

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HOUSING, CRIME AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:

Councillors

Pearson, A.R. (Chairman)
Grice, Mrs. D. (Vice-Chairman)

Buttery, M.S.	Lea, C.I.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Molineux, G.N.
Crabtree, S.K.	Snape, D.J.
Hoare, M.W.A. (substitute)	Witton, P.T.
Johnson, T.B.	

Also in attendance: Chief Inspector Sarah Wainwright, Cannock Local Policing Team.

Prior to the start of the formal business of the meeting Members were introduced to Chief Inspector Sarah Wainwright, Cannock Local Policing Team (LPT), who had taken up the post on 1 July, 2017 following the retirement of Geoff Knight.

11. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors Mrs. A. Allt and A. Dean.

Councillor M.W.A. Hoare was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Mrs. Allt.

12. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations

No declarations of interests or party whip declarations were received.

13. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July, 2017, be approved as a correct record and signed.

14. Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

The Partnerships, Community Safety and CCTV Manager delivered a presentation on the development of an Anti-Social Behaviour Policy (ASB) for the Council, which covered the following:

- What is ASB?
 - Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person;
 - Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that persons occupation of residential premises;
 - Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

- Three types of ASB:
 - *Personal* – an individual or family repeatedly having their windows broken, car vandalised, graffiti daubed on their property or being taunted or harassed by the same group of individuals on a regular basis;
 - *Nuisance* – neighbours causing distress by being noisy, rowdy, loud and inconsiderate. Inconsiderate use of vehicles, off-road bikes, quad bikes or groups of individuals hanging around in areas which are not suitable, e.g. outside shops, off-licences or drinking in public places and behaving in a rowdy manner;
 - *Environmental* – littering, fly-tipping, dog fouling and graffiti.

- Not every allegation reported to the Council will be accepted as being ASB (all cases were risked assessed and those not determined to be an ASB issue were dealt with separately)..

- Policy Principles:
 - No one should have to suffer from ASB;
 - Reports of ASB will be treated seriously and dealt with professionally;
 - ASB will be addressed firmly, fairly, and proportionately;
 - We will actively seek to prevent ASB;
 - We will work with partners in order to deliver and effective, value for money ASB service across our communities;
 - We will deliver high quality customer service.

- Action we can take:
 - *Early and Informal Interventions* – no action; verbal warnings/written warnings; mediation; good neighbour agreement; acceptable behaviour agreement/parenting contracts; surveillance/CCTV; community protection warnings; support and counselling; community resolution; Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs).
 - *Legal Actions* – Community Protection Notices (CPN); Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO); Civil Injunction; Closure Notices and Orders; Prosecution; Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO); Notice of Intention to Seek Possession; Possession Proceedings; Demotion Orders.

- Vulnerability:
 - *Hate Incidents and Hate Crime* – disability; gender; race; religion and belief; sexual orientation; transgender;
 - *Domestic Abuse* – controlling and coercive behaviour; physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; honour based crimes; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

- Community Trigger – the local threshold for activating a trigger will be:
 - Three separate incidents have been reported in the last 6 months to the Police, Council or social landlord;
 - The last report was within one month of the day of the trigger application.

- Next Steps:
 - *Consultation* – Housing, Environmental Health, Legal Services and Police – November/December 2017;
 - *Report to Operational Leadership Team* – February 2018;
 - *Housing, Crime and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee* – 22 March 2018;
 - *Joint Cabinet/DMT* – 5 April 2018;
 - *Cabinet* – 19 April 2018.

The Partnerships, Community Safety and CCTV Manager advised that the ASB Policy Working Group had met on 9 October and provided on a number of views and thoughts on what they considered ASB meant, which had helped to feed into the development of the draft policy.

Members were in agreement with the approach being used to develop the Policy and request a progress update be given at the next meeting of the Committee in March 2018.

15. Cannock Local Policing Team Update

Chief Inspector Wainwright updated Members on key activity undertaken over the past few months, forthcoming plans for the remainder of the year and the key crime statistics for the District.

Recent activities had included: supporting the recent Remembrance Day parades; ‘Pumpkin Patrol’ during the October half-term week; and dealing with ASB incidents in parks in Hednesford and Rugeley. Drugs warrants had also been issued across Cannock and Rugeley which had resulted in a firearm and £40,000 worth of drugs being seized and instances of modern day slavery being identified and dealt with. Work was also ongoing to target, disrupt and dismantle known crime groups across the District. Special Constables had been utilised to provide support to the LPT on a number of projects, including visits to licenced premises to deal with drug related issues and other matters. A recent problem involving a large group of young people which had the potential to disrupt the Cannock Town Centre Christmas lights switch on had been dealt with effectively by making contact with known individuals and making arrests where necessary.

In the run up to Christmas it was a common to see an increase shoppers having purses stolen, so offenders would be dealt with however possible, including putting them before the courts. Support was also being provide to Amazon in Rugeley on how to alleviate safety concerns of residents and improved vetting processes owing to their increased staffing numbers at this time year

The LPT had a positive working relationship with the Council’s Partnerships, Community Safety and CCTV teams which meant intelligence and data could be shared to help identify which was the appropriate body to deal with problems and concerns reported.

For the current 12 months reporting period crime had increased by 9% across the District and 10% across the entire Staffordshire Police area.

In respect of licensed premises, Members raised concerns about venues not using plastic glasses, licence holders not being willing to report incidents to the police and over-zealous door staff. Chief Inspector Wainwright replied that a dedicated Sergeant had been appointed to support Pubwatch, therefore such issues could be better dealt with than previously. The Partnerships, Community Safety and CCTV Manager further replied that she had attended meetings of Cannock Pubwatch and undertaken joint working with the Council's Licensing Unit and the Security Industry Association (SIA) to deal with problem door staff by working with staff and Designated Premises Supervisors to education and train staff on their duties and what is expected of them. Pubwatch also had a link into the CCTV team to help deal with any identified issues.

Members thanked the Chief Inspector for the update as presented and agreed that future updates should be delivered in the same style.

16. Quarters 1 and 2 2017/18 Housing, Crime and Partnerships Priority Delivery Plan Performance Update

Members considered and noted the latest performance information for the Housing, Crime and Partnerships Priority Delivery Plan (PDP) 2017/18 (Item 6.1 – 6.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Housing and Partnerships provided the following specific updates:

- The delivery affordable housing/dwellings for the District was still on target to meet the year end total, however achievement of the target was reliant on social housing providers S106 agreements being agreed and delivered;
- Redevelopment of the Moss Road estate and former garage sites was on track and progressing well;
- Individual programmes of improvement works to Council-owned homes were all expected to complete their annual targets by the end of 2017/18;
- Crime and ASB data was presented for information only and so therefore did not having any progress ratings attributed to them;
- The Financial Recovery Plan (FRP) options related to the CCTV Service had been delayed due to the planned relocation of the team, however they were still expected to be completed by the end of the reporting year;
- The "Lets Work Together" project, development of the corporate ASB Policy and Community Trigger awareness work were all progressing well.

In respect of the stated Hate Crime figures on page 5 of the update, a Member queried if the reporting system was considered to be working as it should. Chief Inspector Wainwright replied that from looking at the Staffordshire wide figures incidents were being reported which was seen as a positive step. The Partnerships, Community Safety and CCTV Manager further replied that her team was also involved in providing awareness raising for hate crime report to support those persons who did not feel comfortable reporting incidents to the Police.

17. Work Programme Review

The Head of Housing and Partnerships provided the following updates in respect of the Committee's 2017/18 work programme for Members to consider:

- Due to reduced resource and capacity within the Partnerships & Community Safety Team and the Police, production of the corporate ASB Policy had been focussed on as this piece of work was already underway;
- The Locality Policing review be removed from the work programme as Members did not have the power to direct the work of the Police and there was also a lack of clarity about what the review wanted to achieve;
- The Prevent Action Plan be removed from the work programme as its progress was monitored as part of the Housing, Crime and Partnerships Priority Delivery Plan;
- The Housing Voids Action Plan be removed from the work programme as work was underway to complete the Plan. Members could instead use the Plan to monitor progress of achieving the identified actions;
- Due to their be only further meeting of the Committee scheduled for 2017/18, Members be asked to start thinking about proposed topics for the 2018/19 work programme to discuss at the next meeting in March 2018.

In respect of Locality Policing, Members discussed with the Chief Inspector concerns regarding staffing numbers, morale, budget reductions and the differing roles of Special Constables and PCSOs.

Members discussed the proposed amendments to the work programme and agreed the following:

- (A) The Locality Policing review, Prevent Action Plan and Housing Voids Action Plan be removed from the 2017/18 work programme for the reasons stated above.
- (B) Members consider potential items for the 2018/19 work programme ready for discussion at the March 2018 meeting of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 5:07 p.m.

CHAIRMAN