

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Community Safety Working Group**  
**Thursday 13 February 2024 1.30pm – 3pm**

**Present:** Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair) Cllr Amanda Martin, Cllr Richard Walton, Cllr Susan Mead (via zoom), Cllr Shaun Radcliffe, Sergeant John Roberts, PC Matthew Steele, Jackie MacArthur, Rachel McCarthy.

1. **Apologies for Absence** -Cllr Glen Williams, Cllr Robert Morton, Cllr Sally Holland, Cllr Robert Brittain, Stuart CCTV, Julia Pestall- Hassell (CEC)
2. **Notes of the meeting** of 7 December 2024 were accepted
3. **Draft Agenda** was accepted – with additions added to AOB around Little Street, Bowling Green, Parking at Moody Street, Taxi evening trade.
4. **Action Log** - updates
  - a) 12 October – Vaping mystery shopper – John Roberts to speak to trading standards to encourage action.
  - b) 12 October – Cllr Wesley to research anti-drug campaign for youth
  - c) 7 December – Meadows – noted action had been taken. Chase up about final clearance
  - d) 7 December – Visits to schools by White Ribbon group completed
  - e) 12 October – visits to CCTV to be sorted after 22 February when new cameras are installed
5. **Police update on Crime (Sgt John Roberts)**

Sgt John Roberts introduced Matt Steele – the new PC for Congleton. Matt had previously served as a PCSO in Congleton and knows the area well. The Sergeant talked through a report showing [reported crimes in Congleton December 23 and January 24.](#)

Noted: The number of crimes reported in Congleton has increased year on year and talked through potential reasons.

Noted: Congleton Policing Unit is understaffed with 1 PCSO and 2 PCS.

Noted and thanked: The Beat Sergeant John Roberts leaves on the 26 February for a new role in Crewe. The team thanked him for his support over the past two years and wished him well.

**Action 5.1 Believe Shoplifting is still under-reported so agreed that we would write a letter from the Police and Town Council encouraging reporting of all crimes on 101 online. (see item 10)**

**Action 5.2 Concern about spiking not being reported to the Police. Calling an ambulance is not enough and it is important that forensic blood/urine testing is done – not just hospital testing. Police to roll out more training for officers. CTC to include information in the next Bear Necessities, Rachel to mention the issue at the next Pub Watch and raise awareness of the protocols will all the Night time economy main areas on a one-to-one.**

**Action 5.3 Rachel to investigate spiking kits that check a wide range of substances - would it be possible to make available to venues.**

**Action 5.4 To reissue posters focussing on Spiking being a serious crime.**

## **6. Police Priorities for Congleton Beat Team**

Priority remains Violence against Women and Girls

## **7. CEC ASB Team – any updates**

CEC was not able to make this meeting. Nothing was reported in advance.

## **8. CCTV update**

The camera in Lawton Street will be relocated on the 22 February. A new camera (purchased by CTC) will be installed in West Street on the 22 February. All the cameras have been upgraded by CEC.

**Action 8.1 – Circulate Quarter 3 CCTV report to group members**

**Action 8.2 – Arrange visits in groups of 3 to CCTV HQ in Macclesfield after the 22 Feb**

## **9. Community Safety Training Modules**

[Community Safety Modules](#) have been added to the Town Council Website (see link)

**Action 9.1 – Jackie to check all modules included and update as necessary**

## **10. Shop Watch**

The online group is working well. The Trader admin has changed due to changes of employees

**Action 10.1 Rachel has rolled out ShopWatch to businesses in High Town and the Spar in Mossley. Next extension to Barn Road and West Heath**

**Action 10.2 Police to make more effort to pick up evidence from shops – 5<sup>th</sup> March the police will be carrying out a Design out Crime day where the police will be speaking and advising with shops.**

Noted a change in admin for Shop Watch due to an Admin leaving her shop role. This is run by the shops for the shops. Admin based in Holland and Barratt and WH Smiths.

## **11. AOB**

**11a - Parking problems** - [Operation Park Safe](#) is being rolled out across Cheshire Police.

**Action 11a Help to publicise this Operation and encourage people to report bad parking appropriately**

**11b – Cllr Amanda Martin** – reported that will step down from this group as on lots of working groups. Cllr Martin asked that Linda Weber, the Street Pastor Co-ordinator be included in the group to report on work or concerns of the street pastors. This was accepted by a vote.

**Action 11b – remove Cllr Martin from the group and add Linda Weber – JMacA.**

11c - Problem with **Out-of-Town Taxis** parking near popular night spots and taking trade from the Congleton Taxi companies. Already reported to Cheshire East Council

**Action 11c – Rachel to discuss with pubwatch. Jackie to chase up with licensing.**

11d Question about **Safety on Swan Bank** near Rumba due to queues on Friday and Sat nights.

**Action 11d – Rachel to speak with the owners about reinstalling the barriers.**

**Note:** Rachel contacted Rumba the next day. Rumba had a meeting with Highways, Licensing, Environmental Protection and Cheshire Police with a result that they would not give permission for a temporary or permanent barrier to be installed on Swan Bank.

**11e Bowling Green** – ASB – Streetscape Team concerned about inappropriate behaviour on the bowling green. The Bowling Green is an open space in the park and is maintained to a high standard. Riding bikes, playing non-bowling games, dog walking etc is causing a lot of damage

**Action 11 e – Suggested first tactic should be publicity and signage. Jackie to speak with Ruth to organise.**

**12. Date of Next Meeting Thursday 18 April 2024 3.30pm – 5pm**