

Police Partnership Panel Meeting
Tuesday 10 June 2025, 10.30am at the Town Hall
Meeting Notes

1. Present:

Cllrs Aldcroft, Groves, Hughes, Manton, Nellins,

2. To receive any Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Non declared

3. Confidentiality Agreement

a. Councillors were reminded that some information discussed will be of a confidential nature

b. All present had signed the confidentiality agreement.

4. To approve the notes from the meeting held on the 28 January 2025.

The notes were approved.

5. To hear an update from the Local Policing Team on issues in the area, including staffing levels.

Inspector Thomas and Sergeant Heathcote introduced themselves.

The Inspector said that the Market Drayton local policing teams is fully staffed at the moment; 1 sergeant and 3 CSO's. There has been an announcement that there will be an uplift in numbers, no specific details have been shared but it is anticipated there will be around 20 additional officers across the West Mercia Division.

Crime in the area is generally consistent, there is low level ASB in the town, which has a big impact on the community. The LPT are working with the school and partner organisations to identify who the individuals are.

No trends at the moment, no particular spikes. A targeted approach is being taken against shoplifting; a small team covering the whole of Shropshire has been set up so they can deal with issues quickly and gather relevant CCTV. Top offenders for each town have been identified and all response officers are aware of the individuals so distraction tactics can be put in place. Under reporting of thefts is also an issue, some shops do not report incidents due to the time involved to provide information. Officers attending incidents of shoplifting will also give crime prevention advice.

It was identified that the reporting of incidents via 101 continues to be a long process which deters reports. There is now an online feature that can be used to report incidents; if there is an offender on scene it is still a 999 call. The 101 is a national programme not a local programme; the local policing team has been providing feedback about the 101 reporting line.

The Inspector said an individual was recently arrested for an incident in Market Drayton. Councillors asked why arrests like this are not publicised to raise the profile of the police and the good work they are doing. It was explained that facebook page is now up and running, although it needs to be more timely and specific; obviously there is a lot of information that cannot be shared as it may interfere with the prosecution.

There continues to be no county lines in the town; no large supply lines coming to the town.

6. To discuss the following issues and what action is being taken/can be taken:

a. ASB motorcycling Longlands/Fairfield Estate.

Iain McIntosh is investigating and looking at CCTV footage to try and identify the young people involved. No reports have been received from members of the public, only feedback from the Town Council. Complaints have also been received about parking on Sandringham Close, the LPT have done investigations in the area.

b. Inconsiderate parking (Great Hales St & Buntingsdale Rd on junc with Shrewsbury Rd & particularly outside Kings Head).

There has been issues in this area before that the LPT have addressed. People using the dentist are using the street, parking on double yellow lines etc. Sergeant Heathcote said he would speak to the Dentist about the parking.

Parking is now decriminalised. The LPT can deal with dangerous parking and parking by a junction or crossing, all other issues are the responsibility of Shropshire Council.

Bad parking at the top of Buntingsdale Road and Salisbury Road was also discussed; cars are parked there for weeks without moving.

Civil enforcement officers are in the town regularly; penalty notices are £30. The LPT try to have a community approach to these issues, they are not parking wardens

LPT happy to do a town walkabout with the enforcement officers to identify areas of concern.

c. Drayton Star (potential sale of nitrile gloves to replace balloons amongst other 'borderline' products they are selling including suggestions of 'under-the-counter' tobacco products)

The police have investigated several premises in Shropshire. Trading standards have also been doing investigations.

- d. Poor parking. Police officers recently went round and spoke to regular offenders. But that evening on FB it was laughed off by said offenders and they have just continued to park illegally.

The LPT cannot control the behaviour of the individuals they have spoken to.

- e. There are 5 young people causing criminal damage in the town. We have juvenile courts, are parents being spoken to.

The police are aware of the 5 individuals the police are in contact with the families to find a suitable resolution.

- f. Lack of compliance with new speed limits outside Grove School.

The restrictions are in place; the parking is working quite well but the lack of compliance with speed is almost non-existent.

The Sargeant said he would seek advice from the road safety team. Previously it has been policy not to enforce the 20 mile an hour speeding zones.

Market Drayton Crime and Safety Facebook page has been asking for a local speed watch group. The sergeant said that he has seen a reduction in speed watch groups over the last 18 months, mainly due to lack of volunteers, which is the reason why the Market Drayton Speed Watch group was disbanded.

- g. Volunteers being verbally abused and threatened with violence when they are marshalling events, 10k, carnival.

The Sargeant worked the 10k and there was one incident reported of a car driving on the road with the runners. Any incidents of abuse should be reported to the police; volunteers should not put themselves at risk.

- h. Plans to deal with the upcoming Summer period and rises in ASB?

The duty team have to provide a minimum amount of staffing; the local officers know the areas where increased patrols are needed.

The LPT now have new powers to deal with ASB; community protection warnings and community protection notices and community protection orders.

- i. What is happening with the 8pm finish for PCSOs.

A report has been producing stating that the majority of ASB occurs late afternoon/early evening. 8pm finishes have been implemented due to financial costs, to ensure the service provided within budget.

A question was raised about officers and CSOs not answering their phones. The Sargeant said that when on duty the phones will be turned on, obviously they may be dealing with an incident.

7. To discuss the current Town Council priorities and if a recommendation should be made to council for them to be changed.

The current priorities are:

1. Drugs
2. Anti-social behaviour/driving
3. Violence Against Women and Girls

After a short discussion, It was agreed to keep the prioritise as above.

Meeting closed.