

## Reddicap Ward Forum Meeting

<b>WARD:</b> Sutton Reddicap	<b>DATE:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
<b>VENUE:</b> Falcon Lodge Community Hub	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 6.30pm to 8.30pm
<b>COUNCILLOR:</b> Richard Parkin	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 7
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Karl Randall (Local Highways Engineer), John Green (Waste Management) and Lesley Bannister Community Governance Manager	<b>VISITING SPEAKER(S):</b> Keith Smith (Kier Highways) and PCSO Dan Walton (Sutton Trinity Police Team)

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. **Introductions** – Councillor Richard Parkin
2. **Notice of recording** – the meeting to be advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt.

#### Matter discussed

3. **Local Highway's Engineers** – Karl Randall gave an update on the schemes within the Ward.
  - Explanation of minor improvements budget for the Ward.
  - Discussion on grass verge protection across the ward, Karl explained the cost implications of physical barriers giving the example that erecting a trip rail along Falcon Lodge Crescent would cost an estimated 50,000 pounds and hoped that writing to the residents in the areas concerned would prove successful.
  - Safer routes to Schools – Engaging with the local schools to look for solutions to the current problems posed at pupil drop off and pick up time with the following being considered. Including Modeshift stars travel plans <https://modeshiftstars.org> , Cllr Parkin said that they were also hoping to have to have a mandatory 20 mph on Hollyfield Road.
  - Proposed scheme at ASDA Local, Churchill Road which will include double yellow lines and bollards at a total estimated cost of £18k which B.C.C will be seeking ASDA to fund. The estimated cost was broken down as follows: legal fees 3.5k; works 3k , lining & bollards 3k and future planned maintenance for 30 years 9k.

- Ward budget for 2023/24 and potential schemes which included a discussion on Lindridge Road
  - New funding streams including Clean Air Zone grants.
- 4. Highway Maintenance** - Keith Smith from Kier Highways update including background information on the Kier highways contract with the City Council which includes Highway maintenance, Street Lighting works; winter gritting; Arborist for the trees on highways land and gully cleaning.
- **Ward Specific works –**
  - Reddicap Heath Road- Resurfacing of the road planned to coincide with the Easter school holidays April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 – April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A leaflet drop to the affected residents will be carried out by Kier prior to the work starting.
  - Woodington Road - Inspection carried out in February confirmed that the footway and carriageway need some resurfacing works, but this is not safety critical. The inspection acknowledged that there are some defects, but they are not safety critical and would be dealt with by the long term planned maintenance team.
- 5. Local Policing – PCSO Dan Walton**
- Local team currently affected by low numbers of staff due to sickness
  - Proceeds of Crime Funding explained
  - CCTV and use of drones
  - February's crime figures for Trinity included 21 vehicle crimes, which was up on the previous month, 8 robberies and 35 reported incidents of shoplifting. PCSO Walton said that he suspected the actual figure was higher.
  - Discussion on local drug dealing.
  - Speedwatch successes, next community speed watch would be taking place on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
  - Cllr Parkin and PCSO Walton doing a walkabout on 21<sup>st</sup> March.
  - Multiple arrests following incidents of assault on a Police officer and two nurses.
  - Knife arch operation at Sutton train station had resulted in arrests for people carrying offensive weapons. Followed by a discussion on the type of weapons seized.

6. **Waste management - Update and residents' questions - John Green and Cllr Parkin**

- Residents commented they were pleased with the current service and again commented on the improvements in Carhampton Road with the addition of the hardstanding bin areas which had been jointly funded by the Town and City Council. It was acknowledged there had been a few teething problems the hardstanding attracting the odd mattress being dumped and residents highlighted the issue of cross contamination of waste, as bins become full.
- Slab in the Cab – John explained how the “slab in the cab” enabled the service to map and monitor missed collection, basically the device tracks the microchips in the wheelie bins whilst carrying out the rounds, enabling any missed bins to be logged for a re collection.
- Perry Barr H.R.C (Household refuse centre) development – Further unanticipated delay has occurred due to the contractor carrying out the refurbishment going into administration, however Cllr Parkin stated that he had been informed by Cllr Majid Mahmood (Cabinet Member for the Environment) that another contractor has been found to continue the work with only a slight delay, and that the site is expected to open in the Autumn
- Cllr Parkin announced a community litter pick in Falcon Lodge on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30.
- Booking system at Norris Way and other BCC depots to remain, residents said they approved of the booking service.

7. **General ward round-up** – Councillor Richard Parkin to put his general ward round up on social media and added below as the meeting ran out of time .

## SUTTON REDDICAP WARD MEETING UPDATE

MONDAY MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> 2023

CLLR RICHARD PARKIN

### NEW HALL CEMETERY:

1. **Perimeter breach issues/parking and litter problems:** Residents have understandably been complaining about worsening traffic/parking issues at bottom of Lindridge Rd approaching Springfield Rd.

This has largely been caused by increased numbers of vehicles belonging to residents/visitors, tradesmen/delivery drivers, parents of schoolchildren at New Hall Primary, Trinity Specialist college, cemetery visitors etc all being concentrated on a small stretch on Lindridge Road, especially at the start and end of the day.

Parking measures proposals presented by myself and Highways Officers have now been approved by the vast majority of residents at the end of last year's consultation exercise (following submission of second draft) but funding route needs to be found: Car Free School Streets Scheme? WMTM funds? CAZ funds? etc.

In the meantime parking has got worse as Severn Trent has recently instructed Trinity College staff not to park on the private lane outside their premises, immediately making the parking issues on Lindridge Rd twice as worse. Along with the College, I am engaging with Severn Trent to ask them to reconsider their decision (which they are perfectly entitled to make as the landowner).

I urge residents to report illegal parking to BCC via the website (giving me the details to follow up) and let me know of any inconsiderate parking (eg blocking driveways on dropped kerbs) to follow up if I can identify those responsible.

Trinity College have requested that staff share cars to work, park on other roads (Leigh Rd) etc to mitigate the problems - some of their vehicles are being clipped/damaged by passing cars.

Also, I am engaging with Cemetery Bereavement Officers about the appalling litter issues in the cemetery which is now blowing into the fields etc polluting the local environment. And I am also concerned about the perimeter breaches by mourners on foot (down Lindridge Rd and the private lane) as they stumble in and out of hedges which is dangerous to themselves and others. And they shouldn't be entering the cemetery out of hours either.

The Bereavement Officers team have given me this response at the end of last week:

*"Since the serious litter issue was raised, the team have litter picked on a regular basis around the cemetery grounds. Additional supplies have been purchased to assist with this process to reduce litter in all areas around the site. I have approached a colleague who may be able to help arrange a volunteering team to help with litter picking."*

*Regarding the surrounding areas, it is unfeasible for our Cemetery Operatives to travel these distances to litter pick. Again, this could potentially be something a volunteer group could assist with. This will be added to my action plan and monitored.*

*Unlike other cemeteries across BCC, SNH is very open with minimal tress, therefore the wind can impact the litter and take it to the surrounding area. I am looking into purchasing bins with lids on from one of our suppliers. They have promised me a quote by early next week. The issue with the skips emptying from Waste Management has been resolved and the regular schedule has resumed.*

*There are serious issues with the perimeter of the cemetery and have seen certain areas where unauthorised access can be gained. We are looking into options, for example, planting additional mature hedgerows to fill in the gaps to hopefully act as a deterrent.*

*I have emailed the department, just waiting for a response. Additional fencing may provide costly, but rest assured all avenues will be investigated. The opening hours for the cemetery change at the end of March, extending to 7pm, so hopefully this increase will encourage people to attend during these hours, and not when the cemetery has closed."*

I am not completely happy with this response and have replied challenging some of these comments and requesting further clarification.

2. **The 12-point Action Plan:** I have been working on this for over six months with the Cemetery and Highways Officers and it has now been completed, with one exception.

Various positive measures and improvements have been enacted in and around the Cemetery to reduce traffic congestion and ease parking issues. The only point that remains outstanding is the new second entrance/exit and increased car parking. I received the following update on this at the end of last week from the Bereavement Department:

*"The last correspondence I received from the Project Manager discussed a Pre-App Planning Application, which needed to be submitted. These arrangements are made with Acivico and we will be informed of progress. It is highly unlikely that the target date of September 2023 will be met."*

#### **ENVIRONMENT:**

1. **Falcon Lodge Green Spaces:** a community meeting was held 26.1.23 at the Community Centre to discuss setting up a Falcon Lodge Green Spaces Group (FLGSG) to protect, maintain and enhance green spaces in Falcon Lodge and increase community involvement (eg Newdigate Fields).

The meeting was attended by residents and representatives from Compass, Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF) and Reddicap Futures. It was decided that ideally FLGSG should be set up as a Working Group/Sub-Committee within Reddicap Futures (which is already part of BOSF) and that the constitution of Reddicap Futures be amended/updated to reflect this. A draft constitution is currently being re-worded by Reddicap Futures to achieve this goal.

2. **Three projects:** New entrance gate to Newdigate Fields off Stone Avenue to enable easier access for residents and families, protection of Duncumb Rd green space area and improvements to the Reddicap end/entrance of New Hall Valley.

I am still awaiting confirmation if I can access £59k S106 funds (I am liaising with Bob Churn Head of Landscape and Development) and sight of any plans/designs etc which the Council are working on. If/when I am given the green light for funding of all three projects wrapped into one I will then need to consult with residents as the next stage.

3. **Litter picks:** with the support of Sutton Coldfield Litter Action Group we organised a Mount View litter pick on 28.1.23 and almost 20 volunteers collected 50 bags, and I joined residents for St Chads Rd litter pick on 13.2.23 collecting 12 bags along side of Fairfax School.

Forthcoming organised community litter picks will take place on Churchill Rd and surrounding roads 12.3.23 (everyone welcome to come along at 10.30am outside the shops) and then with students from Fairfax School on 27.3.23

4. **Mobile Household Recycling Centres (MHRC):** The council's MHRC trucks visited Falcon Lodge Crescent on 25.1.23. Their next ward visit will be on Sir Alfreds Way on 9.3.23

5. Volunteer work: I took part in the **Friends of New Hall Valley volunteer activity morning** on 29.1.23. We concentrated on repair work at the Reddicap end of the Valley in areas which I have previously flagged up to Parks Officers as a concern on behalf of residents.

New fencing has been installed at various locations to help deter off road bikes etc and at the entrance to the Valley at the bottom of Reddicap Hill (opposite the entrance to Reddicap Trading Estate)

6. **'No flytipping' signs:**

Now installed on various hardstanding wheelie bin areas in Falcon Lodge and at back of Churchill Rd flats

7. **Compensation claims:** compensation is being claimed by BCC/Kier against DPD for two areas of damage caused by a DPD driver last year on Chadwick Rd and Fowler Rd; and a fixed penalty notice is in the process of being issued to a Carhampton Rd flytipper with support evidence.

Hopefully, should both outcomes be successful, this will send out a message in Falcon Lodge for drivers not to destroy green spaces and for individuals not to flytip

8. **Litter bins:**

Three damaged/vandalised litter bins by Glover Road playground STILL need to be cemented in and I am still waiting for installation of new public waste bin outside New Hall Primary School (now approved)

9. **Churchill Road florals:** to be funded - subject to approval - by the Town Council. I am hoping to be able to shortly confirm the extension of wildflower meadows up to the layby opposite the flats (extra 100m<sup>2</sup>), new planting tubs on Carhampton Road island, more hanging baskets to stretch further down Churchill Road to Jesson Road, and new plant tubs for railings outside Churchill Road shops.

All of this would build further on last year's welcome green initiative from the Town Council to brighten up the area. Details to follow once these plans have been (hopefully) approved by the relevant Town Council Committees.

**10. Cycle hire:** I am still liaising with Town Council officers to enable the relocation of cycle hire racks from Good Hope Hospital to Rectory Park (by entrance off Rectory Road).

The latest update is that the Town Council are chasing up BCC to quote for the new surface which the cycle hire bay will sit on.

#### **GARAGES:**

1. Update on **two walkabouts** with Officers and actions:

I have carried out two walkabouts with Garages Officers at the 19 garage locations in the Reddicap Ward, two thirds of which are in Falcon Lodge. Issues identified include: new padlock needed for one of the Wyatt Rd garage sites; flytipping reporting in several locations; hoping to get a new gate at entrance to garages off Fowler Road (and have requested other garages be considered too to make the areas safer and less prone to repeat flytipping); big clear-out of vegetation in old Holbeche Rd site needed. Some garage doors (eg at Mt View and Fairfax Rd) are in need of replacement.

I am discussing these potential actions with the BCC Garages Team. Of the 198 garages across the Ward 89 of them are empty (45%) so they need to be made more 'attractive' to encourage greater uptake. Though there remains the problem of what to do with the sites that are derelict/abandoned (eg Holbeche Rd).

#### **HIGHWAYS:**

**1. Lindrdge Rd data strip** results from January: LINDRIDGE ROAD NEAR LANGLEY MILL CLOSE (OPPOSITE ROMULUS)

Eastbound : Average Speed – 33.1mph; 85%ile Speed\* – 38.2mph; Average Volume - 2465 per day

Westbound : Average Speed – 31.0mph; 85%ile Speed\* – 36.4mph; Average Volume - 2397 per day

As a result of this data, Iain Aiken in Highways intends to install 30mph repeater signs on the Lindridge Road section in Roughley, which includes locating one close to the junction with Rectory Road as cars come into the Reddicap ward from Whitehouse Common.

Whilst this should hopefully help to slow down traffic coming into Reddicap from this direction, I asked Iain why he doesn't intend to put in repeater speed signs along the Reddicap section of Lindridge Road. This was Iain's response:

*"The repeater signs can only be erected in the section without street lighting, which is why we can't propose any in Reddicap. I have however positioned one near the end of the unlit section to remind the motorists that will continue on into your ward.*

*On the Reddicap section of Lindridge Road, the eastbound average speed was 33.1mph and the westbound average speed was 31.0mph. Although these speeds (Site 1) are higher than we'd want, the collision data doesn't suggest that there are any particular issues to be addressed.*

*What it does show is that vehicles were not travelling at 60/70mph as some residents may have suggested and I suspect that vehicle speeds will be lower than this in the sections with parked cars."*

Given that I am reliant on the measures put forward by Highways Officers there is not a great deal more that I can do at the moment. However, a number of measures are potentially coming down the line which may help to reduce speeds on Lindridge Road:

We are considering changing the parking restrictions on Lindridge Road between the cemetery and the Springfield Road junction. This may have the added benefit of slowing down traffic as parking restrictions will be more spread out as they are staggered up the road.

And I am liaising with Highways Officers on the impact of more traffic/speeding vehicles which will potentially be caused by the Lindridge Chase development. I am hoping (but cannot guarantee) that the outcome of discussions will eventually release S106 funds which can be used on Lindridge Road (eg installing traffic calming measures and extending the 30mph limit for the whole length of Lindridge Road up to the new development by the A38).

2. **Parking on the verge opposite ASDA** has got worse which is ruining the grass verge area. Exposed old metal stakes which were dangerous and have now been removed by Kier.

I am talking to Highways Officers about yellow lines etc and where funding can be found to finance any such measures

3. **Road resurface updates:** full resurface of **Reddicap Heath Road** provisionally planned mainly in Easter holidays (April 3rd to 26th) and **Stone Avenue** for provisionally June 2nd to 12th (even though it was partly resurfaced 24.1.23); **Walmley Rd** seven areas (Cat 2 defects) to provisionally be repaired April

11th; **Berryfields Rd** has now been *recommended* for much larger road resurfacing works than the original 900sqm identified (Walmley Rd junction to number 29) - Kier to advise.

**Woodington Road** inspected in February - Kier update: "*we didn't find any locations where that carriageway wear was safety critical so no works have been raised at present. Jobs were raised to repair a kerb outside number 10 and to repair a trip hazard opposite lamp column 7. We'll continue to monitor the carriageway here and as soon as we find any safety critical defects we'll get them programmed in for repair.*"

4. **Pavements/grass verges:** I reported several pavement/grass verge issues on behalf of residents to Kier who now have pavement repair jobs booked in for: top of Rectory Rd, pavement outside Churchill Rd flats going to the bus stop and an area on Newdigate Rd. Work has also been approved to expose kerbing at end of Wilson Drive which has become overgrown with grass.

5. **Other completed/reported jobs:**

Repaired utility box Carhampton Rd; repaired manhole cover Newdigate Fields. Reported jobs: broken speed flashing indicator sign bottom Reddicap Hill; overgrown hedges at two locations on Langley Hall Drive and Reddicap Heath Road still being investigated by officers (reported in November) – Reddicap Heath Rd hedge now cut back

6. **Town Council Town Rangers:**

The Rangers have cleared leaves on Hollyfield Rd by bus stop outside St Chads Church after residents flagged it up to me (causing trip hazard to pedestrians and church goers) and have removed graffiti on street furniture on Churchill Rd (again)

**HOUSING:**

1. **Walkabouts:** I have now carried out three walkabouts with Housing Officers to investigate issues at all council flats/maisonettes ('low rises').

We have identified a number of repair issues (some of which have already been resolved) along with capital requirements for remedial work which is needed to exterior of properties, flat number signage, wheelie bins and storage areas etc. Much of this will hopefully be pencilled in for next year's budget ie April onwards.

Work approved for this year but not yet completed include new flat number signs for Churchill Rd, Wyatt Rd and Wilson Drive

2. **Hardstanding areas for wheelie bins:** acting on residents' requests two areas at bottom of Carhampton Rd are being extended to house five 360l bins; new area is being installed on Woodington Rd which doubles the size of the existing new area; two new areas are being installed on Glover Rd to each house eight 360l wheelie bins; I have also approved a new area for five 360l wheelie bins on Wilson Drive.

New recycling bins have been installed in one of the hardstanding areas on Carhampton Rd at the request of residents.

3. **Flat signs:**

New flat number signs put up on Cumberland Walk (1-47)

4. **Damage to green spaces:** acting on multiple complaints from residents, letters have now been sent from the council to several areas with issues of residents driving across pavements, grass verge areas etc and also parking on green spaces.

The areas concerned are Wilson Drive, top of Rectory Rd, Duncumb Rd and Carhampton Rd. A handful of individuals not complying with letter requests have now also been visited by Officers.

**5. Lighting:**

New communal lighting now installed in six blocks of flats on Churchill Rd opposite ASDA and new car park lighting installed at back of Copsehill Court, Mount View

**6. Lindridge Chase development:** I sent a letter to almost 200 residents on Lindridge Rd and Springfield Rd asking for their thoughts/comments; responses from residents to these letters (and via social media) were collated in my official response to North Warwickshire Borough Council (via BCC) in which I objected to the plans and highlighted concerns about the impact on local infrastructure and services etc.

I posted a copy of my letter on social media. I am liaising with BCC Planning Officers to ascertain the financial implications of this development to the ward in areas such as education, health and transport/highways infrastructure. Although the development is in another local authority its impact will be most keenly felt in Sutton Reddicap as it is the closest urban conurbation.

**7. Shelter:**

Now removed from front of Community Centre; Compass to consult and decide what to do with the front of the building

**8. Repairs (completed):** repair work has now been carried out to fences and entrance wall of Fairfax Rd flats (some of which unfortunately need to be repaired again as they have already been damaged); wooden trip rail replaced on Wyatt Rd which will deter driving/parking on grass area; pedestrian barrier fixed bottom of Carhampton Rd.

Repair work now fully completed outside hair salon in Chadwick Rd/Rectory Rd cut-through and area now successfully added to council maintenance programme for weed spraying etc.

**9. Imminent repairs (now approved):**

Wyatt Rd 68-84: new lighting, doors, door entry systems - due to start this week (w/c March 6th) and last for up to three weeks.

New gate for recreational area at Mount View due to be installed any day now

**PLANNING:**

1. I intend to submit a response shortly on behalf of residents to two **planning applications** this month:

The first is an application to extend the opening hours of a jet wash at the WhyNot garage on Reddicap Heath Road which I intend to oppose; the second is an application to adapt a property on Reddicap Hill into a bigger accommodation as a 6-bed HMO which I also intend to object to

**POLICE:**

1. I am liaising with BCC (Michelle Lowbridge)/Police about a proposed **12-week CCTV trial on Churchill Rd** and with BCC/TFWM for a possible drone trial.  
A few recent instances where a CCTV camera would have been helpful on Churchill Road are:

- Drug dealing back of Churchill Rd shops; flytipping at the back of Churchill Rod shops filmed by a resident but the reg plate was obscured (10 days ago)
- Speeding bikes with racing along Churchill Road
- Speeding bikes racing down Jesson Road and then Churchill Road
- ASB on a quad bike churning up the island off Churchill Road
- Allegations of indecent exposure outside the Community Centre

I have received a positive response from Sgt Heather Jones who told me: "*The drone would greatly assist when we plan any operations with the new traffic bikes as sometimes the police drones can be easily cancelled if a job comes in with a greater risk etc.... I have already shared my thoughts with Michelle regarding the cctv cameras being needed there.... Completely support this.*"

I am currently liaising with Michelle to hopefully develop this project further. It's not a definite yet but I am pushing for it.

## 2. **Speedwatches:**

I organised a Speedwatch campaign with the police on Walmley Road 25.1.23 and the next one is planned for 20.3.23 - possibly Churchill Road

## 3. **Walkabout:**

I conducted a Speedwatch around the ward with the police on 6.2.23 and the next one is planned for 21.3.23

4. **Community meeting:**

I attended a 'Cuppa with a Copper' session which was held at the Community Centre on 25.1.23

**SCHOOLS:**

1. **School Travel Plans:** I have met Heads at all four schools in the ward since January. Hollyfield Primary has now joined New Hall Primary School in signing up to BCC's Modeshift STARS and is developing a School Travel Plan which may unlock potential funding routes to promote sustainable transport etc.

Hollyfield Primary will also shortly be receiving an Air Quality Monitor (New Hall had one installed a few months ago)

2. **Defibrillator:**

Fairfax School have requested a defibrillator for the outside wall of the sports hall which I am trying to facilitate with Town Council Officers

**COMMUNITY CENTRE:**

1. **Community Centre lease with BCC:**

Discussions have been on-going for the past three months on plans to ensure the continuance of Compass Group at the Falcon Lodge Community Centre.

I have been liaising with Compass, the Town Council and Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust as Compass look for financial help to enable them to take up a 5-year Community Asset Transfer lease with the city council. The Town Council has now agreed to provide approx £110k funds over five years and it is hoped that SCCT will provide funding of up to £60k to fix the roof issues at the community centre.

If this comes together, it should then hopefully 'clear the way' for Compass to take up a 5-yr lease option with BCC. More to follow on this.

#### **WARD PLAN:**

**1. Ward Plan:** I have submitted my 2022-2026 Ward Plan to BCC.

I am awaiting confirmation that it has been uploaded to the council website. The six Ward Plan themes are a BOLD...: Prosperous, Inclusive, Safe, Healthy, Green and Local Sutton Reddicap.

In recent welcome news, BCC are providing all Councillors with £10k a year 'Community Chest' funding to be allocated to worthwhile community projects in their wards. This is not as much as the £50k a year Councillors used to receive before the City Council axed the funding over ten years ago, but it is a step in the right direction at least and may enable some projects outlined in the Ward Plan to come to fruition.

If any residents have any ideas on possible projects or schemes which could be allocated to one or more of these themes to develop and implement in the community with my help and support please contact me on [richard.parkin@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:richard.parkin@birmingham.gov.uk)

**SURGERIES/MEETINGS:**

**Advice Surgery:** I hold a weekly Advice Surgery on every third Thursday of the month at St Chads Church from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. The next one will be held on **Thursday March 16th** – no appointment is necessary.

**Ward Meeting:** my next Ward Meeting will take place at the Falcon Lodge Community Centre on **Monday April 24th** at 6.30pm. Please do come along to find out more about what is happening in your area and to raise any questions with me and/or council officers.

If anyone wants to contact me with suggestions of improvements that can be made in the ward please email me at [richard.parkin@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:richard.parkin@birmingham.gov.uk). I would love to hear from you.

Cllr Richard Parkin

6.3.23

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Councillors (s) Signed: .....

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print): .....

FINAL DRAFT