

**_Draft Minutes of Meeting
Community Safety Working Group
Tuesday 11th July 2024 3pm – 4.30pm**

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Shaun Radcliffe, Cllr Richard Walton, Cllr Rob Moreton, Linda Webber (Street Pastors), Jackie MacArthur, Rachel McCarthy.

Via Zoom Cllr Susan Mead, Cllr Glen Williams, Inspector Jim Adams, Laura Woodrow-Hirst (CEC)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Robert Brittain
2. **Notes of the meeting** of 14 May 2024 were accepted as correct
3. **Draft Agenda approved**
4. **Agree on a Chair for 2024-2025** - Cllr Kay Wesley was nominated, elected and accepted
5. **Action Log** - extra updates
 - a) Police Crime Commissioner – a letter has been sent from the Chair of the Group re policing numbers for Congleton.
 - b) Caravans in Dale Crescent and Edinburgh Road. Dale Crescent Caravan was moved before the meeting. Edinburgh Road caravan concern about the cable across the pavement – to be raised with Plus Dane and Highways. Cllr Mead sent information from Copeland Council about how they manage caravans on the road. Laura to look into this.
 - c) Hate Crime incident in town. Quoting directly from the Bible is allowed. Causing alarm and distress to individuals is a hate crime. Police will follow up with the victims and give a full explanation. (Action Jim). Town Council officers concerned as this is a regular occurrence in the Town Centre and appears to be nothing that officers can do when complaints are received at the Town Hall.
 - d) Crime day to be organised with the Police in the Town Centre – was to be in June.
6. **Police update on Crime (Inspector Jim Adams)**

The figures covered the period 14th May to the 10th July.

6a Shoplifting has increased in town. 14 incidents reported. Tesco and Home Bargains have reported the most incidents. To action item 5a from May's meeting – encourage shops to use the new Police reporting line to upload images to the police system where face recognition can be used.

ACTION – agreed a joint letter from the Police and Town Council and a Design Out Crime day. The letter will reference and give instructions for a system that the police use where shops can directly load CCTV footage onto the system. A training session/sessions will be organised.

Note residential burglaries - encourage residents to get property marked – then it is easier to return.

5b Drug and Alcohol - 8 drugs offences reported – 7 personal use and 1 for supply. Hotspots were Congleton Park. Council remains concerned about under-reporting raised. Inspector encouraged all residents to keep reporting concerns regarding drugs via 101.

5c Antisocial Behaviour – 36 incidents reported in past 59 days. Hotspot was Bridestones areas and Congleton Park.

5d Domestic Violence - 26 incidents, 43% arrested. Remains a high priority for the Beat team.

5e Sexual Offences has seen a spike from 23 to 51. 16 of these cases are historic abuse reported following the arrest of a wanted sexual abuser who returned to the UK after decades out of the country.

5f Hate Crime – 12 incidents. 41% positive outcome. 6 relate to public offences and 6 to assaults. (5 race, 2 homophobic and 5 disability) .

5g Speeding – 7 incidents of excessive speed.

Current Police Team for Congleton

West Ward - PC Matt Steel (recently returned) PC James Rowell

East Ward – PCSO Karen Linton and PC Helen Weeks

About to start. PC Sarah Taylor about to start to cover Odd Rode area.

Beat team also managing Alsager

7. **Police Priorities** – Bike thefts have been on the increase. PC Helen Weeks and PCSO Karen Linton have been running bike-marking events. When house searches take place Police will check for marked property.

Action: 7a Inspector Jim to approach Helen and Karen about marking bikes at the Green Fayre.

8. **CEC ASB Team** – Attended by Team Leader Laura Woodrow-Hirst. No major updates. Market Area and Park remain key areas. No recent alerts. Not easy to catch in action, good CCTV footage helps. When people can be identified there is a clear action plan with regards to youth ASB.

9. **Street Pastors** - Linda, Congleton's Co-ordinator reported:

January to March the group supported 80 people, diffused 3 situations, Emotional Support for 10 people, removed 11 bottles or cans, swept up 8 lots of glass.

April to June - the group supported 94 people, diffused 3 situations, gave emotional support to 30 people, removed 27 bottles and cans and cleared up 3 lots of broken glass.

Members of PubWatch have a number to contact the Street Pastors. They have been going out 9 x per quarter.

10. **CCTV Updates** - Work booked in for the cameras in the Park.

Action 10.1 : Jackie to check what number shops and Street Pastors can use to make contact with CCTV when there is a person they are concerned about

Action 10.2 : Jackie to arrange visits to CCTV head-quarters for Richard, Susan, Rachel, Linda, Kay, Robert Douglas, Glen Williams

11. **Community Safety Charter** – regular checks and updates on the website

12. **ShopWatch** – Rachel covered with Shoplifting in the first section. Group is offering good support for each other. Two new members have just joined.

13. **AOB:** Question was raised about whether it would be possible to apply for a Public Space Protection Order for the Market area. Laura (CEC) confirmed that as most of the issues are youth related a PSPO would not be of any benefit and would not be granted by the courts. CEC has a robust way of dealing with youth ASB and effective CCTV in this area (which the new owners are planning to add) will help with deterring ASB.

14. **Date of Next Meeting Thursday 12 September 3pm– 4.30pm - Spencer Suite and Zoom option Finished 4.29pm**