

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

MONDAY 13 JULY 2020 AT 1930 HOURS

Present : Councillors A Dodwell
R Goodchild
S Owen – joined 1940
R Berry
T Morris (Chair)
V Harvey
J Silverstone
F Kharawala

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio, (Town Clerk)
S Sandiford (Head of Democratic & Central Services)
M Jahn, (Committee Officer)
I Haynes, (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services)
L Farmer, (TACTIC Manager) – left 2044
Sergeant B. Craven (Bedfordshire Police)
Councillor Carole Hegley (Central Beds Council)
S Swain, (Lead Youth Worker, Groundwork East) – left 2044
Councillor G Perham
Councillor C Palmer
Councillor D Bowater – joined 1941

Members of the Public: 1

32/CS APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Tony Morris be appointed Chair of the Sub-Committee for 2020-2021. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Tony Morris Chair of the Community Safety Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2020-2021.

33/CS APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Farzana Kharawala be appointed Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee for 2020-2021. One more nomination was made for Councillor Amanda Dodwell.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Farzana Kharawala Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2020-2021.

34/CS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

35/CS 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.

Councillor Dodwell declared an interest as a member of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel.

36/CS QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

37/CS MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the Community Safety Sub-Committee meeting held on 13 January 2020.

Minute reference 27/CS Operation Dodford – a question was raised regarding the Box Release Project. It was confirmed that equipment had been purchased but because of the COVID-19 lockdown the project had not been able to begin. It was hoped to continue with the project when allowed as it proved to be very popular with young people

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Safety Sub-Committee meeting held on 13 January 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed accordingly.

38/CS OPERATION DODFORD

(a) The Sub-Committee had received a written report regarding crime and antisocial behaviour in advance of the meeting and a verbal summary was given by Sergeant B Craven of Bedfordshire Police regarding activity undertaken in respect of Operation Dodford and incidents of note from January to May 2020 including the COVID-19 lockdown period. It was noted that the figures for shoplifting and public order offences would generally refer to the period from January to mid-March before lockdown began. Concerns were raised regarding the rise in violence with injury over this time and it was confirmed that domestic violence crime during lockdown could account for this increase.

Operation Dodford priorities changed after COVID-19 lockdown restrictions were eased to patrolling parks, countryside beauty spots and supermarkets to monitor social distancing and ensure government guidance was being adhered to. During the last few weeks this had now reverted to policing the market and town centre to manage issues encountered at the market and in shops.

A question was raised regarding bicycle theft and how the police could help to reduce this. It was agreed that crime prevention advice and bike engraving could be offered by the Police to help reduce bicycle theft and make the public more aware of bike security.

The Sub-Committee agreed that policing of parks in Linslade and Leighton Buzzard could help with anti-social behaviour and perhaps the remit of the Dodford Agreement could include this option. Sgt Craven had planned to carry out extra night-time patrols through Operation Dodford in the town, with himself and four officers, with one taking place in March which proved effective with no crimes reported. COVID-19 lockdown then happened and further patrols of this nature could not take place. Members agreed this would be an excellent way to use Community Safety budget.

A question was raised regarding the remit of Operation Dodford and whether this could be reviewed and include more patrols in Linslade. It was agreed this should be discussed at a meeting with the Police, Town Clerk and Chairman of this Sub Committee.

RESOLVED to note the report.

- (b) The Sub-Committee received the annual renewal of the Operation Dodford section 92 grant agreement for consideration. The agreement ran annually from 1 April – 31 March.

RECOMMENDED to Council to approve the Operation Dodford Section 92 Grant Agreement for the year 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021.

39/CS ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Sub-Committee received and considered a verbal request for funding to provide activities for vulnerable young people during the school holidays as normal activities and projects were not operating due to COVID-19 restrictions. This was aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour. A number of parties had discussion on the project in advance of the meeting with Groundwork leading on the delivery.

It was proposed that sessions include bike maintenance, football, street dance and provision of pizza, to take place at Astral Park on 21 July, 28 July, 4 August and 11 August 2020. The total cost of this project would be £690 and members agreed it would provide much needed activities for young people within the area. A question was raised regarding the location and whether a more central park could be used for the activities.

RESOLVED to approve allocation of £690 from the Community Safety budget to provide activities for vulnerable young people over the school summer holidays.

40/CS CCTV & RE-DEPLOYABLE CAMERAS

The Sub-Committee received reports of recorded CCTV incidents in Leighton Buzzard during March, April, and May 2020. These reports were publicly available and published monthly on the Central Bedfordshire Council website. A question was raised regarding the lack of arrests shown on the report and it was confirmed that the report only showed the CCTV incidents captured. Further

detail would have to be added by the Police to incorporate what had happened after the incident.

The Town Clerk confirmed that an update meeting had recently been held with Central Bedfordshire officers. Central Bedfordshire Council was progressing its plans to upgrade its public space CCTV network to a fully digital system and to build a new modern CCTV Control Room. An invitation to tender was anticipated to be published in the next 2-3 months and the Sub-Committee was asked to agree to inclusion of its existing cameras in the tender. This would enable accurate costs to be obtained to purchase new cameras and any associated equipment. There will be no obligation to buy.

RESOLVED to note the CCTV reports and to endorse that Leighton-Linslade Town Council's existing cameras be included in the invitation to tender for a digital system being issued by Central Bedfordshire Council.

41/CS WATCH SCHEME UPDATES

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update in respect of the Street Watch and Speed Watch schemes within the Parish.

42/CS EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

There was no requirement to exclude the public.

42/CS OPERATIONAL POLICING

There were no confidential operational policing matters to be reported.

The meeting closed at 2055 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2020.

Chair

26 OCTOBER 2020