

**NOTES FROM PUBLIC MEETING
WITH DEPUTY POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GLOS, CHRIS BRIERLEY**

**CHAired BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL HODGKINSON ON THURSDAY 25TH MAY 2017 AT 7PM
AT
THE GEORGE MOORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BOURTON ON THE WATER**

In attendance: County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson
Deputy PCC Chris Brierley
Policing Inspector for the Cotswolds, Karen Ellis
PC Jason Page
PCSO Mel Oliveira
Parish Council Chairman Bryan Sumner, and other parish councillors
Circa 65 local residents

Cllr Hodgkinson advised that he had arranged the meeting to review actions arising from the February meeting with Police Crime Commissioner Surl. The conversation topics will be a) to discuss progress regarding anti-social behaviour ("ASB") issues and actions; and b) discuss resident concerns following recent local crimes, such as attacks on Bourton's cash points:

ASB:

1. Installation of CCTV equipment:
Cost estimates have been considered by the Parish Council ("the Council"), but no decision has been made due to uncertainty regarding the cost : benefit ratio, and lack of resources to monitor data. Inspector Ellis confirmed data gathered from CCTV in other Cotswold settlements had provided good quality images which generated results and convictions. The Police would support this equipment as a useful crime prevention tool.
Action: The Council to reconsider funding CCTV in light of Police comments.
2. Encouraging residents to be pro-active in reporting of crimes and ASB:
The Council has publicised this message on its web-site, social media accounts and in the parish magazine. Despite the public perception of high ASB in Bourton, there has been only a slight increase in reported incidents and the number of reports being received is still in very low numbers which don't correspond with the level of resident concern. It was emphasised that public reporting of all incidents is essential to the accurate allocation of limited manpower resources. Inspector Ellis acknowledged the 101 number has experienced resource problems but additional staff have now been taken on to man this facility.
Action: Council to continue to encourage residents to report all incidents.
3. Identifying and reducing the availability of local wi-fi hot-spots:
The Council has liaised with Lloyds to secure the turning off of its wi-fi connection after opening hours.
Action: None.
4. Consider removing seating areas on the Green:
The Council has not replaced the benches on the Green this Summer.
Action: None
5. Establish Youth Club:
The weekly Youth Club (funded by the Council and grants) has been in operation for 4 months now, with a regular attendance of 40+ local youngsters.
Action: The Council will shortly consider a proposal from the service provider to also fund "outreach" sessions (ie supervisors to meet with youngsters where they gather) for an older age group.
6. Q&A session:
Comment: ASB problems simply move around the village according to where youngsters gather.
Response: Police advised that the trend for increased ASB is not unique to Bourton, but follows a national trend for much higher ASB incidents. With limited resources it is virtually impossible to eradicate all problems at each local location. The lack of resources for community policing has been acknowledged at senior level, and additional manpower is now being recruited. As a result, Bourton's Police team is now reverting to its core community policing role and this should deliver an improved response to ASB levels in the coming weeks. Residents are encouraged to report all ASB incidents to

101, as this pinpoints hot-spots and generates data to support the future allocation of resources to identified problem areas.

Comment: The presence of a senior school in Bourton is being linked to high ASB levels, and some students are causing problems during a school day when not in classes. Recent ASB caused by students at St Lawrence's Churchyard has been reported to the Police and school.

Response: The local team is aware of this issue, and will include the area when patrolling.

Comment: There's been a lack of visible Police presence within the village – residents prefer to report information to a local PC or PCSO when they are out on patrol.

Response: Increased recent recruitment means the local team will be out and about much more often in future, and residents are encouraged to pass on information. Residents are reminded that they can also e-mail the 101 facility, if unable/unwilling to contact 101 by phone.

Comment: Will the installation of CCTV simply replace, or result in less recruitment of, beat officers?

Response: No, it will make the allocation of officers much more effective.

Comment: There seems to be a lack of family involvement following ASB convictions.

Response: Families are involved and become part of the solution once convictions take place – the public are not aware of this process, but it does happen.

Local crime:

Cllr Hodgkinson advised that residents were very concerned at the attacks on all local cash-points.

Comments: The community feels let-down by policing levels and support following raids on local cash-points in recent weeks, which has left the community with no cash-point in Bourton. Cllr Hodgkinson confirmed he had just learned that the Co-Op cash point is being reinstated shortly. A vote of thanks was given by Cllr Hodgkinson to the resident who intervened during the recent attack on Lloyds.

Response: The Police are keen to improve community engagement and a new initiative will be launched shortly which will increase Police engagement with residents in Bourton.

Comment: The large % of high value properties locally should indicate the likelihood of Bourton being a target for theft crimes but this doesn't seem to lead to an adequate allocation of resources to protect Bourton from theft crimes, particularly at night-time re cash-point attacks.

Response: The Cotswold burglary rate remains low, although incidents can have a high value loss. Day-time crime is still by far the higher risk, and the allocation of resources is driven by statistical evidence which confirms the much higher day-time need for policing. Response times can be poor due to the wide rural area covered by this force where communities are well spread out geographically.

Comment: Would the use of Automatic Number Plate Reader equipment be a good tool to help address crime being committed by those coming from outside Bourton?

Response: This equipment is also considered to be useful in helping identify and arrest passing criminals.

Comment: How expensive/worthwhile is CCTV equipment?

Response: The cost is in the £10's of thousands and must be funded by the community. Central Government is considering imposing a 2% precept cap which would render raising funds via the precept difficult, and grants would therefore be required. Careful consideration must also be given to the correct location to ensure the problem isn't simply "moved on" elsewhere.

Comment: Why is the Youth Club not located in the Community Centre?

Response: The Centre is multi-tenanted and multi-functional – it would be difficult to sufficiently mitigate the Club's impact on existing tenants and other users. The RBL Hall offers the additional benefit of outdoor space on the adjacent Naight field so activities can be taken outside in good weather.

Comment: General concerns regarding high levels of local speeding.

Response: Monies are available from funds generated by driver fines to put in place additional speed reducing measures.

Summaries:

Cllr Sumner advised that the Council will consider various issues raised, and residents with policing concerns were reminded that they have the opportunity to attend monthly Council meetings at which there is nearly always a Police representative present.

Inspector Ellis reiterated that the Police were very keen to improve community engagement, and that Neighbourhood Policing will be supported going forward. The new Time Based Policing initiative will be launched shortly and residents will be invited to participate in the public forum to ensure this considers and addresses local community concerns. However, she remains confident communities will see the benefit of ongoing operations and new initiatives in the near future.

Deputy Commissioner Brierley reconfirmed Glos. Constabulary's commitment to Neighbourhood Policing but emphasised that budget cuts imposed at government level have had a significant impact on overall police manpower resources. Equally, the level of Police manpower needed to tackle more modern crimes such as terrorism and cyber-attacks is not evident to the public but this has an inevitable impact on the resources available for more traditional and visible methods of policing. He recommended that more focus is given to raising the profile of the local Neighbourhood Watch which appears less active than in other communities. These teams can provide useful support for professional officers.

Cllr Hodgkinson thanked all those who took the time to attend and raise concerns or answer questions. He will arrange a further follow-up meeting in 6 months' time to ensure issues and actions arising from the meeting do not "drop off the radar".