

# Old Woking, Kingfield and Westfield

Thursday 3 July 2008

**We would like to thank you for attending the Neighbourhood Improvement Workshop held at Moorcroft, Westfield on Thursday 3 July 2008. We hope you will find this newsletter informative.**

So, down to business! Over 50 residents attended and took the opportunity to meet various voluntary groups, including residents' associations.

Also on hand to speak to residents and local people were representatives from Surrey Police, Woking Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Surrey Fire and Rescue and the local Primary Care Trust – the main partners behind the Neighbourhood Management Group who planned the workshop.

You might remember that when you entered the hall, everyone was asked to write down the three main issues that they would like to discuss. These were then used to determine the three main topics for the evening's workshops.

- Parking and speeding issues.
- How can we engage with young people?
- Reducing crime.

## Since the event

Surrey Police, Neighbourhood Officers (from Woking Borough Council), officers from Surrey County Council, local councillors and local residents groups have been investigating how community groups, relevant agencies and local residents can get involved in addressing these issues.

### Parking and speeding issues

Residents raised a number of issues around parking in the area. Rydens Way and Loop Road were identified as priorities. Those in attendance felt the road should be widened or parking restrictions introduced during peak hours of the day to discourage commuter parking in the area. These views have been forwarded to Surrey County Council.

Parking on football match days and on double yellow lines was also raised. Following the meeting, it was confirmed Woking Football Club do provide parking information on their website, advising people where they can park safely and responsibly. Woking Borough Council parking attendants have prioritised the area for enforcement of yellow lines to tackle local parking hotspots.

Speeding vehicles in Westfield Road and Kingfield Road were highlighted as a problem by residents, who requested traffic calming measures be introduced. Measures suggested included 'Slow Down' signs and zebra crossings to enable pedestrians to cross the road safely. These views have been forwarded to Surrey County Council.

Residents also raised concerns about vegetation covering the footpath on Westfield Road. Serco, the Council's environmental maintenance partners, have removed vegetation and cleared litter from the area.

### How can we engage with young people?

Residents raised concerns about antisocial behaviour and how we, as a community, can engage with young people. Residents felt there was a lack of provision and facilities for young people. The community had previously tried to set up youth groups and clubs, but had struggled with finding volunteers. Woking Borough Council is currently looking at ways to help recruit and train volunteers to work with young people.



Parents felt there was a lack of awareness of what activities the Council and other agencies provide for young people. The Council currently produce leaflets and posters advertising forthcoming events and activities in schools and youth clubs, along with dedicated web pages at [www.woking.gov.uk](http://www.woking.gov.uk). The Council also support Woking Youth Council, which is open to anyone who lives in the Borough and is aged between 13 and 18 years old. For more information, please visit [www.wokingyouthcouncil.co.uk](http://www.wokingyouthcouncil.co.uk)

The Council will also look into ways of using text messaging to communication forthcoming events to young people.

### Reducing crime

Antisocial behaviour was highlighted as an issue following a fire and vandalism at the Westfield Common play area. Street furniture and play equipment were damaged and had to be repaired or replaced, with new equipment being installed during autumn/winter 2008.

Both Westfield Common and St Peters Recreation Ground were identified as antisocial behaviour hotspots. Details have been passed to Surrey Police.

Ways of combating antisocial behaviour in the area, which the local police and the Council are currently considering include, setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, installing a Multi-Use Games Area, the police to work closely with schools, and creating after-school clubs where young people can learn alternative skills.

### Neighbourhood policing

Every defined neighbourhood within the Borough is covered by a Neighbourhood Policing Team. They are made up of a combination of dedicated beat officers (Neighbourhood Specialist Officers – NSOs) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). These officers work alongside dedicated Woking Borough Council Neighbourhood Officers, whose job it is to help resolve community issues.

Each team works towards reducing crime levels in the area, alongside reducing the fear of crime in the neighbourhood. They achieve this by tackling the problems you identify, promoting community safety and assisting with environmental improvements.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team for Old Woking, Kingfield and Westfield are:

PC Paul May, email [178@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:178@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO Andrew Hannant, email [12453@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:12453@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

You can speak to one of the team by phoning **0845 125 2222**.

The team hold regular panel meetings, where priorities for the policing team are set by the residents who attend. The team also hold regular police surgeries, which is your opportunity to speak to a member of the team on a one-on-one basis. To find out more about the dates of panel meetings and surgeries, please contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team, or visit [www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)

### Community volunteers

Woking Borough Council is looking for committed residents who are prepared to be contacted to help at any future community events, such as a community clean-up days.

If anyone would like to become a community volunteer, please contact Woking Borough Council's Neighbourhood Officer, Yvette Lanham, on **01483 743475** or email [yvette.lanham@woking.gov.uk](mailto:yvette.lanham@woking.gov.uk)

## Evaluation – what have we learnt from the event?

### The event and your neighbourhood

We can see that, overall, those who attended are proud to tell people where they live and feel they can turn to neighbours to ask for help. The majority feel that people in their neighbourhood care about their neighbours and just over half of those who completed the evaluation showed that they get involved in community activities and regularly give up time to volunteer in their neighbourhood.

### The workshops

Over 73% of those who completed the evaluation said they found the workshops a worthwhile use of their time. Also, 74% stated that they now know where to find information about public services, although only 56% said they are satisfied with the level of service they receive from local agencies.

## What's happening now?

For results of the workshops, issues raised from the registration forms and evaluation of the event, please visit the 'Tune In' web page on Window on Woking ([www.windowonwoking.org.uk](http://www.windowonwoking.org.uk)). Please visit this page regularly for further updates, as all dedicated officers and organisations are continually adding information as it becomes available.

If you do not have access to the internet and would like to receive a hard copy for the information available on the website, please contact:

**Yvette Lanham**, Neighbourhood Officer

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Phone: **01483 743475**