

Minutes Community Safety Working Group

Hybrid Meeting –Thursday 12 October 2023

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Robert Brittian Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Robert Moreton, Cllr Shaun Radcliffe, Cllr Richard Walton, Cllr Glen Williams , Sgt John Roberts (Cheshire Police), Julia Hassell Pestall (CEC) Jackie MacArthur (CTC).

Agenda item	Subject /Issue	Action	By Whom	When
1.	Receive Apologies for meeting	Cllr Susan Mead, Cllr Sally Holland,		
2.	Approved notes of meeting 21/7/23	Approved notes. Most items back on the agenda. Noted that not all of the Police Commissioner funds spent. Pleased that the Police and Cheshire East ASB team able to join the meeting		
3.	Approve Draft Agenda – any changes needed	Agreed to take the AOB item on the Meadows first as all keen to discuss rather than waiting for AOB		
10	The Meadows - ASB, mental health, health and safety, public health, hazard, issues. Worthy of a multi agency approach. Cllr Wesley updated the group with information from CEC and actions they are looking to take against the ASB and structure created on the meadows. Cllr Walton updated the group on his discussions with Plus Dane who is the landlord of the person at the centre of the issue. All the group added knowledge.	Lead action must be by Plus Dane and Cheshire East Council – both of which have legal powers to take action. CTC to continue to chase for action. Lots of contact from the public who are concerned or angry about the noise, nuisance and safety. All agreed that action is needed and the situation has got out of hand. Agreed to keep up pressure on those who can act. Agreed to write to the fire brigade to express concern at their lack of action or concern about the gas cannisters.	Jackie	October
4.	Action Log Ongoing but not on the agenda	Not all the £680 from the Police Commissioner ringfenced to promote and enhance the Neighbourhood Watch network and Co-ordinators has been spent. Some purchases for the Scam awareness meeting.		

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5.	<p>Police Report - John Roberts talked the group through the report for August and September. In the 2 month period dealt with 809 crimes compared to 796 in the same period last year. Slight increase in violence offences and slight decrease in Sexual Offences, a significant increase in shoplifting during the same period last year, headed by a prolific offender who recently moved to the area, has been arrested several times but significant challenges in bringing him to justice. Dealing with drug dealing in the town – want to see a zero tolerance. Should have 2 PCs and 2 PCSO, currently only one of each on the beat team. Seeking to get them replaced. Continue to work. with PubWatch on the night-time economy Continue to focus on domestic abuse, with a high rate of arrests (77 incidents, 38 resulted in an arrest) ASB slightly down on last year, No particular areas or patterns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police report to be added to the Community Agenda • Give consideration to introducing an anti-drug campaign • Look up details of an anti-drug young people campaign raised with the Town Council a couple of years ago. • Alert Town Councillors to the Police Safety Bus visiting the town on Monday 16th October. Note also secured for the Christmas Lights. • Thanked the police for organising for the Wildlife Rural team to visit Astbury Mere – good to hear no issues. • Anti-Spiking posters will be distributed by Cllr Walton at the next PubWatch meeting. 	<p>Jackie</p> <p>Jackie</p> <p>Jackie</p> <p>Cllr Walton</p>	<p>Oct 19</p> <p>Before next meeting</p> <p>Friday 13 and Monday 16</p> <p>End of Oct</p>
6.	Police Priorities for the Beat Team - police not present	<p>Drug dealing Shop Lifting Congleton Park and Morrisons area Seeking more staff</p>		
7.	CEC ASB Team updates - No updates to add. Has been a few months since the team received a request for a letter to be written for a Congleton Young person		Jackie	
8.	CEC – CCTV Updates - paper going to Council re funding for the West Street camera and the 3 year v 1 year deal. West Street camera should be functional before Christmas	<p>Arrange a visit to the CCTV HQ Open offer up to all Councillors</p>	Jackie	November 23
9.	Community Safety Charter - We have received details about the 'Be the Change' module.	<p>Add the new module to the website.</p> <p>Send the information to Councillors and Staff</p> <p>Add a page of information on each of the current modules so that they can be sent out and become more meaningful</p>	<p>Jackie</p> <p>Jackie</p>	Before next meeting

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10.	ShopWatch - Rachel McCarthy, Town Centre and Events Officer spoke to the group about the Shop Watch initiative 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. There are now 57 participating in the scheme and it has made them feel more empowered. Shops have the right to ban a person from their premises. They do not have to allow everyone into their space.	Rachel to continue to support the traders to help the scheme to grow.		
11.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cllr Martin wanted to know if the Police support 20mph zones. b) Concern raised about children buying vapes in the Town Centre c) Rubbish around Milford House – leading to ASB and hazard issues 	<p>Police Sergeant unable to speak on behalf of the force, but clear that less speed means fewer serious accidents which is good. Police and CTC to contact CEC about some test purchasing.</p> <p>Jackie informed the group of actions CTC has offered to help resolve the issue and will keep councillors informed</p>	<p>Police/ Jackie</p> <p>Jackie</p>	<p>Wc 16th October</p> <p>As appropriate</p>
10	Suggested Next Meeting	Thursday 5 th December 3.30pm – 5pm		