



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

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NOTES OF THE POLICE LIAISON FORUM WHICH TOOK PLACE AT 7.30PM IN THE CANADA ROOM, THE LIPHOOK MILLENIUM CENTRE ON THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENT WERE: P Wilson (Chairman), Mr M Croucher, Mrs B Easton, Cllr Miss N Young (Parish Councillors). Inspector L Rickwood, PC A Read, PCSO P Tedder (Hampshire Constabulary). Mrs K Dawes, PC H Murphy (Community Safety Partnership, East Hampshire District Council). Mr N Newman (Parish Councillor/Clerk for the Meeting). Fifteen members of the public and two members of the press were present.

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced members of the Police and the Community Safety Partnership. He invited Inspector Rickwood to start the meeting.

Inspector Rickwood made his introductions and explained that Sgt Phil Shore would normally lead this sort of meeting as the Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant who oversaw a number of Neighbourhood Teams (NT). In the Liphook and Bramshott area the NT consisted of PC Alan Read and PCSO Peter Tedder. He explained that PC Read had recently taken over from PC Tony Crouch. There were also Special Constable officers allocated to the area. Inspector Rickwood said he was in charge of the Longmoor Sector covering the local wards as far south of Liss and Petersfield. In addition there were specialist teams, but the 24 hour cover that responded to emergencies were the five targeted patrol teams working out of Whitehill and Alton Police stations.

Inspector Rickwood said he would focus on Safety Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) and Neighbourhood Policing which were introduced last year with expectations that things would be achieved working with the partnership agencies. A fundamental part of this was the Community Safety Team, who would explain their roles later. There was close liaison between all the teams and partners; they discussed the priority policing tasks for East Hampshire. The priorities were determined when they had been identified by elected members in their area and by the police from the statistics. The focus of the SNT was low level long term issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and criminal damage. The aim was to get away from police led initiatives, and that was why councillors and resident associations were involved. There needed to be an engagement process and that was why meetings such as the Police Liaison Forum were ways of consulting and finding out what the issues were. He was hoping to hear about such matters at the meeting. The difficulty was what there were limited resources to deal with the police priorities.

The focus to date were on two priorities that had been built up over time, one of them being a priority flagged up by a councillor about parking at the local schools. To achieve long term solutions the police needed to know where the problems were. This came from a number of sources such as 101 calls, surgeries at the Liphook Beat office, and liaison with schools and retailers. It was now a matter of consultation with the public and there had to be caution over the selection of priorities based evidence provided. Inspector Rickwood said he welcomed questions at the end.

Karen Dawes, the Community Safety Manager based at East Hampshire District Council (EHDC), said that the team had been launched in April. She explained the team/roles which consisted of two part time police officers, an ASB officer, an analyst, an administrator, and two youth inclusion workers. Communities played an important role in the whole process, and one of the main roles of the team was to look at issues that affected quality of life, which was usually ASB. It was important that the team worked on the community issues which were sometimes difficult to clearly define. The approach needed to be balanced, co-ordinated and targeted to make an impact. The team received the 101 calls into their office, and letters were sent out in response to the calls which were monitored and analysed. Since March there had been eighty seven ASB calls across East Hampshire (Liphook (54), Liss (54), Alton (165), Bordon (271), Petersfield (133), and Whitehill (67)). Whenever anybody was stopped and asked to account for themselves in any way, a C12 had to be completed with a copy given to the individual. The team were now receiving all the ASB stop check details. When a person was given a first C12 notice a warning letter was sent out, and if they were 17 years or under a letter was sent to their parents/guardian. A second stopping would result in a stronger letter being sent out. On the third occasion an official meeting would be held with all interested parties. After that an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement contract would be signed. If breached, this would be used as evidence for an ASB Order (ASBO). Since May, the Police and Community Support Officers had stopped checked eighty two people in Liphook all of whom would had been sent a letter. Five had come to attention twice, and of those four had been referred to the ASB Officers so an official meeting could be set up. Karen Dawes said she was pleased the process was in place which was a good start. One of the battles was informing parents of what their children were doing and many of them were thankful that the matter had been reported, but some did not accept the situation. There had been positive feedback. Of the eighty two stop checks, forty two lived in Liphook the remainder came from Woking (1), Whitehill (1), Tadworth (1), Liss (3), Lynchmere (1), Passfield (4), Midhurst (1), Petersfield (1), Bordon (8), Bramshott (2), Grayshott (5), East Cowes (1), Fleet (1), Haslemere (2), Headley (2), and Lindford (2). The current community priorities were Midhurst Road (ASB) and Liphook Infant and Junior Schools (Parking). The priorities were based on ASB calls to 101, calls to the Police through the 0845 number for ASB and criminal damage, safety surveys, and information from Parish and District Councils. Feedback would be welcomed, and she referred to the Community Safety document which most people had been given, which included everything she had spoken about and more. If people wanted the document they could email or phone the team and they would be sent out. She also referred to copies of a survey which were also available and asked that they should be completed. They would be collected at the end of the meeting and put into a cash prize draw.

PC Helen Murphy then explained the two local priorities. The parking in the Avenue and Avenue Close had been highlighted by Cllr S James earlier in the year. Meetings had been held with the Head Teachers, and it was proposed to have a further meeting to discuss the matter so the issues could be considered. A Crime Reduction Officer was due to look at the site and make an assessment. It might be some time before the matter would be resolved. The other priority that had been established the previous week was the Midhurst Road which included Ontario Way, Canada Way and Huron Drive, and ASB primarily on the Village Green.

PC Read referred to the leaflets which were available and asked that if there was any more specific information about ASB it should be reported. He was happy to discuss matters with individuals if they contacted him. PCSO Tedder said he would be happy to answer questions about ASB.

A question and answer session then took place (See Appendix 1). On completion of the session the Chairman thanked everybody for attending, and said he hoped it would not be so long before the next meeting was held.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Mr Hope. Observed the delay in responding to a recent incident on the Village Green and the 101 did not bring a good response.

(Mrs Hope said that a letter had been received and the matter was being dealt with)

Mr Hope. At least thirty people last weekend on the Village Green, phoned 101 but nobody answered a ringing phone for 20 minutes.

Karen Dawes. Aware of some problems, did not wish that to happen, and would see Mr Hope afterwards for details to pass on to 101. Unacceptable response.

Mr Hope. Are EHDC aware of an initiative of which I am aware between a Parish Council and a local supermarket where alcohol bottles were marked with a code so that when the bottles were collected later, the purchaser could be identified by using CCTV? Might this assist in this area?

Karen Dawes. Not aware. Test purchases did take place.

(The initiative was discussed. PC Read said he would look into this with the Licensing Department at EHDC)

Mr Hope. Nine cars were broken into at Passfield recently, and perhaps this was due to the fact that the area was unlit, and could the lighting be looked at by the local authorities?

Karen Dawes. Aware of theft, and know it was investigated thoroughly. A one-off incident would not normally lead to the development of a long term solution.

(Further discussion followed on the thefts, the police action that might follow and the difficulty of targeting rural locations with police resources)

Mr Hope. How do the police intend to police the 30 mph limit in Passfield with the difficulties of policing the 50 mph limit?

Karen Dawes/PC Reed. Will take your details afterwards and will contact the road policing unit and obtain feedback. Time speed counter would be placed on the road. Statistics would be gathered such as the number of vehicles using the road, their average speeds, and then the police would target the area with radar speed checks.

Mrs Hope. I did view a steady stream of 30-40 screaming youths during the last incident on 21 September. They were moving back and forward to Sainsbury and looked as though might be damaging property, shrubs. Did hear some shouting about bus and trains when police arrived. Youths went off in the direction of the station. Probably people moving on from other areas for Anti-Social Behaviour reasons and they were collecting in Liphook.

PSCO Tedder/Karen Dawes. Patrols targeted in the area and double crewed, and met Mr Groves that night. 30 people present and majority from Liphook area, small group from Bordon, one from Halsemere. One individual swore at Mr Groves and such language in a public place was not tolerated. This was being dealt with. Youths did move on and did get the message and names and details were taken.

(Discussion or reference to concerns over language, level of noise, damage to property, direction of movement, action taken by police/authorities if nothing occurred, the use of 101, 999, or 0845 number to be called)

Mrs Easton. Are there any funds available to open the Police Office at the weekend as this might act as a deterrent?

Inspector Rickwood. Wonderful facility which is made use of, but problem would be finding the staff, unless the existing resources or special constables/volunteers used. Uniformed officers were needed out in the community. Occupation of hall at the weekend might be a deterrent.

Mr Wright You can see groups of people and under age people hanging around outside Sainsbury's who then go drinking on the Village Green. This has been happening all summer and it is clear and obvious that alcohol is being brought from Sainsbury's.

Karen Dawes/PC Read. Difficulty is if the alcohol is being brought by people who are over 18 years. Under 18 sales can be dealt with.

(Further discussion on the problem, use of alcohol from home, test purchasing operations, and the need to ring 101 with information. PC Read would visit Sainsbury to make them aware of their obligations)

Mr Elliott. What ages were the young people involved in the events of 27 September and were names and addresses noted, and was it a crime to drink outside?

PCSO Tedder. 14 -16 years old, not seen drinking, they were rowdy and did move on. There were a number of empty alcohol containers at the scene and I dealt with it robustly and worked with Mr Groves to ensure there was a clean up the following morning and that was the case. Names and addresses were taken of some people at the scene. It was a one-off incident. Not a crime to drink outside, but under age drinking was an offence.

Mr Elliott. Refer to the playing of golf on the Recreation Ground as previously reported, and could you reassure me that regular checks are being made in that area which we have not heard about this evening?

PCSO Tedder. Will continue to identify problems, patrol and deal with them in those areas, and work very closely with Mr Groves from the Parish Council. Will continue to watch the area.

(Improvements in that area were discussed – Mr Groves thanked PCSO Tedder and the other officers who had been working hard over the past eight months in those areas, with the result that anti-social behaviour in those areas had been reduced, which he was sure would be born out in the police records and was making a significant difference to the village)

Mr Thomson. Were the ASB problems moving from other areas in the village to the Village Green this year?

Inspector Rickwood/Mr Groves. The reason why people wanted to be out on the Village Green needed to be identified, and that was the importance of working with the other partnership agencies and to obtain information on their needs and what we could do to assist. When asked where the people came from last weekend, the majority were not from Liphook and were coming over to join the people in Liphook.

Mr Hope. How much work was going on between the Community Safety Team and the Youth Forum to identify what needed to be done to keep the youths out of mischief, and were there some places which would not sell alcohol to people under 21?

Karen Dawes/Inspector Rickwood. Was up to retailers to sign up to the Challenge 21 initiative. Could still buy alcohol if there were 18 years old.

Mr Hope. Could zero tolerance public non -drinking areas be set up around Liphook?

Karen Dawes. You are referring to a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) which was only a discretionary control

(Karen Dawes described the meaning of the order, which meant that an offence would have had to have taken place after a warning had been given and that in certain circumstances that approach would not help and would cost in the order of £2,000 to put in place. The Community Safety Team did meet with other partnership agencies and was working closely with all of them. As a new team that area would be improved. The importance of feedback was raised and Karen Dawes said she would follow that up with the appropriate people at EHDC).

Cllr Croucher. Are initiatives like Neighbourhood Watch and Resident Associations supported?

Karen Dawes. Yes. There were co-ordinators in place and the team were working on a co-ordinated approach across the District. Neighbourhood Watch was important.

(PC Read described how Neighbourhood Watch Scheme could be set and he would be happy to chair a meeting about this).

Mr Futcher. Reports in the media recently that Chief Constables having difficulties covering weekend incidents and might that be the reason for long time in responding to the recent incidents on the Village Green?

Inspector Rickwood. I would like more staff and more resources and the problems are the same all over the country and in other local areas. Our task is to target those resources as effectively a possible. There was always an issue with large rural area to cover, but East Hampshire was a low crime area. We would not be justified having a large number of resources all the time. I do call resources in if they are needed. I do have a small amount of overtime to support initiatives. The resources we have are perceived to be adequate for the problems that we have. There will be times when there we are not to deal with a range of incidents, such as at weekends. Need the call to be made to us to be able to respond and deal with things.

(Further discussion and explanation on the use of the 101, 0845 and 999 calls followed, with reference to the literature provided and examples given).

Mrs Easton. What is an exclusion order?

Karen Dawes. You refer to a Section 30 for a Disposal Zone. People could be made to leave the zone if they did not live in the area, and they were normally imposed for a shorter period time.

(Further explanation was given about exclusion zones and the criteria for them, examples given in Liss and Alton, and that the orders had to be agreed by the Chief Executive at EHDC. They were normally focused on smaller areas not a whole village, would be based on evidence provided through information provided such as 101 calls).

Mrs Hall. Lot of trouble in Manor Fields, youths drink in the bus shelter with drink from home and they come from Halsemere Road and the Maltings. Regarding the under age sales in shops, there was a problem of a young person serving alcohol recently, and the supervisor did not come to the till and the person being served was under sixteen..

Karen Dawes. Young people of 16 years old were allowed to sell alcohol in supermarkets if a supervisor had given authority. When there was information provided, the Licensing Department and the Trading Standards would be informed.

(The matter was discussed further – PC Read would take it up).

Mrs Hope. Did discuss starting a Neighbourhood Watch Meeting recently and that seems to have died a death and it had been raised again and something should be done about it.

(Discussion followed on the situation, and it was understood that there were co-ordinators at Manor Fields and two names had been provided for this area – to be provided to PC Read).

Cllr Croucher. When somebody was arrested, could the Police Office not be equipped to act as a temporary facility?

Inspector Rickwood. Specific legislation for the holding of people who had been arrested. Facilities were available at Alton, Petersfield, sometimes Waterlooville, or Basingstoke or Aldershot. Implications of taking people to those locations and the time for needed for processing under current legislation.

(Further discussion followed on the use vehicles in urban areas, and how long people could be kept in the vehicles, which did not count in terms of time in custody)

General Callan. Replacement of beat manager by PC Read not known about, and were the contact details given last year the same? Used to receive lengthy E-mails about incidents in the local area, and of late the incidents had diminished and attenuated. Is this because there was less crime or that the reports were being edited?

Inspector Rickwood. No change in policy over what you are sent or desire to edit; sent out by at Whitehill Police Station, and difference service could be supplied dependent on the needs of the local scheme. Use of the Hampshire Constabulary website was suggested to obtain further information.

(The reduction of incidents was raised and the view of the Messenger representative was that the press were receiving less information than the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. Inspector Rickwood expressed his concern that The Messenger were not receiving the information and asked that he be passed the E Mail address. The Chairman asked that the matter be discussed after the meeting)

