

NOTES FROM PUBLIC MEETING
CHAired BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL HODGKINSON ON THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2017 AT
7PM AT THE GEORGE MOORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BOURTON ON THE WATER

In attendance: County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson
Policing Inspector for the Cotswolds, Karen Ellis
PC's Jason Page & Dave Slade
PCSO Oliveira
Ward District Cllr Len Wilkins
Parish Councillors B Sumner (Chairman), R Daniel, R Hadley, L Hicks, B Rogers, B Wragge
Circa 35 local residents

Cllr Hodgkinson advised that he had arranged the meeting to review actions arising from the May meeting with Deputy Police Crime Commissioner Brierley and the local Police team, as well as to discuss any new issues arising since that date.

Inspector Ellis was invited to provide information on action taken to address issues raised in May, and she reported as follows:

- Additional manpower: PC Page has recently been restored to a mainly Community Policing role and local foot patrols have increased. An additional PCSO has now been recruited and is operational in Bourton and other N. Cotswolds communities. Local policing resources have therefore increased since May, and direct relationships with the community are being progressively re-established as a result of higher police visibility in the village;
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB): There was a small summer rise in ASB incidents, which is an annual trend, but overall ASB statistics remain in low numbers.
- Neighbourhood Promises: This initiative is being launched in January which commits to allocating greater police resources to issues identified as priorities by communities – more details to follow in December/January;
- Accompanied patrols: A local resident had recently accompanied the local Police team on a patrol and there is an opportunity for other residents to take part in an accompanied patrol. Interested residents should contact the local Police team to confirm interest.

PC Page was invited to report, as follows:

- PC Page outlined the large area which has to be covered by local officers (43 N. Cotswold communities); increased patrols have taken place in Bourton, particularly evening and night-time patrols when officers are naturally less visible to the majority of residents but which enable officers to focus on the times when ASB/crimes are more likely to occur.
- He provided information on the exhaustive search warrant process and the emphasis which is placed upon the need for local intelligence as part of the overall evidence submission. Warrants can only be applied for within 4 weeks of receipt of the intelligence, and the importance of receiving prompt information was therefore reiterated. Local intelligence had led to recent successful arrests and action being taken and this is an invaluable additional tool for the local team.
- Residents were reminded of the 101 telephone and e-mail reporting facility, as well as Crimestoppers in the event that they wish to make anonymous reports.
- PC Page reported on recent accompanied Stop & Search patrols as well as community engagement undertaken with the local schools and housing associations;

PC Slade gave a report on the role of the ProActive team working out of Cirencester Station, as follows:

- This team works out of Cirencester station, and reports to Inspector Ellis. Cases are passed on to the team to prepare a case and to investigate further following an initial report by the local team. The team views CCTV footage and specialises in burglaries and drug-related crimes, amongst others.

- A large part of their investigations rely on piecing together various bits of seemingly unrelated local information which can often be linked to form a pattern of crime or evidence which can lead to a crime being solved.
- The importance of the public passing on reports of all suspicious activity was therefore emphasised as this enables the background team to assess and link information to other pieces of evidence to form an overall crime picture or pattern;

Cllr Sumner reported on the Parish Council's actions since the May meeting; all actions have been completed or are being currently progressed, including the gathering of information on CCTV and ANPR's prior to decisions being made in those respects. It was agreed that councillors would take up Inspector Ellis' offer of an accompanied visit to Lechlade TC to view its CCTV equipment in action. The Traffic Committee will schedule a visit to Rodborough PC in the New Year to view its ANPR equipment in action.

Parish Council funds have already been committed to repeat Outreach sessions in 2018 and it was agreed that greater publicity should be given to these sessions so parents and young people become more aware that this is an authorised and Council funded service. The Youth Club is approaching its first anniversary and the number of older members is gradually increasing.

Q&A session

1. The Police were asked to clarify the process for reporting cold calling when a physical threat is involved, following a recent incident when a response was delayed.
Response: 999 is only to be used when there is a danger to life – it may be that the ongoing physical threat was not made apparent, as cold calling is usually assessed as a threat to property. If the physical presence is not immediately resolved this should be made clear at the time of reporting so a decision can be made in terms of the appropriate response time. It was clarified that the offender was dealt with subsequently in this instance.
2. Concerns were expressed regarding the ongoing series of cash point ram raids which are damaging for communities.
Response: Given these are ongoing investigations, details were not made public, but cross county investigations into a nationwide problem continue, and remain a priority for Police, locally as well as nationally. The public is encouraged to report any suspicious activity whatsoever which may be an indication of pre-crime activity.
3. A query was raised regarding the prosecution of drivers for speeding on village centre roads.
Response: Cllr Hodgkinson advised that a Traffic Regulation Order is in place which will enable speeding drivers to be prosecuted – GCC, the Police and local Speedwatch teams are working together to achieve a coordinated response. The volunteer Speedwatch team was thanked for its efforts which are producing invaluable data that helps to focus Police exercises and support resource allocation. Inspector Ellis agreed to schedule additional speed gun patrols in the village in future, when resources permit.
4. The validity of the public using drones was questioned.
Response: It was acknowledged that current legislation is not clear, which leads to difficulties in the Police enforcing laws which are subject to interpretation in respect of the invasion of privacy.
5. The team were asked to comment on the potential benefit of Youth Shelters.
Response: Inspector Ellis emphasised the need for shelters to provide a safe place for young people to meet, and the location requires careful consideration to ensure the safety of young people as well as to address the potential impact on neighbouring property owners. It is important to involve young people in the discussion process – in Bourton, this could be achieved using Outreach or Youth Club sessions.

Cllr Hodgkinson drew the meeting to a close and was pleased to note that ASB issues appear to have abated somewhat since the original meeting in February, which seems to underline the benefit of the meetings. The new issues raised will be progressed and it was agreed that another review meeting in 6 month's time would be useful – date to be confirmed. He gave thanks to the local Police team for their ongoing commitment to the community and to the Police, councillors and residents for giving up their time to discuss the various issues.