

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICE LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2018 AT 1930 HOURS

Present : Councillors R Berry
C Chambers
A Dodwell
T Morris – in the Chair
A Brandham (substituting G Perham)

Also in attendance: M Saccocio, Town Clerk
S Sandiford (Head of Democratic & Central Services)
M Jahn (Committee Officer)
Acting Inspector C Gurr (Bedfordshire Police)
PCSO R Carne (Bedfordshire Police)
Steve Barrett, Central Beds Council
Jayne Foster, Central Beds Council
David Prior, LB First/Shop Watch

Members of the Public: 4
Members of the Press: 0

078/PL APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J M Freeman, Councillor C Perham and Councillor G Perham (substituted Councillor A Brandham).

079/PL DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. No declarations were made and no dispensations had been requested.

080/PL PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the Rotary Club in Leighton-Linslade expressed his concerns about the problems with taxis during the Christmas Eve carol singing in the High Street. Approximately 35 taxis were parked along Lake Street and Duncombe Drive which caused problems with exiting this area and prevented access by emergency vehicles including police vehicles. The Sub-Committee agreed this matter should be considered and discussed at the next Partnership Meeting on 15th February 2018.

Two members of the public from the Sandhills area of Leighton Buzzard voiced their concerns about the problems in their area with groups of young men trying to break into vehicles and houses during the early hours of the morning between 12.00 am and 3.00 am. Inspector Gurr acknowledged these problems and said the Police were aware and said he would take their concerns back to Operation Mace to see if they could assist with these problems and schedule patrols within

the Sandhills/Roman Gate areas. An Engagement Day was also being planned for this area by the Police to meet residents to discuss these on-going problems. Inspector Gurr explained that Leighton Buzzard Community Policing teams operate up until 10.00 pm and after that the response time depends on availability of officers (all calls received were prioritised depending upon urgency/severity).

A local businessman also voiced his concerns regarding the number of break-ins to vehicles, especially trade vans, within the Leighton Buzzard area in the early hours of the morning. Reports and videos of some of the break-ins had appeared on social media but when police were called there had been no response from them. Inspector Gurr re-iterated that the resources and officers they have available to cover these calls depends on the volume and the urgency of these calls.

Members of the public were thanked for attending the meeting

081/PL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the Police Liaison Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 October 2017.

Minute reference 073/PL: a question was raised regarding the Banned List. This list should be administered by the Pub Watch Group who would vote for and decide who would be added to the list. The Police would then supply details of individuals on the list. Inspector Gurr suggested Pub Watch contact Sergeant Mitchell, Licensing Group, to discuss this further. The next meeting of Pub Watch would be held on Wednesday 10 January 2018.

Minute reference 076/PL: a question was raised whether this information had now been received. It was confirmed a report was received for today's meeting but concerns were raised on the late receipt of this report. It was agreed by the Sub-Committee that the CCTV report would be more beneficial if prepared and sent at least a week before the meeting so the Police could add their figures to update the Sub-Committee on arrests resulting from the CCTV report.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Police Liaison Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 October 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed accordingly.

082/PL BEST BAR NONE

The Best Bar None Co-Ordinator from Leighton-Linslade, Dunstable and Houghton Regis was unable to attend tonight's meeting so a report would be provided at a later date.

083/PL BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE REPORT

The Sub-Committee received a report from Bedfordshire Police on crime and antisocial behaviour for October to December 2017, as compared to the previous year and as a ratio per head of population compared with other local towns.

Domestic burglary, other burglary, sexual offences and vehicle crime had increased in the Leighton Buzzard area and the police were working on this at the present time.

The Sub-Committee raised concerns regarding crime in High Demand areas and asked for clarification of what type of crimes these were. Also the increase in domestic burglary and vehicle crime was a concern and it was suggested that Operation Dodford could be used to assist to increase patrols in these areas.

It was confirmed that the Sub-Committee was satisfied with the format and information provided in the report.

RESOLVED to note the information.

083/PL CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

The Sub-Committee received a report of recorded CCTV incidents in Leighton Buzzard from 1st October 2017 to 31st December 2017. It was noted that the number of arrests stated in the report was based solely on the information captured by the CCTV and did not reflect any action taken by the police following the captured incidents or where the incidents formed part of a wider investigation.

The Sub-Committee raised concerns on the late receipt of the report and asked if this report could be sent at least a week before the meeting date so the Police could add their arrest numbers to the report which would give the Sub-Committee more information and help determine whether the redeployable CCTV cameras owned by the Town Council needed to be moved to different sites. Steve Barrett, Community Safety Manager for Central Bedfordshire Council confirmed that going forward the CCTV report would be added monthly to the Central Bedfordshire Website to make it more accessible.

It was also suggested that the camera in Church Street/New Road should be repositioned to Lake Street due to issues which were beyond the visual range of the existing cameras in that area. The Sub-Committee was supportive of this recommendation. A further suggestion was made regarding one of the redeployable cameras being relocated to Sandhills but Steve Barrett explained that positioning cameras in residential areas caused problems where people's houses were visible by the camera.

RESOLVED to note the report.

084/PL "WATCH" SCHEMES UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received an update regarding the various Watch schemes in the area, since the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED to note the report.

David Prior, LB First/Shop Watch gave a verbal update on Shop Watch. It was reported to the Sub-Committee that the Shop Radio Scheme launched on the 5

December and 22 radios were in use in the shops in Leighton Buzzard. Photographs of potential shoplifters had also now been provided by Police to Shop Watch.

PCSO Rachel Carne said she had used the Shop Watch radio and the system worked well by allowing shops to share information on potential criminals in the area and she would also receive this information via her shop watch radio and attend the area if possible.

085/PL DUNSTABLE TRUCK CONVOY 9 JUNE 2018

The Sub-Committee received and considered a report regarding the extension of the Dunstable Truck Convoy route through the parish and to support the use of the Operation Dodford budget to support additional policing as the event passes through the parish.

RESOLVED to:

- 1.1 endorse the principle of extending the Dunstable Truck Convoy route so it passes through the parish enroute to its final destination at Billington Showground and in doing so, agree to the temporary lifting of the lorry weight restrictions for the event.**
- 1.2 Support the additional policing cost of £268.52 required for the convoy be met from the Operation Dodford Budget (410/4401).**
- 1.3 Support the proposal of a communications plan being created which identifies how the organising body would make the parish aware of the event in order to gain support and mitigate against any potential negative publicity.**

The meeting closed at 20:39 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2018.

Chair

9 April 2018