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Chiltern Community Forum – 23rd May 2019 – Chesham High School

Chair: Andy Garnett

Attendees:

- Robert Gibson
- Inspector Richard Vine - TVP
- Sergeant Darren Walsh – TVP
- Ian Stacey – TVP (minutes)
- Peter Heilbrunn
- Bryan Bishop
- Chris Brown
- Andrea Sansom
- David Alder
- Ray Holliman
- Kerry Collins
- Kevin Patrick
- Lynne Gibson
- Asud Ahmed
- Karen Gibson
- Cllr Qaser Chaudhry
- Ross Pusey
- Tom Lee

Apologies:

- Katie Galvin



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Introduction from Andy Garnett and from attendees.

Priorities survey

Due to the unavailability of Katie Galvin, Robert Gibson gave an overview of the results of the survey. As usual there were two surveys; a general one and one specifically for under 18's. Unfortunately, the level of response from under 18's was too low to be meaningful. It was observed that generating interest among young people in completing the Under 18's survey should be a priority.

There had been 181 responses to the general survey. This was slightly down on the previous month. Residential burglary, as usual, was by far the most popular choice as a priority. 63% of respondents said this should be a priority. Speeding and parking were common concerns. ASB concerns, Drug Dealing and Rogue Traders were the next highest scoring.

A table was presented, showing top 5 concerns by the various wards. Residential Burglary featured in all four, being the top concern in three. Speeding was in the top 2 in all four. ASB featured in three, with Littering, Rogue Traders and Drug Dealing in two. Violence and sexual assaults are the highest reported crime category locally, according to stats on the Police.UK website but never features as a high priority. Discussion as to why – RV explained that this category includes everything from the most minor incidents to the most serious.

The current trends show burglaries being relatively steady. ASB likely to rise in the summer months. Reported drugs crimes going upwards, which we hope reflects greater enforcement in accordance with its status as a top 3 neighbourhood priority.



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Police report – Inspector Richard Vine (RV).

Burglary. There has been a 5% increase in burglary over the last quarter for the Chiltern area. Sometimes percentages are not helpful, especially in this case, which involves small numbers.

In 2013 there was between 1100 – 1300 burglaries a year. It is now down to around 600.

There has been an increase in shed burglaries, which is to be expected at this time of the year.

Sometimes the increases can be explained by changing methods of recording. An example would be if someone reports that someone has tried to break into their property and the only evidence is that there is a mark on a door. Unless there is substantive evidence to the contrary that an attempt has been made then this will be included in the burglary figures.

ASB. RV explained that ASB will increase in the summer months. ASB is not defined and can mean different things to different people such as youths gathering in a carpark stairwell to kicking a football against a wall as well as riot and violent disorder.

Police assess complaints of ASB and grade them accordingly, from high to low. Not many calls are graded high.

There is a problem solving team and two highly experienced PC's who assess all reports of ASB and if necessary this is brought to a regular Anti-Social Behaviour Action Group held in partnership with Chiltern & South Bucks Council and other parties.

RV stated that there had been a recent joint operation with Bucks Trading Standards targeting premises selling nitrous oxide (laughing gas) canisters. It is not an offence to be in



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possession of the canisters but it is an offence to sell to under 18's. Unfortunately, most are bought on the internet.

Drugs RV – there have been 37 drug offences from February to May this year. Although a local priority, drugs are not a force-wide TVP priority. If police come across people with drugs or get reports of drug dealing it will be dealt with.

County Line drug dealing. The issue in Chesham has been dealt with. The recent force-wide initiative resulted in 79 arrests, £87,000 seized from criminals and 80 people safeguarded.

Question – What are the main kind of drugs seized? RV – mainly cannabis and gas from under 18 year olds. Although possession of gas is not illegal, police will take the under 18 home. Occasionally cocaine is seized but very rarely heroin.

RV – Various methods are used to catch offenders. Recent joint operation with Hertfordshire Constabulary, Metropolitan Police and BTP using automatic number plate readers (ANPR) led to 20 cars seized.

Question – Non – emergency calls cost 15p. Should we pay? (This discussion has been superseded by the announcement that all 101 calls will be free as of April 2020). There was also a concern over the length of time it takes for 101 calls to be answered. RV emphasised that if there are any suspects still on scene or the crime is still taking place then 999 is more appropriate.

Chris Brown raised the question regarding defibrillators and their locations. Not all defibs are registered with SCAS. This makes it difficult for the ambulance service to direct members of the public to their locations. It was agreed that this issue would be flagged to Chiltern DC Community Safety Team for inclusion in its newsletter, and included on the Chiltern Community Forum website. It was also suggested that the information should be passed to local newspapers.



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Robert explained that the purpose of the meeting was to set neighbourhood policing priorities for the coming Quarter. The website contains collated crime figures, public minutes and local information, to provide context. Notice of meetings is distributed through Chiltern DC, TVP (via neighbourhood Alerts), the Forum website and social media. We endeavour also to reach out to other 'natural' partner organisations like Citizens Advice, Rotary, Speedwatch and Neighbourhood Watch. The key challenge is to reach residents and get them to complete surveys and attend meetings

Priorities –

The priorities for the next quarter were decided upon by vote.

Overwhelmingly, burglary was the number one priority.

Drug dealing/alcohol abuse was voted second.

There was a tie for third with parking and rogue trading. Andy, as the chair cast the deciding vote and rogue trading was chosen.

1. Burglary
2. Drug dealing and misuse
3. Rogue trading

Date and location of next meeting to be confirmed at a later date.



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Chiltern Community Forum website:

www.chilterncommunityforum.org

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



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