

**_Draft Minutes of Meeting
Community Safety Working Group
Tuesday 12 September 2024 3pm – 4.30pm**

Present: Cllr Kay Wesley (Chair), Cllr Robert Brittain, Cllr Glen Williams, Jackie MacArthur, Rachel McCarthy. St James Bell

Via Zoom Cllr Susan Mead, Cllr Shaun Radcliffe.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Linda Webber (Street Pastors), Cllr Rob Moreton, Cllr Richard Walton,
2. **Notes of the meeting** of 11 July 2024 were accepted as correct
3. **Draft Agenda for today was approved**
4. **Action Log** - extra updates
 - a) Cllr Kay Wesley, Cllr Richard Walton and Jackie MacArthur met with the PCC Dan Price via teams. Positive noises about the need for more policing in Congleton. The PCC to attend Community Committee in January.
 - b) Police Day of Action planned for the 24 September - letter to be completed and signed, There will be a follow-up day on the 14 October
 - c) Caravans have now left Edinburgh Road and Dale crescent. Concern that we need a process to stop it happening again.
 - d) Hate Crime incident in town – PC Matt Steele has spoken with witnesses and taken a statement for follow-up.
 - e) PCSO Karen Linden and PC Helen Weeks will attend the Green Fayre from 10am – 1pm.
5. **Police update on Crime (Sergeant James Bell)**

The figures covers June, July and August and was presented to the Town Council Community Committee on the 29 August - [download a link to the paper to committee](#)

Of note - Crime is up 582 crimes reported compared with 435 over same time in 2023. This is in line with the rest of the constabulary.

5.1 Assaults and Public Order offences remains the highest number of crimes. Note if two people have a fight this would be logged as two assaults and two public order offences.

5.2 Residential burglaries - 15 reported – includes sheds and garages. All victims have been visited as part of operation shield.

5.3 Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls - remains a force priority and zero tolerance. 117 incidents of DA and 182 as VAWG. Police will arrest on suspicion of abuse. Police will visit victims with domestic disclosures (Claire's Law) and enforce Domestic Protection Orders. Two breaches this quarter led to one heavy fine and one custodial sentence.

5.4 Shop Lifting – there were 32 reported incidents, 62% closed with no suspect identified. The gap between the number of cases reported to the police and the information received by the Town Council would suggest that the figure is much higher. The Days of Action will aim to address this. We expect that figures for shoplifting in Congleton will increase.

5.5 Drug and Alcohol - key areas town centre, Congleton Park and Community Garden.

5.5i Action Jackie to discuss the community garden issues with Streetscape Manager.

5.6 Hate Crime – two calls relating to Congleton Pride being investigated.

5.6i Action – Kay to speak to one of the victims about making a statement

5.7 Speeding and Traffic - Most complaints are about speeding on the bypass – although this is outside of Congleton it is a concern. Police looking to see if CEC or the parishes can help with CCTV.

5.8 Road Safety concerns about vehicles using the pedestrian area as a cut-through – mainly between 4pm and 10am when the barriers are not in place. This is a safety problem.

5.8i Action Jackie to write CEC Community Safety and CCTV to see if action can be take with signs and ANPR.

5.8 ii Action Police – looking to reintroduce Speedwatch

6. Police Priorities – Town Centre and shoplifting.

7. Cheshire East Council ASB team - not able to make the meeting

8. Street Pastors Update – Unable to attend the meeting

9. CCTV Update - works complete and nothing new to add

10 Shop Watch Update - Rachel reported that Shop Watch was a bit quieter at the moment.

AOB : - Market Area becoming an issue again. Meeting with CMQ, new owners of Bridestones, CEC and CTC to agree on actions that could be taken to make the area less of a ASB hotspot.

Action: Request for the Youth Liaison Van to come to Congleton to engage Youth in the Market Area

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 5 December 3pm– 4.30pm Bridestones. There will also be a zoom option.

Jackie announced that she will be leaving CTC on the 1st of November. Rachel McCarthy, the Town Centre and Events Officer, is expected to take over supporting this working group.