected the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Springfield, Heathfield and Loughborough Road areas of the village, and had provided residents with stickers and sent regular emails to residents on areas of concern which had been reported to him by the Police.

It was reported that the situation regarding the riding of motorbikes in the Grace Dieu Woods was not as bad as it had been.

AT asked why there were still so many trainers hanging on telegraph wires throughout the village. DE said that in the past, if reported, BT engineers dealt with the removal of such items if it is a BT line.

Discussion took place about the licensing application for Thringstone Members Club (formerly The Rangers) and gave the background to why a Residents Association had been put forward. Many had felt that the granting of a licence allowing the consumption of liquor on the premises to 2am was a foregone conclusion, and of the 50 residents who went to the application meeting, many had come away totally disillusioned on the way the meeting had been run. This had soured people's opinion of NWLDC. It was agreed that the situation had calmed in recent weeks, and whilst there had been a lot of ill-feeling towards both Westbourne Leisure and NWLDC, this may change if/when it is seen that there is no escalation of crime in the immediate vicinity which could be linked to the increased consumption of alcohol. PC made it clear that licenses could be removed if the conditions of the license were breached, and NP said that she understood all acts who were booked at Thringstone Members Club would cease playing at 1am in an attempt to cut down noise. JC said that the last two events held at the club had been very quiet, and no nuisance had been created.

It was agreed that a well-managed club would be an asset to the area, and it was the fear of the unknown that was the main problem. NP said that membership cards were now issued, door keepers were to be in place, and external advertising of any events on websites had ceased, as the club was for members and not for anybody who just saw an event advertised and decided to travel down the motorway to attend it.

PC reported that the Stockyard seems to have reopened.

KR said that she needed to be told of any anti-social behaviour. If those causing such nuisance were council tenants, this also needed to be reported to DT, and they would investigate, with the police, if necessary. It was pointed out that those with ASBOs could be arrested if they carried out behaviour that caused them to breach their order, and they could then receive up to 5 years imprisonment.

PC said that such issues can also be reported to her, and she would act in the best interests of her constituents.

DE asked what the Council's housing policy is, and was Thringstone the dumping ground for problem families. DT said that the council's housing department runs on a waiting list system. People are awarded points, and housed on need. This is done at district level. If a person is on the homeless register, they are housed in the first available unit. People on the standard waiting list can refuse a property. This may be because they don't wish to live in that area, or it could be that they feel there is a problem with that property, in which case the Council will investigate what the problem is. People are normally allowed 2 refusals. People with ASBOs can be evicted if there are further problems which affect their tenancy.

NN said he wished to thank NP and JC for their work to improve life for residents in Thringstone, and the 'forum' group were thanked for their comments. It was agreed that a lot of fears had now been allayed, and the meeting had been most constructive. NP ended the meeting by reporting that Friends of Thringstone had been awarded £700 in funding from East Midlands Airport Community Fund for planting etc. in the area of Drury Lane.