

Minutes of the Community Safety Forum Meeting

for South Swindon

Wednesday 25 July 2018 at 6.30pm

Broadgreen Community Centre

1. Present:

- Insp Dave Hobman (Wiltshire Police)
- Cllr Derek Benfield (Covingham PC)
- Cllr Valerie Brodin (Bishopstone and Hinton Parva PC)
- Cllr Val Curtis (Covingham Parish Council)
- Cllr Zachary Hawson (Nythe, Eldene and Liden PC)
- Cllr Kevin Parry (Nythe, Eldene and Liden PC)
- Cllr Imtiyaz Shaikh (South Swindon PC)
- Cllr Paul Sunners (Chiseldon PC)
- Cllr Chris Watts (South Swindon PC)
- Cllr Gordon Wilson (Liddington PC)
- Tina Mayo (Nythe Neighbourhood Watch)
- Joyce Holman (Clerk for Meeting)

2. Apologies

- Cllr John Hewer (Wroughton PC)
- Cllr Andrew McDonald (Chiseldon PC)
- Cllr Abdul Amin (Swindon Borough Council)
- Cllr Cathy Martyn (Swindon Borough Council)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the Meeting on 22 May 2018 were approved as a correct record

4. Report from Inspector Dave Hobman, Wiltshire Police

- Priority is to deal with the emerging gang culture. It is believed to be organised by drug dealers outside of Swindon. It is leading to violence, drugs and exploitation. This would be done by bringing together Police, Probation Service, Children Services and other agencies and looking at legislation to support young people away from illegal activities.
- Over the last 5 weeks there has been a special operation in East Swindon with an additional 50 patrols taking place. Arrest have been made for weapons, drug possession and disqualified driving.
- There had been a recent kidnap report from MacDonalds and the person responsible has now remanded in prison.

- Community Speed Watch had taken place in Liddington with Fixed Penalties Notices being issued.
- There had been a steep increase in reports on social media and 101 calls, but no apparent reason for this.
- Resources had recently been taken away from Swindon Police to cover the Novichok poisoning in Salisbury, President Trump's visit and the Air Tattoo. It was confirmed that National Government reimburse local Police for their costs.
- A person who was abusing the 999 system has been identified and an injunction issued for wasting Police time.
- The new Neighbouring Policing System had now been operating for 1 year and a review would be taking place.
- The Police had identified 3 areas in the town that needed special attention; Broadgreen; Eldene and the town centre. The town centre was the busiest area in Wiltshire. The Police would be meeting with Councillors to work on new initiatives.

5. Questions from Parish Representatives

Cllr Curtis – Issue with youths in the centre of Covingham; drinking, drugs, intimidation and rough sleeping. There had been an increase in gardens being broken into and crime in the area. She provided photographs to show Insp Hodman the extent of the problem. Cllr Curtis said that local people expected the Parish Council to sort it out and were reluctant to report it to the Police directly. Insp Hodman stated the public MUST report incidents of anti-social behaviour to the Police, otherwise there will be no records. Phone calls to the Police carry more weight and it is important that the Police receive information first hand and not through a Parish Council.

Insp Hobman warned against reporting crime through social media. He encouraged the use of 101 or if the public wanted to report anonymous, this could be done through Crimestoppers.

Cllr Wilson asked whether Swindon Town Football Club paid for policing at football matches and Insp Hobman confirmed that they did.

Cllr Sunners asked about parental control and if there was a limit to the number of times a child was spoken to before further action was taken. Insp Hobman said that there was no limit to the number of times a child was spoken to before involving their parents or other agencies. There was an Early Intervention Scheme running at the moment which included multi-agency safeguarding meeting to try and stop youth people's involvement in illegal activity.

There was a discussion about facilities for young people and whether the lack of youth clubs etc had led to more children being on the streets and getting involved in anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that facilities had been stopped by Swindon Borough Council and it was very difficult for Parish Council to re-establish them.

Cllr Sunners suggested working more closely with schools and speaking to all Year 10 & 11 children. Insp Hodman said that this was already being done through the safeguarding team.

Cllr Shaikh talked about issues at Queens Park recently with drug dealing in the park on a Sunday afternoon. This had been reported to the Police.

6. Community Partnership

Insp Hodman said that he was looking at different way to bring together the Police, Parish Councils and local communities to work in partnership.

There was already the work of Neighbourhood Watch and Speed Watch which he would like to see extended.

There was some discussion about more contact between PCSOs and Parish Councils through the Parish Council offices. Insp Hobman was interested in developing this contact and would be looking at taking control of the PCSOs in the region and would introduce, what were called tea stops in the past. In other words, different places to call on to find out background information.

7. AOB - Future Meeting

Insp Hodman said that he would like future meetings to remain closed meetings for Parish Councillors and Ward Councillors to attend and not be open to the public.

8. Next Meeting

Cllr Sunners offered Chiseldon PC to host the next meeting.

THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2018 at 6.30pm at RECREATION HALL, RECREATION ROAD,
CHISELDON

The Meeting closed at 7.55pm