

CROSSPOOL FORUM - OPEN MEETING
Bullet Points
Friday 25th April 2014

Attending were some 50 Crosspool residents, Cllr Rob Frost, Cllr Geoff Smith, 9 members of the Forum Management Committee, the police & 3 Guest speakers.

MATTERS ARISING from 30th Jan 2013:- promised 51 bus route meeting; now scheduled for Friday 30th May 2014 7pm St Columba's; Amey road resurfacing, delayed from February is now due to start in July.

GUEST SPEAKER: - Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg MP, Q & A session.

Mr Clegg answered questions from the floor, topics being raised were 1/ Sheffield City Council budget cuts of 50% & what services should be prioritized; 2/ whether Sheffield has been treated unfairly in the cuts as against "leafy Surrey", 3/ on HS2 rail project, 4/ public transport issues, 5/ food banks & the role of the Church, 6/ non-green "green" school buses, 6/ cuts in nursery provision, 7/ zero hour contracts, 8/ non-collection of owed council taxes & 9/ the sale of the Post Office.

He said every council in the country faced the same cuts, but each has the freedom to decide what to spend on. The country's debts must be cleared, & the council to get better at collecting any money owed. Recommendations on the HS2 line (& a possible central railway station) are expected by the end of the year. The whole scheme must however act as a catalyst to growth generally.

London's transport system is quite different from Sheffield, & changes are fraught with legal difficulties. The greater devolution of power from Whitehall should improve things by July.

In the UK there has always been less support for buses etc. from state subsidies, but any move to make car-use even more expensive would not be popular - the Coalition has therefore stopped planned fuel-duty rises. Employment has gone up (apprenticeships for instance seeing a big rise in take-up), & the tax threshold lifted. The reasons why food banks have become so popular are being looked into. The Councillors agreed to look at the school bus service provision (worries over maintenance of these) & Nick into why there appear to be severe cuts in nursery provision in the city. Vince Cable is dealing with the zero hour contract issue, & had no crystal ball to see how the sale of the Post Office would go.

POLICE REPORT

Gary Hizam said it had been fairly quiet recently! However anyone with Eurolocks on their UPVC doors should think seriously about changing them for the modern sort that cannot be snapped.

New No Cold-calling cards are available for households to go with the recent legislation. There was some discussion about the 101 versus 999 telephone number. (101 is an information line, to be used to inform the police, Council, & Amey etc. of local issues; 999 means 'you need immediate action').

PEDAL READY PRESENTATION

Pam Walton is part of a cycle coop in Sheffield, which used to run the school bikeability training.

They now do adult training - from first-time learners to road confidence & commuting by bike. Bikes are available to learn on, for hire & to buy. There is a Sheffield cycle map available for free from Howden House, & luminous vests.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Pat Wilkins spoke about anyone wanting to start their own scheme to contact her; she recommended using immobilize.com to register any valuables, and to report any fraud to the nationwide police database called **Actionfraud**. There is an over 60s driving skills assessment available out at Hellaby Nr Rotherham - you need to need book!

Fire Service will visit your premises to assess your needs and can provide 10 yr. smoke alarms.

COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Geoff wanted to query some of Nick Clegg's points with regard to Sheffield Council. He said the 50% cuts were bigger than some areas such as Maidenhead. The transient population of the city had always caused problems with council tax collection but the collection rate is 97-98% and debtors are pursued. The funding for nursery infrastructure has been removed. He & Rob answered a few questions from the floor - on Freedom of Information requests to find out council salaries, & that changes in the layout of the parking bays in Crosspool are to be pursued. The present chevrons layout may have resulted in many accidents. There is no possibility of traffic lights at the junction of Manchester Road with neither Sandygate Rd nor Selborne Road.

AOB

- 1/ **Parking Meters now operate in the Crosspool Tavern car park.** Diners will be refunded of tariff when placing their order at the bar, but must not overstay the 2 hour limit. This might cause a problem with the May car boot sale - in which case it will be held the Sportsman instead.
- 2/ **St Columba's** are to sponsor a precinct flower tub to mark its 60th anniversary.
- 3/ **50s & 60s Night - Sep 27th, Hallam FC**
- 4/ **Tai chi going well** - Wed 12noon Benty Lane scout hut (& more computer classes are planned).
- 5/ **Hagg Copse clean-up day** - 11th May. A bark chipping path will be laid to the bench.
- 6/ **Summer Fayre** will be opened by Damian Johnson (local BBC sports reporter) @ 1pm.
- 7/ **Flag erection day** - 22nd June - Yorkshire & union flags
- 8/ **Crosspool Festival** - brochure being put together now to be delivered with the Clarion
- 9/ **Chosen charities** - A vote decided on supporting the PACT (Children's' Hospital) & CDYST jointly.
- 10/ **Community Award nominations** - the vote chose Ian Hague to receive this in 2014!
- 11 / **Yellow wool wanted** (Sandra Cox) & Lydgate Green requests plants.

Next Open Meeting Thurs 31st July.2014

Car Boot sale 10th May

Festival Week starts Fri 27th June;

Summer Faye 5th July.