

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

MONDAY 12 JULY 2021 AT 1930 HOURS

Present : Councillors A Dodwell
 R Berry
 P Carberry
 R Yates
 V Harvey
 J Silverstone (Chair)
 F Kharawala
 A Gray
 R Goodchild
 D Bowater

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio, (Town Clerk)
 S Sandiford, (Deputy Town Clerk)
 M Jahn, (Committee Officer)
 Inspector C Gurr (Bedfordshire Police)
 A/Sgt A Ison (Bedfordshire Police)
 A/Sgt S Konopka (Bedfordshire Police)

Members of the Public: 2

74/CS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

75/CS APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor J Silverstone be appointed Chair of the Sub-Committee for 2021-2022. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor J Silverstone Chair of the Community Safety Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2021-2022.

Councillor Silverstone took the Chair.

76/CS APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor D Bowater be appointed Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee for 2021-2022.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor D Bowater Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2021-2022.

77/CS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared and no dispensations were requested.

78/CS QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Two members of the public spoke to raise their concerns about anti-social behaviour at Danes Field where problems had occurred with young teenage children gathering in the children's play area. A question was asked of the police whether patrols could be increased in this area during after school hours and during the upcoming summer holidays. Inspector Gurr confirmed that Danes Field had been highlighted as a priority area and extra patrols had been deployed and would continue during the coming months.

79/CS MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the Community Safety Sub-Committee meeting held on 12 April 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Safety Sub-Committee meeting held on 12 April 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed accordingly.

80/CS OPERATION DODFORD

The Sub-Committee had received a written report regarding crime and anti-social behaviour in advance of the meeting and a verbal summary was given regarding activity undertaken in respect of Operation Dodford and incidents of note from April-June 2021.

Discussion took place regarding bicycle theft, domestic violence and an increase in arson. The Covid-19 pandemic had meant a reduction in some crimes but an increase in others, but this situation might change as restrictions were lifted.

Thanks were given to the Community Policing Team for all their hard work during the past 15 months. Concerns had been relayed to Councillors from members of the public regarding low level anti-social crimes being committed which created fear within the community and families who felt unsafe in this environment.

Members of the sub-committee raised concerns regarding the amount of police available in the town and whether a dedicated police station would be opened in the future especially with the growth of population in the area. Also the lack of space provided for the officers in the present building which was shared with the Fire Service did not present as fit for purpose during the COVID pandemic where restrictions required space and social distancing in the workplace.

It was noted that three new community policing officers were due to start in September 2021.

The sub-committee agreed a formal letter should be sent to Andrew Selous, MP and the Police Crime Commissioner to highlight these concerns and to lobby for the provision of a police station and additional police officers for the town.

RESOLVED the Town Clerk would write to the MP, Andrew Selous and the PCC to highlight concerns raised by members of the sub-committee regarding extra police officers and a dedicated police station in the town.

81/CS CCTV & REDEPLOYABLE CAMERAS

The Sub-Committee received reports of recorded CCTV incidents in Leighton Buzzard during March, April and May 2021. These reports were publicly available and published monthly on the Central Bedfordshire Council website.

It was confirmed that these reports showed incidents highlighted by the CCTV operators and any arrests made may have taken place at a later date and were not shown on the report.

RESOLVED to note the CCTV reports.

82/CS WATCH SCHEME UPDATES

It was stated that Street Watch patrols were taking place on Tuesdays and Saturdays and that the Speed Watch volunteers had been active around the area to discourage speeding vehicles.

RESOLVED to note the information.

83/CS OPCC DONATION REQUEST

The Sub-Committee received and considered correspondence from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner requesting a donation to secure funding to enable the Trust to offer more modern security items for the elderly and vulnerable and victims of domestic abuse.

Members agreed with the principle of the request and approved the request for a donation subject to further specific details being obtained by the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Town Clerk and Chair to approve a donation subject to ratification of how the funds would be allocated and whether it would be within the Parish.

84/CS ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Sub-Committee received a report from Groundwork regarding activities for young people which had been partly funded by the Town Council as agreed in October 2020. Stephen Swain, Groundworks, was unable to attend the meeting so a brief update was given on his behalf by Councillor Harvey.

It was agreed that the re-opening of the Youth Club for 2 sessions a week had provided an opportunity to engage with young people, the police and safer neighbourhood officers. Relationships had been formed with the young people which resulted in three young people becoming involved in volunteering for charity and partaking in a first aid course.

A request was made to the sub-committee for funding of up to £1,000 to provide two bike maintenance sessions to enable the young people to have bikes fit for purpose before the winter season. Members agreed this would provide a good opportunity for the young people and agreed to delegate authority to the Town Clerk and Chair to make the decision.

Stephen Swain would be invited to the next meeting and it was requested that a report should be submitted to the Town Clerk showing the work carried out by Groundworks and this information could be shared with the sub-committee.

RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Town Clerk and Chair to make a decision regarding the request to fund 2 bike maintenance sessions organised by Groundwork, up to the amount of £1,000, from the Community Safety budget.

85/CS EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

There was no requirement to exclude the public.

86/CS OPERATIONAL POLICING (IF APPLICABLE)

No report was made.

The meeting closed at 20.39 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JULY 2021.

Chair

18 OCTOBER 2021