

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Community Safety Working Group**  
**Thursday 5th December 2024 3 pm – 4.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Shaun Radcliffe, Cllr Glen Williams, Rachel McCarthy,  
Sgt James Bell, Linda Webber

**Via Zoom** Cllr Susan Mead, Cllr Richard Walton

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Robert Brittain, Laura Woodrow-Hirst
2. **Notes of the meeting** of September 2024 were accepted as correct
3. **Draft Agenda for today was approved**
4. **Action Log**
  - a) Professional beggars in town, only 1 report in November, get car details from the drop off if possible, add code of conduct letter for Congleton, add to Bear Neccessities, add the light up toy sellers to the code of conduct with an exclusion order for all mentioned.
  - b) Community gardens, the police have been doing more drive by's in this area.
  - c) Police day of action 14<sup>th</sup> October, over 20 shops now signed up, James bell to visit B&M again and speak to Elaine Dale the manager and encourage to sign up.
  - d) CCTV, signs and ANPR, Rachel to liaise with Richard Christopherson regarding funding, better signage and potentially barriers?
  - e) Speedwatch, few issues on the bypass, back lane also a meeting place, reintroduce with councillors in attendance and socials shared by CTC and Cheshire Police
  - f) Youth liaison van very successful and has been implemented in the market area
  - g) Dog on dog attacks are being dealt with and the relevant owner came forward
5. **Police update on Crime (Sergeant James Bell)**
  - 5.a **Shoplifting** – 3 well known shoplifters in jail and one pending. 14 in August, 12 in September, 12 in October, 9 in November, 3 in December. Two well known offenders are now in jail, one is pending.
  - 5.b **Drug & Alcohol Abuse** – in November 18 drugs and 23 drink
  - 5.c **Anti-social Behaviour** – market area a few reports, nothing major, the cheshire east bus for 3 weeks on Friday nights in the market area.
  - 5.d **Domestic Violence** – 27 in September, 34 in October and 35 in November.  
  
**sexual offences** - 1 September, 1 October, 2 November
  - 5.e **Hate Crime** - 3 in September, 2 in October, 3 in November

**5.f Speeding/Traffic ANPR** – Richard Christopherson, better cyclist signage and road painting, few issues on the bypass, Back Lane is a meeting place at the moment. Speed watch reintroduced, and only 1 replied to participate in the community speeding campaign, maybe councillors should also attend and place in Bear Necessities. Warning letter to repeat offenders and could get a visit from the police. New campaign - new years's resolution regarding speeding, send a copy and put it on socials.

**Action James Bell regarding new years's resolution speeding campaign.**

**Action Rachel to write CEC Community Safety and CCTV to see if action can be take with signs and ANPR.**

**5.g Road Safety** concerns about vehicles using the pedestrian area as a cut-through mainly between 4 pm and 10 am when the barriers are not in place. This is a safety problem.

**5.h Assaults & Public Order** 55 October, 55 November, 1 December so far.

**5.i Residential Burglaries** 7 October, 3 November

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**6. Police Priorities** – Christmas, road safety Mondays, stopping cars, operation Jingles 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> 2 am shifts into the town centre, 6 officers. Drug dogs into the premises again. David Levins new Chief Inspector for Congleton.

**7. Cheshire East Council ASB team** - not able to make the meeting

**8. Street Pastors Update** – updates emailed over. diffused 5 different groups, assisted 37 people, 13 drinking issues, 9 emotional, 24 bottles and cans removed, 9 flipflops handed out, 15 bottles of water, **response pastors** 37 incidents, 3 pastors have completed additional training, they wear brighter blue caps and a tabard, street pastors are still low in numbers although 3 additional are being trained (11 in total). They are out on New Year's Eve.

**9. CCTV Update** - we are going to book a visit for the new year

**10 Shop Watch Update** - Rachel reported that Shop Watch was a bit quieter at the moment.

**AOB:** - community gardens, 4 stop searches have taken place in here, Ruth will cut back the shrubbery when informed where the problem areas are that are overgrown.

**Dog attacks** – no more reports have come in and the dog has been identified, the owner has come forward, an interview scheduled, and housing asked to visit potentially.

**Date of Next Meeting** Thursday 6 February 3 pm– 4.30 pm Bridestones. There will also be a Zoom option.