

## Minutes Community Safety Working Group

### Virtual Meeting – Friday 21 July 2023

**Present:** Cllr Kay Wesley (elected Chair), Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Susan Mead, Cllr Robert Moreton, Cllr Shaun Radcliffe, Cllr Richard Walton, Cllr Glen Williams, Jackie MacArthur (CTC),

Agenda item	Subject /Issue	Action	By Whom	When
1.	Receive Apologies for meeting	Sgt John Roberts – on 999 cover for Congleton and Sandbach. Cllr Dawn Allen and Cllr Robert Brittain)		
2.	Agree a Chair for 2023/24 plus vice if needed	Group appointed Cllr Kay Wesley as Chair Group agreed it would appoint temporary vice chair if Kay unable to make a meeting.		
3.	Approve notes of meeting 30/3/23	Noted - these minutes have already been agreed at the parent committee		
4.	Approve Draft Agenda – any changes needed	Added item to discuss non-councillors that would be good to invite to the meeting - took this item immediately.		Immediate
4a	<b>Additions to the group</b>	Jackie to invite Police and CEC ASB team as regular attendees CCTV and Ruth Burgess - agenda and minutes with options to come in for an item. Rachel McCarthy to next meeting to update on ShopWatch.	Jackie Mac	As part of Working Group admin
5.	<b>Action Log</b> Ongoing but not on the agenda	£680 from Police Commissioner ringfenced to promote and enhance the Neighbourhood Watch network – not spent any of the funds as struggling to find Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Neighbourhood Watch Meeting in June – not successful despite press coverage. Need to approach different groups.	Jackie Mac	Before next meeting

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6.	<p>Police Report Overall Crime - Police were not able to attend the meeting, but sent a copy of their report which compared figures from March to July 2022 with March to July 2023. A copy of the report can be downloaded at this link.</p> <p>Councillors talked around the items and asked the DCO to report a number of items outlined in the actions. These have each been reported to the Police on behalf of the group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Concerned raised about glass bottles being thrown in the park – Police, CCTV and Streetscape alerted. Asked for more patrols</li> <li>b) Incident at the benches by St Stephen’s church. Aware that police involved. Request more patrols to make people feel safer</li> <li>c) Thank the Police for their social media posts about zero tolerance in the park.</li> <li>d) Issue with a member of the public not clearing up after pets – request that Streetscape install a poo bag dispenser in the park and Streetscape staff in the park to carry poo bags to hand to members of the public to pick up the mess after their pet if they don’t have a bag.</li> <li>e) Moody Hall – chase up re the correspondence to the police and CEC re people accessing and abusing this building and inform the Community Safety Group of the progress</li> <li>f) Report concerns about a group of professional beggars operating in Congleton.</li> <li>g) Concerns raised for welfare of a rough sleeper in the former British Heart Foundation Shop doorway</li> <li>h) Concerns raised about gas canisters and electric cables in the open at the Meadows</li> <li>i) Report concerns to CEC and Police about the changes since the PSPO was lifted from the market and Bridestones area</li> <li>j) Group listed seven sites that the public has mentioned to various members where they are concerned about suspected drug dealing taking place. To list and send to the Police.</li> <li>k) Important to make sure that people know how to report Hate Crime.</li> <li>l) Contact the PCSOs about pushing to get the Volunteer Speed Watch groups back up and running.</li> <li>m) Find out what has happened to the Congleton SID (Speed Indication Device)</li> <li>n) Report five areas mentioned at the meeting where members are concerned about speeding.</li> </ul>	Jackie on behalf of the group	w/c 24 July 2023

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7.	<b>Police Priorities for the Beat Team - police not present</b>	Cllr Kay Wesley reminded group members that Superintendent Claire Jesson from Cheshire Police will speak at the Community Committee on August 3 about the Cheshire Police £3m campaign to stop violence against Women and Girls.	Item at Community Committee	3 August
8.	<b>CEC ASB Team updates</b>	Invite to next meeting	Jackie	
9.	<b>CEC – CCTV Updates</b>	Invite to next meeting. Jackie to check and update on Lawton Street and West Street.	Jackie	July 2023
10.	<b>Community Safety Charter - Kay gave a brief update on what the Charter is all about</b>	Group to look at the information on the website <a href="https://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/discover-congleton/community-safety-charter/">https://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/discover-congleton/community-safety-charter/</a>  Develop a plan for how the Community Safety Charter work will be shared with groups, organisations and individuals.  Training for councillors on Bystander Training to be arranged		
11.	<b>ShopWatch</b> - Rachel McCarthy, Town Centre and Events Officer has been working with some of the shops to set up a system for shops to support each other and do a fast alert when suspected shoplifting, fraudulent activity or worrying behaviour is being experienced in town.	This is a scheme being run by the shops for the shops to help alert each other to potential issues. Invite Rachel to the next meeting to discuss this further.		
10	<b>Suggested Next Meeting</b>	Thursday 12 October 3.30 – 5pm?		