

Minutes of Meeting
Community Safety Working Group
Thursday 3rd July 2025 3 pm – 4.30 pm

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Shaun Radcliffe, Cllr Glen Williams, Rachel McCarthy,
Sgt Karl Tatlock, Linda Webber, Cathy Dean.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Robert Brittain, Jim Adams and Cllr Richard Walton.
2. **Notes of the meeting** of March 2025 were accepted as correct.
3. **Agenda Approved** – New Police Sergeant Karl Tatlock was welcomed to the meeting and Congleton, and introductions took place. Cllr Kay Wesley was elected as group chair for 25/26.

Action – Invite the Plus Dane Housing team to the meeting, as police can work well with them.

4. **Action Log**

- a) **Town Centre Code of Conduct** was accepted via the community committee and shared at the Annual Town meeting. Next steps are to submit to Full Council for approval. Format the document, publish and share through the press and social media. A video campaign could be designed to highlight specific areas of the policy. **Action** – Discuss with Debbie
- b) **Town Pedestrian Area Traffic** – Following a meeting with Richard Christopherson (Community Safety Officer), ANPR is not a viable option; Cheshire East would have to commit to at least 10 locations, so the cost would be prohibitive. Actions we can take:
 - Improved signage in the area, making times clearer.
 - Use gates instead of bollards – research costs **RMc**
 - CTC Officers can be accredited to give tickets. **RMc & KW to follow up**
- c) **Anti-spiking Campaign** – Kits have now been distributed to venues in town (2 for each venue, including Costa). The campaign to publicise where to collect kits and how to use, also acts as a deterrent to would-be offenders. Press release sent out, social media posts and posters in venues. Once publicity rolled out, go into high schools explaining the dangers and how to use the kits.

5. **Police update on Crime (Sgt Karl Tatlock)**

5.1 Shoplifting – 155 offences since January (lowest in the constabulary). Potential issue with B&Ms/Tesco on Barn Road not reporting in.

5.2 Drug & Alcohol Abuse – 10 April / 5 May / 16 June.

5.3 Anti-social Behaviour – 318 offences since January (lowest in the constabulary).

5.4 Domestic Violence and sexual offences – April x 10 / May x 13 / June x 14 sexual offences

DV June x 51 – 31 arrests made.

5.5 Hate Crime - Pride Banners have been reported as hate crimes.

5.6 Speeding/Traffic – April x 239 / May x 269 / June x 278

5.7 Road Safety

5.8 Assaults & Public Order – June x 8

5.9 Residential Burglaries – 71 offences since January

6. Police Priorities – Increase in thefts of motor vehicles towards Sandbach. Local beat team focus continues to be on domestic violence/violence against women and girls. And local drug dealing, local hotspots discussed.

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

8. Street Pastors Update –

Street Pastor patrols

Our current rota, June to August, is back down to 9 patrols from 10 previously due to holidays and ill health.

April - May 2025 report data relevant to this meeting

- Helped or observed to safety 6
- Helped sober up, water, wipes 3
- Bottles and cans binned 21
- Glasses returned to establishments 7
- Emotional support 11
- Directions 5
- Homeless 1 referral, water and meal
- First Aid 2

Saturday nights have been quieter recently, but last Saturday, 28 June, we came on duty at 9 pm and after Mill Street and CMQ we were heading to Congleton Park and met two Police Officers by Meadowside Health Centre who mentioned youngsters had just scattered from the Bowling Green. We continued to the park and Cllr Glen Williams explained what had happened. We cleared beer cans, sandwich packets and other rubbish from the area. The drop in numbers in town, even on pay day weekend, may be attributable to people drinking at home during the very warm weather. The evening parking charges could also be having an effect.

At our Management meeting on 23 June, we discussed whether we should review our usual Saturday 9 pm to 1 am Patrol times and start earlier. The recent Congleton Park incident was about 8.30 pm and it was mentioned on Congleton Chats back there was also bullying in the park at 8.30 pm Friday. I have asked our Street and Prayer Pastors to let me know if they witness locations and times of any ASB groups when they are off duty to help us reach a decision.

9. Shop Watch Updates - very quiet, there was an instance of fake notes earlier in the year.

10. AOB – None. Meeting ended at 4:45 pm.

Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 4th September, 3 pm – 4.30 pm