

Crowthorne Community Neighbourhood Action Group (CCNAG) notes

Meeting Thursday 16 June 2022 at 7.30pm at the Morgan Centre, Crowthorne

Attendee	Organisation
Cllr Tina McKenzie-Boyle	CPC / BFBC
Katy Hughes	Clerk, WWPC
Barry Bailey	Churches Together in Crowthorne
Cllr Cliff Thomson	CPC
Mel Saville	Clerk, CPC
Cllr Janet Rogers	WWPC
Peter Wood	Crowthorne Conservatives branch chairman
Gerard Barber	Parliament
James Sunderland MP	Parliament
Sharon Gardner	HopeZone
Andrew Mitchell	HopeZone
Tom Ross	Local Resident
Cllr Simon Butterworth	CPC
Mike Harding	WBC
Chris Long	WBC
Mark Tomkinson	WBC
Stephen Beasley	CVAG
John Lindsay	CVAG
John Middlemiss	Speedwatch
Cllr Pauline Jordan	WWPC
Cllr Pauline Helliar-Symons	WBC
Alison O'Meara	BFC
T/Super Intendent Helen Kenney	TVP
PCSO Beth Bawer	TVP
PCSO Patrick Glenister	TVP
PS Paul Bentley	TVP

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Bob Wade – CPC/BFC
Cllr Richard Price – CPC
Cllr Simon Sever – CPC
Patrick Kelleher – local resident
Cllr Janet Cannon – WWPC
Sgt Daniel Surridge – TVP
PCSO Kayleigh Matthews – TVP
Chippy McLeod – Crowthorne Rugby Club
Mike – Sandhurst Youth
Louise Truscott – Crowthorne Summer Activities/Sandhurst Youth

2. Election of chairman and vice chairman for the CCNAG

Cllr Janet Rogers was elected as Chairman for the meeting.

3. Presentation from T/Supt. Helen Kenny – Thames Valley Police on Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)

T/Supt. Kenney gave a presentation on the CSAS scheme. The notes from the presentation are appended to the minutes. The following notes expand on the content of the slides:-

- CSAS gives targeted police powers to community/organisations to tackle core issues
- Accreditation for organisations is possible
- There is a strict application process – personnel are vetted and trained
- There is a framework to enforce powers for low level offending
- The powers are contained in the Police Reform Act 2002 – there are 40 powers available, however it is possible just to choose a few that are relevant
- CSAS personnel have the power to request names and addresses and can issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for offences such as littering and dog fouling and to enforce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)
- Lexicon security staff are accredited in Bracknell for anti-social behaviour enforcement (ASB) they must have a black and red logo and a TVP card to evidence their powers
- Wokingham local authority are looking into CSAS, and the business improvement areas are also looking at it
- Wokingham Borough ASB and Environment protection team have statutory powers but not CSAS. CSAS would be useful for them

T/Supt. Kenney updated the meeting on the current policing provision and structure.

The previous structure has been reviewed as it was not working effectively.

There are now 4 geographical teams and a problem solving team.

Bracknell has a north and south teams and Wokingham has a north and south teams. All follow the same shift pattern.

There are 4 lead PCs, 12 PCSOs in the geographical teams.

The problem solving team has 2 sergeants and 6 PCs.

Nationally the Police uplift program is presenting challenges. The scheme is leading to the loss of experienced PCSOs who are applying for PC roles.

Bracknell is still recruiting for PCSOs and have never experienced such a high attrition rate.

Bracknell south team which includes Crowthorne is struggling to deliver the service it used to. Summer events and fetes can no longer be covered. The policing team is having to prioritise high level ASB and gangs.

There are plans to deliver police cadets and specials – creative thinking is being used to try and assist with the recruitment and personnel difficulties.

The problem solving team is working well – they are not doing enforcement work, however. They work with partners to try and tackle issues.

There are lots of issues with missing children, social care issues – when the police 'get it right' by following a new protocol it decreases demand in other areas. They are rarely in a public place, so the police have to check known associates.

A new social media strategy is being used to feedback results – an 'engage' system.

Berkshire is running a new trial which is based in Bracknell Police Station with a local team. Issues will come straight to the area team and be allocated locally. The new trial starts on 5 September 2022.

CPC raised a query about processes for reported case, in particular those that are closed without follow up event where CCTV and still images have been captured. T/Supt. Kenney offered to follow up via email after the meeting.

Helen was thanked for the helpful presentation.

4. Presentation from on local initiatives, including Speed Watch, by James Sunderland MP – followed by a short question and answer session

James Sunderland MO apologies for his late arrival as he had been out campaigning in Tiverton for the local by election there following the resignation of the MP there.

James Sunderland MP stated that Berkshire is a good place to live and work. Bracknell is statistically the 21st safest town to live in nationally. Crowthorne has a crime rat of 60/1000 people compared to 75/1000 Berkshire wide.

There are good roads, great schools, the borough council balances the books, it has one of the lowest rates of council tax.

Crowthorne has outstanding statistics of only 43/1000 crime rate –lower than the Berkshire rate.

The most common crime in the area is offences against the person and sexual offences.

This government is passing new law and order legislation and investing in crime and disorder prevention.

There are now 135,000 more police officers than in 2019. TVP has 368 more officers now compared to 2019. There will be a further 233 officers in TVP for 2022.

When 999 calls are received officers can be deployed out of area. Cases have to be triaged.

County lines crimes are decreasing, and drug seizures have increased.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and driving are issues in Bracknell. Government and the Police will not allow 'hooligans to do donuts. Unfortunately, residents who went to challenge this behaviour were assaulted. Sainsbury's at Birch Hill is installing new gates and CCTV.

Government/MPs will challenge police about noise nuisance and ASB from cars/drivers. There will be zero tolerance to these offences.

James Sunderland congratulated the Crowthorne resident who has set up a local Speed Watch group. This activity helps with police gathering data and allocating police resources. Radar gun training is required for operatives. Once data has been gathered and there is a proven need for speed reduction measures then these can be deployed

The government/James is proud of the broadband roll out and connectivity locally.

It is accepted and agreed that the local plan house building is an issue for residents. In this part of the UK the housing is in inappropriate locations. This is impacting quality of life. Green spaces should be protected and preserved in Crowthorne. James will seek to influence the borough councils and parliament. He is elected o serve across the whole area. The difficulty is under the legislation, developers can challenge where the local authorities are not delivering enough houses under the local plan. Michael Gove is the minister responsible.

Locally other issues are emerging. More people are using Foodbanks than ever before due to steep increases in the cost of living. James abhors the fact that Foodbanks are even necessary and praised two excellent borough councils for 'picking up poverty' and ensuring people's needs are met where they are in difficulty.

GP's surgeries are under pressure.

James encouraged people to email him as he responds to all communications.

He explained that there is always a limit on what can be done however as the country is £2.2 trillion in debt and must prioritise what it can afford.

A query from the public about issues with passports was directed accordingly.

James confirmed he was enjoying his role as an MP but that it had been a 'torrid time' to embark on the challenges of the role.

5. Approval of minutes of 10 February 2022 meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 10 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the 10 February 2022 meeting

The matters arising were covered via updates from the various stakeholder's verbal and written reports this evening.

7. Reports from stakeholders

a) **Bracknell Forest Borough Council**

A written report from Alison O'Meara, Head of Community Safety for Bracknell Forest Council, on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership had been pre-circulated and is appended to the minutes.

b) **Wokingham Borough Council**

A written report from WBC's anti-social behaviour and environmental protection team had been pre-circulated and is appended to the minutes.

The team members opened up to question from the floor and were asked 'how many incidents have you been out to in WWPC to date?'

Chris Long ASB team for WBC replied that the new service commenced on 1 April 2022. The service was a shared service before.

The ASB team work 7 days a week, including until 2am on Saturdays and Sundays. Their email inbox is also constantly monitored. It is asb@wokingham.gov.uk

The borough wide data is that the ASB team has dealt with:-

92 environmental issues
47 ASB issues
51 housing issues
34 animal issues
15 pest/nuisance issues
239 general enquiries

The ASB team were not sure how this number compared to the old Public Protection Partnership service. The ASB team reported that they have a good relationship with the local Police Neighbourhood Team.

Those present were reminded that fly tipping should be reported to the borough councils and not the Police – TVP will not respond to reports of fly tipping.

The team were asked if they covered car meets – they responded that they are in consultation about this, particularly about seeking a public space protection order in Wokingham Borough to prevent these gatherings.

c) **Neighbourhood Policing Teams**

i) Wokingham neighbourhood

The team reported that Bigshotte Park had been quieter and any previous ASB issues there were under control. The Have Your Say meetings which ran there were well

attended. The Police reported having lots of help from the ASB teams and parish councils.

There had been lots of car thefts and the Police were keen to raise awareness about how these crimes can be prevented/

There had been changes to personnel with 2 PCSOs and 1 PC.

ii) Bracknell south neighbourhood (incl. Crowthorne)

Dan Surridge has been appointed as the new substantive Sgt. Following two fairly short term predecessors in this role. Dan has progressed from PCSO to PC to Sgt. Bracknell is really pleased to have him on board. Despite this the team has several vacancies particularly for PCSOs. PCSO Anne Marie Kennedy has been redeployed on a training role and PCSO Kayleigh Matthews is leaving her post to train as a PC. A new PCSO (Armina) has been appointed but will take some time to be trained.

d) Crowthorne Parish Council

A written report from CPC had been pre-circulated and is appended to the minutes.

e) Wokingham Without Parish Council

WWPC provided a report which is appended to the minutes.

8. Update on youth activities

HopeZone reported that they have recruited a new youth worker, but she will be based in the Church and is not trained and does not have sufficient hours to provide detached youth work in the community. There are difficulties recruiting detached youth workers. HopeZone is focused on the youth club for year 6 primary aged children and supporting with the transition to secondary school.

CPC is currently exploring youth work models as is aware that there is a lack of provision for older youths' year 7 and above in the village at present.

9. Matters of concern raised to the NAG prior to the meeting

None.

10. Matters of concern raised at the meeting

No other matters were raised.

11. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 19 October 2022 and will start at 5pm as it is an outdoor roadshow style event. It will be held at two venues, Bigshotte Park and the Morgan Recreation Ground with one meeting straight after the other. Further details to follow.