Community and Governance Meeting

19 September 2024

Appendix CG074

**Police Partnership Panel Meeting**

**Friday 16th August, 11am**

**Notes**

1. **Present**

Councillors: Aldcroft, Glover, Love, Manton

Inspector C Greenaway, Sargeant Liam Heathcote

Town Clerk, Sue Thomas

1. **Update from Local Policing Team**

Inspector Greenaway said that Sargeant Heathcote has been made permanent as Sargeant for the area.

* There is currently a high retirement rate, recruiting delays and funding shortages which is resulting in a delay getting offices on the ground. It is hoped a 3rd CSO for the area will be starting in October.
* There is no significant increase in crime. 5 individuals were arrested yesterday for possible burglaries/theft of vehicles in the area.
* Staff have been deployed to help with the riots. Units have been set which can be instantly reactive to riots.
* There has been an increase in search warrants issued, these can be for stolen property, drugs etc.
* CSO’ work until 10pm, most of the work they can undertake is complete by then.
* 101 reporting is problematic, with some callers being cut off due to long waiting times. The system is run by the Home Office. The SNT are frustrated that members of the public will not report crimes due to the 101 system not working well; The Inspector encouraged residents to report online or direct to members of the SNT.
* A resident who has been causing ASB in the town has been issued an ASB order which restricts his movement within the town.
* An individual who was causing issues on high street has been moved to a different location.
* There is a local issue relating to the inappropriate use of motorbikes/scooters. The police are gathering intelligence around this and plans are in place to address the issue.
* Hotspot areas have been identified within the town; these areas are regularly visited by the SNT

1. **Questions from Councillors**
2. What is happening with the Street Watch Scheme?
3. The inspector said she is pushing for checks to be carried out on the volunteers; the delay is down to a shortage of funding.
4. Concern was raised regarding a van which has been parked on Buntingsdale Road for a couple of months.
5. Details were passed to Sargeant Heathcote who will visit the owner.
6. What Action has been taken about issues around the Church.
7. The individual has been issues a Community Protection Order. The Church are also being very proactive and are looking at installing CCTV cameras.
8. Volunteers using the public highway (pathways) throughout the Town for measuring vehicle speeds, would they be breaking any law by doing so.
9. The inspector responded that members of the public recording the speed of traffic would not be breaking the law, however, they would not be supported by the Local Policing Team as they would not be a registered community speed watch as set out by West Mercia Police and the PCC. Market Drayton SNT are happy to help support an application for CSW. Without being part of a recognised scheme there would be potential liability issues should a member of the group be injured or an RTC occur owing to their presence (the group would need to acquire their own insurance), the site on which they were operating may not be appropriate. The findings from their speed monitoring would not be utilised by any public body as the site would not adhere to CSW requirements and their device would not be calibrated, hence no warning letters would be issued.
10. It was mentioned that a councillor has identified 78 items of spray graffiti in the town centre and most of the East Ward. There has recently been some new graffiti at the entrance of Walkmills
11. The Inspector said that if they were specific ‘tags’ they could possibly be identified. Town Clerk to send some picture to the Inspector and Sargeant.
12. An update on the ASB dog barking issue at Abbots Gate was requested.
13. The Inspector said the individual has moved out of the area.
14. Issues around ASB at the Constitutional Club; vandalism, drug dealing etc were raised.
15. The inspector said that the SNT are in contact with residents regarding these complaints., which are being investigated. The club has now been boarded up.
16. The Zone. There are ongoing issues relating to stones being thrown over residents fences, youths climbing on the Zone Roof and generally causing ASB. The clerk asked if letters have been sent to residents informing them that their tenancy could be at risk if their children are causing ASB?
17. Inspector Greenaway said that residents need to help the SNT identify the individuals. The SNT have been working with Connexus regarding the issuing of letters.
18. Allotments. There have been several break-ins at the allotments on Rowan Road, on the first occasion tools were stolen, on other occasions youths broke in and caused damage.
19. The Town Council are having a new fence installed but tenants of the allotments were concerned by the response from the local policing team.

The Inspector said that the incidents would have been prioritised and as there was not threat to life it would have been dealt with over the phone. It was agreed that a member of the SNT would be the Allotment Society Chair on site when the new fence is being installed.

1. What has the general response been from the PCC survey? The response submitted by the Town Council, does not reflect positively on the Police.
2. The inspector said that a new policies and crime plans are being produced which includes the allocation of officer time. The police are achieving a great deal, some of which is not seen by the public, ie dealing with cyber-crime, sexual exploitation etc.