

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Colne and District Community Safety Working Group  
held Virtually on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Jerry Stanford – in the Chair**

Councillor Jonathan Nixon	Colne Town Council and Pendle Borough Council
Councillor David Clegg	Colne Town Council and Pendle Borough Council
Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price	Colne Town Council and Pendle Borough Council
Councillor Kevin McNulty	Colne Town Council
Tim Horsley	PBC

### **1. Welcomes and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Apologies received from:  
Roger Whitehead,

### **2. Minutes of last meeting**

- The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were approved as a true and correct record

### **3. Matters Arising**

Police Actions: There was no Police presence

Actions on Derby Rd speeding – to be notified by PC Lunney

Drug Dealing Essex St

Theft of paving stones

Chair's Actions

- Footpath slabs in Newmarket St opposite No 51 were reported to Highways last year and are still representing a danger to the public. Highways to be alerted. Action JS

### **4. Matters of Concern**

**S C-P** – highlighted the excellent Police response that had been received over youths holding a rave near the ELE site in Cottontree; she also referred to the community action in Trawden working with youths to set up better facilities at their park. They had also reacted quickly to reports of youth misbehaviour at King George playing fields though not before the surface had been ruined beyond repair. This has especial concern because of the substantial sums committed by Colne Town Council to revamp the KG V facilities. Discussion was held about installing CCTV to link to the Town system as a deterrent and protection. Other youth misbehaviour recently involved damage and despoiling of a persistent nature to the child play-area at Ball

Grove with harassment of those children trying to use it and intimidation of their parents. Alkincoates Park has also suffered from youth misbehaviour with the bowling green surfaces being wrecked and other damage; Cllr Clegg reported that high-quality CCTV images have been passed to the Police and we await to see that there is proper enforcement. Colne Golf Course and residents at the top of Castle Rd were subject to harassment and damage by youths over the space of a week in June with offensive and threatening language, trespass and risk. More recently a child of 7 waiting for her mother at the Oak St shop was bullied and harassed by Park High School male youths and left in a state of terror. Slightly older youths 17+ held two raves in Skipton Old Rd area creating nuisance with accompanying drug-taking. In response to this continued lawlessness by young people Cllr Cockburn-Price is holding a meeting to discuss remedial actions on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

The issue of illegal drug dealing and consumption in the Town is becoming a major concern, with residents being harassed and threatened, criminal damage to their property and their life-quality seriously affected when they attempt to do the right thing by reporting it. Councillors and the CSP working group have acted as relays to provide information to the Police, including car numbers (many being false number-plates, the attaining of which deserves police attention) times, dates and videos; nevertheless the problem grows in areas including Blascomay Square, Chapel St, Crabtree St, North St., flat above Mr Chips (possible cuckoo), Essex St and under the viaduct at Knotts Lane. Some of these reports include suspicion of prostitution, child and animal abuse. The length of time that these sites have been in train with little apparent action is itself a cause for concern.

The third continuing area of concern relates the theft of metal, flags and wall-toppings. A number of videos and photographs of the perpetrators or their vehicles have been passed to Police, one in particular showing the crime in progress with the persons clearly identified, yet further offences by the same team have been reported. Sites affected include Duke St, Oak St and the Railway Station.

**KM** – reported that he had happened upon a case of fly-tipping in Red Lane, had taken photographs and reported it to the Police.

**JS** – raised the issue of the Craddock Rd closure for two weeks. Issues of concern include why this could not have been done during the lockdown period when traffic was at a minimum and the schools were not occupied. To leave until the schools reopen seems crass as there is a primary seriously affected. One presumes arrangements have been made to not impede fire and police activity, but the Health Centre, Trawden Antiques and the bus centre also become casualties. Less obvious effects include the diversion of west-bound traffic to North Valley, increasing the congestion there and this will extend beyond Keighley Rd roundabout at peak times making access to the business of the town-centre difficult from the east. The committee felt that the method of total closure should have been avoided by resurfacing one lane at a time and that timing of the work was crass in the extreme. It was acknowledged that LCC Highways would not change their plans.

JS also commented that there had been a suspicion of cats being taken from the street for dog-baiting purposes. A case was reported from River St.

## 5. Crime Statistics & Police Priorities

highlighted the major concerns from the crime figures for August 2020, together with figures for the same period in 2019.

	Waterside		Horsfield		Colne Rural		Vivary Bridge		Foulridge		Total		Plus/minus
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
Burglary - Residential	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	1	1	0	8	4	-4
Burglary – Commercial	7	2	1	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	17	3	-14
Vehicle Crime	10	5	1	1	3	3	5	0	2	1	21	10	-11
Hate Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	=
Assaults	16	17	16	18	2	2	5	10	0	2	39	49	+10
Theft	9	14	9	9	1	1	8	12	0	0	27	36	+9
Criminal Damage	5	7	2	9	0	5	3	3	1	0	11	24	+13
All Crime	95	81	59	78	17	26	73	59	6	6	250	250	=
ASB	23	68	19	36	3	21	17	39	2	3	64	167	+103

### Crime comments:

- Worrying rise in all crime Horsfield and Waterside, ASB is horrendous even allowing for lockdown complaints.

## 6. CSP Engagement Day

I can confirm that subject to coronavirus restrictions permitting, the CSP Colne Roadshow will take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November as part of the Christmas Lights Celebrations. Our gazebo will be set up in the morning and we will be manning it on a rota basis, with support from the NPT and the Fire & Rescue Service. Nearer the time I will send round a sheet with time slots on it for you to indicate when you could donate an hour or so of your time. We have designed leaflets and have a new banner to explain what the CSP does and it is an opportunity to rope in residents to come to our meetings, to know how to contact us if they have concerns, who to contact to set up a Neighbourhood Watch for their neighbourhood and also to raise any issues they have currently.

## 7. Main Committee Report

Virtual meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> June – Sarah Astin-Wood is now on maternity leave and Wayne Forrest is holding the reins in her absence. Police report on challenges in COVID – substantial information to digest from Government, with frequent changes as the epidemic moves; action on domestic abuse in case, but little evidence of it here. Now moving back to normal service. LCC Children and Wellbeing Service and Inspire all struggling to meet with clients. Trading standards report substantial complaints being followed up. There is a small amount of money available for worthwhile projects. Police crime report – I raised ASB growth in Colne, answer much due noise and social distancing infringements, and is common across Pendle. I also raised the lack of road casualty data which now hasn't been reported for a year. Together Housing suggested that anti-social, noise nuisance and harassment issues are all down – funny that. Next Main meeting 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**8. Any Other Business:**

There was no further business

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 18.00 using Teams.**