

Pendle Community Safety Partnership – Colne Working Group

The Colne Working Group of Pendle's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has fallen prey to the austerity cuts of Pendle Borough Council and the Lancashire Constabulary. A temporary arrangement is in place until the end of March whereby the CSP group meet prior to the Area Borough Council meeting, but its future is in doubt after that. It is possible that Residents of Colne and the Parishes will have no direct contact with Police nor the opportunity to voice safety concerns in the comparative anonymity of the committee after that because the Police will only have Facebook PACT arrangements which are exclusive to computer users and very public!

Anyone resident or working in Colne is currently welcome to attend the Working Group meeting which gives the community a voice on safety issues. One responsibility of the group is to approve the Police action priorities for the local Beat areas and to consider any further actions that the group feel need attention. However the Working Group also addresses safety concerns and issues that are outside the Police remit through its contacts to other organisations; it can seek solutions to more widespread problems such as dog-fouling, neighbourhood disputes, harassment and anti-social behaviour, highways and parking issues and so on. In the past it has had a high success rate in problem-solving and the community will be much poorer if it cannot continue.

As a community we need to be innovative in responding to Council cuts and Police restrictions on availability; residents will henceforward have to take more responsibility for helping the Police maintain the safety of our streets by being vigilant and reporting suspicious activity. One possible solution is for the Colne working group to continue in a more self-sufficient manner in terms of administration with a communications link to the Police through its Chairman. The Working Group is an important way to do this in non-urgent cases but residents should always use 999 or the European standard 112 by telephone in an emergency. Remember also the non-emergency Police contact number 101.

It would make sense to think in terms of local organisations such as Parish Councils, Churches, Youth Groups, Community Groups, Neighbourhood Watches, Friends Groups, Youth Groups and so on being asked to send a representative whenever there is a safety issue that needs resolution with a small committee that will maintain continuity.

Show your commitment to keeping Colne a safer community by coming along to the next meeting at 6pm on Thursday 4th February at Colne Town Hall. The meeting will last 45 minutes.

