

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2023 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors S Jones (substituting D Bowater)
V Harvey
J Silverstone (chair)
R Goodchild
A Dodwell
A Gray
P Carberry
R Berry
C Palmer (substituting R Yates)
T Morris

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
S Sandiford (Deputy Town Clerk)
M Jahn (Committee Officer)
Chief Inspector J Goldsmith (Bedfordshire Police)
Sgt A French (Bedfordshire Police)
PCSO E Weedon (Beds Police)
S Swain, Groundworks (joining remotely)
S Blake (Safer Communities Engagement Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council)

Members of the Public: 1

127/CS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Bowater (substituted by Councillor Jones) and Councillor Yates (substituted by Councillor Palmer).

128/CS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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 a personal interest as a member of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel. Councillors Dodwell and Bowater declared personal interests as volunteers with the Street Watch initiative.

129/CS QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

130/CS MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the Community Safety Sub-Committee meeting held on 17 October 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Safety Sub-Committee meeting held on 17 October 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed accordingly.

(b) Updates from the previous minutes were received.

Minute reference 122/CS (CCTV & Deployable Cameras): a question was raised regarding CCTV cameras at the Linslade Community Garden and it was confirmed discussions would continue with volunteers, community police and Central Bedfordshire Council Engagement Officer, following the visit and report from the Design Out Crime Officer in autumn 2022.

Minute reference 123/CS ('Watch' Schemes Update): it was confirmed that work was still on going to re-start the Shop Watch group.

Minute reference 124/CS (Police Response): it was noted that as this matter had also been discussed by Council, the responses received would be taken back to the next Council meeting on 30 January 2023.

131/CS GROUNDWORK UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a brief verbal report from Groundwork on the additional weekly youth club session funded by the council for six months, originally intended to run May – October 2022 but now due to finish in February 2023. It was estimated that around 153 young people had been engaged, with sessions promoted via school assemblies and posters. Two sessions had been held in the parks and the activities being run by TACTIC were also promoted to the young people. A full report would be provided on completion of the additional sessions.

A question was asked about capacity; the youth club could accommodate 36 young people per session based on 3 staff members being present.

A question was raised regarding the funding ending and would this cause hardship to the young people. Sub-Committee members expressed support for ensuring activities were available for young people, particularly if this also helped prevent or reduce antisocial behaviour. Bedfordshire Police officers present agreed there should be further conversations about provision and that clear aims and objectives be identified as well as looking at how to measure success and impact. It was agreed there should be joined up thinking between all agencies.

It was agreed that officers would undertake further work with partner agencies to determine possible uses of the community safety budget and proposals could either come back to the next sub-committee meeting or to a meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee.

Thanks were expressed to Mr Swain and Groundwork colleagues for their work on this project.

RESOLVED to note the report.

132/CS OPERATION DODFORD

The Sub-Committee received a report on Operation Dodford activity, reported crimes and antisocial behaviour during the period October – December 2022. Some concerns were raised regarding the amount of bike theft, incidents of anti-social behaviour, theft from motor vehicles and break-ins in the town.

The statistics provided were area-wide rather than specific to the parish. After discussion it was agreed that the Operation Dodford report should be revised to show figures for Leighton Buzzard in comparison to other towns. Inspector Goldsmith agreed to take this forward for the next meeting.

Some concerns were expressed about the suitability of the Bossard House site as Wi-Fi was not available at present and it was not public facing. It was hoped this could be improved to enable police staff to work from the site and for some form of public facing enquiry desk to be made available.

RESOLVED to note the report.

133/CS CCTV & DEPLOYABLE CAMERAS

The Sub-Committee received reports of recorded CCTV incidents in Leighton Buzzard for September - November 2022. These reports were publicly available and published monthly on the Central Bedfordshire Council website but were based only on the information available to the local authority and not what might have subsequently happened in relation to captured incidents.

A question was raised whether CCTV was being installed to monitor the electric vehicle charging points being installed by Central Bedfordshire Council in the Baker Street and Mentmore Road car parks. It was understood there would not be additional CCTV.

RESOLVED to note the CCTV reports.

134/CS “WATCH” SCHEMES UPDATE

Street Watch patrols continued to take place on Tuesdays and Saturdays, with Speed Watch patrols taking place at least monthly. A Pub Watch meeting had taken place recently but no issues were highlighted. The Shop Watch group was being revived at present.

135/CS DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY BUDGET 2023-24

The Committee received and considered the draft Committee budget for 2023-2024.

Following discussion, members of the sub-committee agreed the budget should remain at the same level of £40,000. It was felt that any underspend following payment for additional policing activity through Operation Dodford could be used for other community safety schemes and initiatives.

RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Finance Committee to approve the proposed budget for the Community Safety Sub Committee for the financial year 2023-2024.

136/CS EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Not applicable.

137/CS OPERATIONAL POLICING (if applicable)

Not applicable.

The meeting closed at 20:40 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2023.

Chair

3 APRIL 2023