

Chiltern Community Forum – 21st November 2018 – Rossetti Hall, Holmer Green

Chair: Andy Garnett

Attendees:

- Jane Fallon – Little Missenden Parish Councillor & Holmer Green Village Society
- Sergeant Roy Evans -
- Chris Brown – Cholesbury Parish Councillor and runs Good Neighbours Scheme in rurals around Chesham
- Robert Gibson – web designer – Dovedale Design.
- Katie Galvin – Community Safety Manager
- Chris Holden – Bucks County Council Trading Standards
- John Gladwin – Chiltern District Council Councillor
- Barbara Rowett – Prestwood CSW & HVAS

Apologies:

- Jane Macbean
- Colin Thirsk
- Richard Vine
- Matt Carson

Welcome and introductions made. It was highlighted that the website www.chilterncommunityforum.org had received good comments with regards to its content. The time and dates of “Have your Say” meetings are advertised on the Police UK website, however this may change in December when the website changes.

Community Forum report September to November:

Burglary

If and when a burglary investigation starts, all residential burglary offences have had officers attend and give crime prevention advice which includes the application of Selecta DNA. All neighbouring properties are also visited by the Neighbourhood team who provide crime prevention advice.

Officers continue with high visibility and continue to run burglary operations made in conjunction with predictive crime trend analysis. Every year, areas are identified as being likely to see a rise in burglary offences over the autumn / winter period. With this in mind, residents in those areas are visited with crime prevention material.

Officers have patrolled train stations during peak times in order to target as many persons as possible. Handing out ‘Leave a Light On’ cards to hundreds of commuters who tend to be away from home for long periods will hopefully provide a little reminder to make their homes appear occupied.

We continue to utilise our Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to identify vehicles of greater police interest entering Chiltern area.

As we enter December, high visibility will continue, community events will be attended and crime prevention will be given to victims or potential victims of crime.

In Chesham, a pilot initiative is about to start working closely with the Rotary Club. The idea is that if a property is identified as vulnerable for a number of reasons when the club are collecting / doing their rounds with Santa, the police will be informed of these addresses and the occupants will have a visit within 48hrs with crime prevention material. If successful, this initiative could be used in the future for other areas.

Drug dealing and usage

Proactive stop checks have been conducted on numerous vehicles and persons where drug offences have been suspected. Offenders have been arrested with positive disposals.

Each month, areas of concern are identified using statistic and volume of calls. Officers are aware of the most demanding areas for drugs and Anti-Social behaviour and patrols these areas in order to deter and detect. Car parks and recreational areas are common areas where drug usage has been taking place. If an officer believes that someone is in possession of drugs they can conduct a search under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act. If drugs are found, naturally a crime report is created hence the rise of drug offences in Chiltern. The rise shows proactive stop checks and arrests.

We work closely with our intelligence department and the "Stronghold team" in order to help tackle serious and organised crime. Some great work recently has resulted in suspects being arrested for possession with intent to supply.

Warrants have been executed throughout Chiltern based on intelligence and again, positive outcomes are likely when drugs and associated paraphernalia have been found.

In Chiltern there has been numerous positive disposal since the last forum. Some drug offences recorded are still under investigation including Possession with intent to supply.

Ongoing Investigation - Under Investigation	21
Cannabis Warning - Out of Court Resolution	2
Community Resolution - Youth - Community Resolution	1
Charge/Summons - Court Resolution	1
Penalty Notice - Out of Court Resolution	1
Adult Caution - Out of Court Resolution	1

Anti-Social Behaviour

As Halloween and Bonfire night arrived, Operation Ghostbuster was conducted between 26th October and 5th November. During the period, there were no major incidents reported and only a few minor incidents of antisocial behaviour across Chiltern & South Bucks were noted. During the period, we only had 37 reports of antisocial behaviour which is a decrease of 65% for the same period last year which had 73 reports. This was achieved through targeted hi-vis patrols at key areas and crime prevention

We continue to provide high visibility patrols in key area in order to prevent Anti-Social issues.

As you are aware, Anti-Social behaviour has a wide definition. Thames Valley Police receive numerous reports of Community, environmental and personal ASB. Some ASB issues that are personally targeted are a due to disputes or medical issues. The Neighbourhood team will intervene with problem solving such as mediation, referral to correct agencies such as GP and Mental Health agencies. We also work closely with environmental health and housing agencies in order to reduce some of this ASB demand.

We will also receive reports of Anti-Social behaviour where persons are seen to be smoking and the assumption is drugs misuse. As above, if a report is made, officers will attend the location in order to prevent further Anti-Social Behaviour and or conduct searches. With these type of incidents, the forum priorities overlap.

Priorities survey update

There was a low rate of return for the priorities survey this time. From a normal average of 250 it dropped to 17. There was a discussion of why this may have happened and why people do not respond. Although a small survey, the main concerns from the respondents were residential burglary, speeding and a mixture of anti-social behaviour, drugs and parking.

From the youth survey results, for which there was 11 responses, drug use and dealings was the number one issue, followed by knife crime and speeding.

Award to Police and Crime Commissioner to help tackle youth violence, vulnerability and exploitation

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner has received funding from the Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund for £822,000. This is to be spent across Thames Valley.

1. County lines theatre performance in all secondary schools (or similar) to raise awareness; knife crime / youth violence workshop sessions for young people; training for professionals; protective behaviours
2. Supporting teachers and schools (nurses, Designated Safeguarding Leads etc) along with consideration of co-location of youth workers (e.g. youth service, Youth Offending Team workers, Speech & Language therapists) into approx. 1/3 secondary schools on a one day a week, rotating around schools basis to tackle school exclusions

3. Detached youth workers / youth mentors who meet Young People where they are, including opportunities for sport, work skills etc
4. Targeted small group and 1:1 work with Young People already involved in gangs and knife crime, utilising intensive approached but including access to therapies, skills training and alternative choices (e.g. apprenticeships).

Action: KG to forward bid to PC Claire Annison – which has been done at the time of writing.

Agreed the new priorities for the next three months:

- Burglary
- Drug dealing and drug misuse
- Knife crime

There was a discussion with regards to setting of priorities and it was agreed that training in problem solving techniques would be useful. The next meeting would be three hours in length with the first hour taken up with training.

Other matters arising

There was a question for Sergeant Evans with regards to a large reduction in the crime figures on the Police UK website for Prestwood from September to November. It was difficult to give a definite answer as to why but often down to seasonal differences.

There has also been a large take up in the Speedwatch scheme in the Chiltern area. There was a discussion over whether it would be useful for Roads Policing to have an input at a meeting in the future.

Chiltern Community Forum website:

www.chilterncommunityforum.org

Feedback, ideas, contributions, involvement welcome. Please send all comments to Robert Gibson – contact@chilterncommunityforum.org