



Working together for a safer
Chiltern and South Bucks

Chiltern Community Forum – 25th February 2020 – Chalfont St Peter Parish Council Offices.

Chair: Andy Garnett

Persons present:

Peter Martin (BCC councillor), Norma Bowes (NHW co-ordinator), Simon Baker (Little Missenden PC), Jane Fallon (Holmer Green Village Society), Tony Shinner (CSP PC), Peter Dale (CSP PC), Joan Lherbier (Chartridge PC), Chris Brown (Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards PC), Inspector Richard Vine, Police Sergeant Darren Walsh, PCSO Gary Tugwell, Ian Stacey (TVP), Robert Gibson (Chiltern Forum and Dovedale Design.), Katie Galvin (Chiltern & S Bucks DC), David Alder (NHW co-ordinator).

Introduction - Andy Garnett (AG). The most recent survey showed, as always, burglary as the number one priority. Drug dealing, speeding, ASB and parking were all on 29%.

There were 160 responses to the survey, with only 2 for the Youth Survey. Although this was quite low, this is a better uptake than some past quarters when the main distribution method had been by e-mail. Robert Gibson (RG) -we had once again seen the benefit from posting on Facebook Groups, which then have the potential to engage individuals. Efforts need to continue to follow ways of reaching individuals. This would complement efforts by Community Safety and TVP (including mailshots, news, Alerts etc.) David Alder (Chiltern NHW Multi Scheme Administrator) suggested that more thought should be given to explaining the benefits of participation. Richard Vine (RV) said that there is generally an increase in numbers when there is a specific issue in a particular area.

Chris Brown said that he had not received an email to complete the survey. Ian Stacey confirmed that two emails had gone on via TVP alerts. Twitter is not working for TVP at the moment.

Police report – Inspector Richard Vine.

Burglary – Chiltern and South Bucks are looking at a 0% increase over the year, which is just under 500. That is assuming we have very few burglaries in the next few weeks. This will be the first time in 5 years. In terms of the last three months and this is where percentages can be meaningless, there has been a 45% decrease in burglaries in Chesham. This equates to 12 rather than 22. And a 120% increase in Missendens with 6 business burglaries. 6% decrease in Amersham down from 17 to 16. Minus 24% in the Chalfonts 33-25. Big percentages but small numbers.

Over the year we have seen an increase in burglars from Chile and Mexico. They will target high value properties. The advantage they have is that we do not have their fingerprints or DNA and most burglaries are solved using forensics. Most local burglars we know and we

have their details. Several foreign burglars have been caught recently and some are awaiting trial. The courts are quite robust and will remand them in custody until the trial to stop them leaving the country.

There has also been a change in how burglaries are recorded. If someone says they have been burgled unless we can provide evidence to the contrary then this is recorded as a burglary.

There has been lots of work by the neighbourhood teams – police officers are pro-active in combatting burglary and PCSO's are doing lots of preventative work. We are looking at possible sponsorship with Ring – CCTV doorbells for vulnerable victims of burglaries.

We have been working in partnership with Hertfordshire and Met Police with targeting cross border burglars. Where our priorities align with TVP priorities then it is possible to bid for extra resources. (Roads Police, Mounted Branch) When these operations are run it has the effect of reducing burglaries by a third. Currently, the force priorities are burglary, violence against the person and sexual offences.

We are running a mobile ANPR system at a local level. Normally this is only done by roads policing at a force level. There will be three cars equipped with this system. It is very good at identifying criminals coming to our area and stolen vehicles.

Recently, ASB issues in Chalfont St Peter have been reduced drastically by just one individual leaving the area.

Drug dealing and usage – this is not a force priority but has set by the forum. Police will deal with any reports of drug dealing and possession when found. Lots of work done around both possession and County Drugs Line addresses. There have been four closure orders in the last 12 months.

Speeding – lots of enforcement in areas where people have complained. Plus we have recently had 50 people come forward to volunteer for the community speedwatch initiative in the Amersham area. Volunteers will be able to use new speed guns to measure speed. However, they are not suitable for prosecutions.

Discussion regarding fly tipping in public roads causing danger in the Missenden areas. RV if police see offences they will deal but enforcement through the local authority is more appropriate.

Discussion regarding parking in Chalfont St Giles near a school. There is a turning circle which is constantly blocked by the vehicles of parents. A 'No Parking Sign' would help. RV – will send someone to check and speak to the head teacher.

Andy Garnett – this is a problem at most schools and there is no one person or body responsible. Part of the solution is educating parents when they drop and pick up their children.

Peter Martin - Most schools have a travel plan. Suggested that the local councillor is contacted and the issue is raised with the school governors.

Discussion re parking obstruction. RV it has to be proved that there a real and genuine unnecessary obstruction rather than just inconvenience. Other methods of educating have been used which is successful for a couple of weeks then it goes back to normal.

Crime figures – Robert Gibson. Burglary and speeding; all areas show it as areas of concern. For the first time drug dealing is shown as a high concern in all four areas. In the past we have consistently set drugs as a priority even though it did not show as one of the top concerns in surveys. What is driving the increase in drug concerns? Are people concerned or is there just a greater awareness?

RV – focussing on drug crime increases both awareness and concerns. There is an increase in recorded drug crime because we are detecting it. This is through enforcement on the streets and also our Stronghold team concentrating on County Drug Lines.

RG – there is an upward trend in anti-social behaviour and public order/sexual crimes. RV explained violence towards the person and sexual crimes range from murder down to very minor common assaults – pushes and calling people names on Facebook. Some of the increase in sexual crime is due to children sharing inappropriate pictures on social media and historical sexual offences. RV gave an explanation of the difference between ASB and public order.

Priorities – Burglary, Anti-social behaviour and drug dealing. Parking was an issue that would be taken up by the forum.

Date of next meeting - 6pm on Tuesday, 26th May 2020, venue: Main Hall/Atrium, Chiltern Hills Academy, Chartridge Lane, Chesham



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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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