

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2019 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harris - Chairman
Councillor Peter Harman -Vice-Chairman
Councillor Anita Barham
Councillor Emma Ben-Moussa
Councillor Sue Butterfill
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Maurice Weet (substituting for Councillor Jay Shah)

ALSO PRESENT: Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer
Chief Inspector Neil Loudon – Kent Police
PC Tony Quilter – Kent Police
PCSO Mark Cripps – Kent Police
Sarah Rawlinson (Youth & Community Engagement Officer, Diocese of Rochester)
x11 members of the public

ABSENT: There were none

239/19-20. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.

The Chairman explained the arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting.

240/19-20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jay Shah.

Apologies were also received from Zoe Harris (Kent County Council), Martin Smith (Dartford Borough Council Parking Enforcement), Billy Unsworth (KCC Community Warden) and PCSO Rob Young (Kent Police).

241/19-20. SUBSTITUTES.

Councillor Maurice Weet substituted for Councillor Jay Shah.

242/19-20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

243/19-20. **ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

244/19-20. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2019.**

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 July 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

The Chairman gave the opportunity for the meeting to be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.

Questions were raised from the public to Chief Inspector Loudon on the following subjects:

Drug dealing;
Anti-social motorbikes;
Visible police officers;
Recruitment levels;
Community policing engagement at local events;
CCTV and mobile police stations.

245/19-20. **CHIEF INSPECTOR NEIL LOUDON.**

Chief Inspector Loudon gave a summary of his career within the police along with his service in the North Kent area. Chief Inspector Loudon explained the challenges that had faced Kent Police over recent times with resources and priorities.

An overview was given of current police levels along with the planned increases in line with the recruitment drives for all positions from volunteers to officers

Chief Inspector Loudon was pleased to be able to inform the committee that a 37% reduction in recorded crime had occurred in the area of Swanscombe and Greenhithe in the last 12 months. He did note that an increase had occurred in lower level crime such as anti-social behaviour and nuisance motorbikes which Kent Police were taking very seriously. He explained the new technology available to officers enabling them to spend more time on the streets and reduce paperwork.

Chief Inspector Loudon set out the three priorities that he sets for all officers under his command: to put victims first; always provide a gold level of service and to do the right thing.

Members discussed the challenges faced with promoting reporting, the various methods that could be used and the challenges with social media.

Members also expressed that residents were stating to them that they had lost faith in Kent Police and that a lack of feedback may have contributed in part to this.

Chief Inspector Loudon stated that he understood these feelings and that more work could be done to communicate with the community. He was pleased with the results of recent satisfaction surveys undertaken by people who had engaged with the police service.

Members thanked Chief Inspector Loudon for his attendance but wished him to note that police presence at these meetings had not always been satisfactory.

Recommended: That the information be noted and Chief Inspector Loudon be thanked for his attendance

246/19-20. **POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO) REPORT.**

PC Tony Quilter gave an update on recent cases of interest within the area including an overview of specific operations that aimed at targeting robberies both specifically in Greenhithe and the wider borough of Dartford.

PCSO Mark Cripps introduced himself as the new PCSO for Greenhithe. PCSO Cripps explained that he was looking to meet as many local groups and organisations as possible to integrate within the community.

Members thanked both PC Quilter and PCSO Cripps for their attendance.

Recommended: That the report be noted and both PC Quilter PCSO Cripps be thanked for their attendance

247/19-20. **KCC COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.**

As KCC Warden Unsworth had submitted his apologies for the meeting the ATC/RFO read out a brief report submitted prior to the meeting. This included work conducted on overgrown gardens, suspicious vehicles, concerns for children and vulnerable people.

Recommended: That the report be noted.

248//19-20. ANTI-SOCIAL PARKING – SWANSCOMBE HIGH STREET.

Members discussed enforcement of the zig-zag lines with Chief Inspector Loudon. He confirmed that this was a serious safety concern and that he would ensure his officers were aware and take measures when possible. He stated that he would ensure this information was also passed to the Special Constables who were part of the Kent Police Team as they had the same powers to ticket as other officers.

Councillors' Peter Harris and Peter Harman gave an overview of a meeting they had attended with Kent Highways. At that meeting the option of installing barriers along the length of the zig-zag lines had been discussed further.

Members were in agreement that the installation of barriers would be a good preventative measure to stop parking along the zig-zag lines.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

249//19-20. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Youth services / officers – Sarah Rawlinson gave an update on her continued work with school engagement. She had been meeting with the Focus Project who are targeting work on different criminality issues and discussions held with an organisation looking to set up a Safer Community Alliance.

Sarah explained that following the redeployment of Reverend Andrew Avery from St Marys Church, Greenhithe, line management of her role would revert to the Youth and Communities Lead at the Diocese of Rochester. It was explained by Sarah that this was always the original intention, but that the project board, on setting up the role, had initially allocated this to Reverend Avery at St Marys Church.

Members of the Community Safety Meeting expressed concern that this decision had been taken without consideration for the line management to pass to the Reverend of St Peter & St Pauls Church, Swanscombe, as this was the other local church within the Town. The Community Safety Committee recommended that an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Town Council to consider whether a letter should be sent to the Diocese of Rochester expressing these concerns and asking for the rationale behind the decision.

Community Speed Watch – Councillor Peter Harris explained that Kent Messenger were expected to attend the next Speed Watch session in Greenhithe. Councillor Emma Ben-Moussa confirmed that she had names of volunteers and was setting up a Speed Watch group for Swanscombe and was currently awaiting the appropriate training from Kent Police.

Recommended: That an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Town Council to consider whether a letter should be sent to the Diocese of Rochester expressing the concerns as detailed and asking for the rationale behind the decision.

250/19-20. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CRIME STATISTICS FOR SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.

Members were provided with the up to date detailed analysis of crime figures for Swanscombe and Greenhithe.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

251/19-20. THE SCHOOL RUN INITIATIVE.

The Chairman confirmed that he had written to each local school to ensure their continued engagement in the initiative. He confirmed that he would update members further once he had received replies

Recommended: That the information be noted.

252/19-20. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) – 20MPH ZONE TRIAL.

Further to minute 136/19-20 members discussed areas within the Town that would be appropriate for a 20mph zone trial.

It was agreed that more information was required and that officers contact KCC to obtain details of the process and timescales for setting up a trial and also to provide an overview of which roads within the Town already had 20mph restrictions.

Recommended: That officers contact KCC to obtain details of the process and timescales for setting up a trial and provide an overview of which roads within the Town already had 20mph restrictions.

253/19-20. KENT POLICE – CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Chairman explained that the Citizens Academy was aimed at giving members of Neighbourhood Watch a better understanding of what the Kent Police role was and what they undertook. The next module would involve a trip to the control room at Maidstone.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

There were no confidential items for discussion.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed _____
Chairman Date