

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Colne and District Community Safety Working Group
held Virtually on 31st March 2021
Jerry Stanford – in the Chair**

Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price	Colne Town Council, Pendle Borough Council and CYAG
Cllr Kevin McNulty	Colne Town Council
Cllr David Clegg	Pendle Borough Council
Tim Horsley	PBC
Cllr Mark Chung	Colne Town Council
Cllr Alice Mann	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
PCSO Ailsa Gill	NPT
Jane Turner	Chair BID
Anne McGladdery	CYAG

1. Welcomes and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He then asked members to remember Lord Greaves, who died last week; Tony had been a friend and supporter of this committee and helped keep it in existence some years ago when threatened with closure. He will be greatly missed by the people of Colne.

Apologies received from:

Sgt Tim Hitchen; Cllr M Thomas, Insp A Ainsworth, R Whitehead, Cllr J Nixon

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2021 were approved as a true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising

Police Actions:

A6068 and Lenches vehicles circuit racing -

MF reports that this was left with PC Cleal to arrange for vehicles to be windscreen leafleted when they are parked in an obstructive position on a Friday around 5-6 pm as was done in Trawden. **Action AG to set up with Andrew S/ Natasha**

Speeding vehicles – DL reminded that this has been a continuing complaint since 2013 but had become more extreme recently; there had already been two deaths recorded from it. It was questioned what else could be done to awaken the authorities to this dangerous practise. **SC-P** reported she had been in discussions re use of humps, which turned out to be a non-starter, and was now pursuing the use of a speed indicator device (SID). These cost £2,700 per unit, have Bluetooth connection to allow download of time/speed details and are solar powered to avoid charging. She is seeking contributions from other councillors to purchase three units, with at least one to be used mobile; **JS** referenced the use of ANPR and Town CCTV to try and identify vehicles of particular concern from the SID output. **ACTION SC-P; Chair to write to Speed unit**

Restart of schools – Primet – It was recalled that a Police presence had been requested on the first morning of term to deter parents parking to cause obstructions

at Primet to set an example for the new term. **Action AG to advise Chair if this was enabled.**

Chair Actions:

Dimming of street-lighting – response from LCC was circulated to CSP members seeking specific streets that were of concern too residents. There was one response for Castle Rd. and another for Bott Lane. Members mentioned Hereford Rd in particular but expressed serious concern generally that at a time when night-time assaults are becoming more serious and prolific to National concern, the street-lighting was being dimmed. Cllr Chung remarked that contrary to the response from Ms Keene at LCC, the lights remained at the same low level of lux from coming on, throughout the night, and did not have any change in level. Remarks were also made about the current concern for females out at night. S-CP advised that PBC have also expressed there concern and that it is to be taken up. **Action Chair to write to LCC, copy to Cllr Whipp on behalf of WG.**

Missing Railing – Knotts Lane - Fire service replied that such emergency action is to be reinstated by Local Authority; David Walker has passed it to engineering for action

Fly-tipping – Knotts Lane: Advised by team that use of cameras is not advised because they get stolen, and clearly a continuous watch is impractical. They rely on residents reporting it so please continue. S C-P advised that she has raised awareness of new covert cameras which can be secreted more effectively and hopes that these will be used. Cllr McNulty identified that more tipping is occurring at this site as soon as Council clears it. (Back Lane/Shelfield Lane area). **Action SC-P to continue dialogue with enforcement team**

AM Actions:

Millennium Green wall damage – Cllr Mann advised that the repair needs have been passed to the Millennium Green Insurance company for action.

4. Matters of Concern

AM: A van is causing access difficulties in Wackersall RD/Primet Hts through long-term parking; it is owned by local resident. Can it be investigated? **Action NPT**

JT: Understands reason for cancellation of Rhythm & Blues event but concerned that whilst the indoor events customers will stay away, the fringe and their public will in all probability still turn up (see recent local raves etc.) with resulting safety and cleanliness issues. Without authority preparedness (policing, toilet provision, cleansing etc) there is likely to be significant problems. Committee members agreed that this is likely to be an issue. Costs of this will be an imposition on Residents through the precept and would take away from other important Town facility provision, thus creating the dilemma. **Action CTC to review arrangements; Chair to write to CTC expressing committee concern.**

KM: Litter-picking behind Aldi revealed significant amounts of drug paraphernalia apparently thrown over the fence from the pathway behind Aldi. A pair of car number plates also dumped. **Action Chair to send photos to PNT** (PS – number plates later discovered to be a scrapped vehicle).

Litter tipping on Back Lane (mentioned in item 3).

MC: Continuing concern at speeding on Castle Rd, post the temporary closure for water main work. **Action as per item 3, speeding + AG to consider monitoring at commuter time.**

DL: Requested letter on behalf of Committee re PC M Lunney **Action Chair**

Continuing concern re speeding (item 3, speeding)

5. Crime Statistics & Police Priorities

The crime figures for February:

The crime figures for March (up to 29th), together with figures for the same period in 2020: were overviewed by PCSO Ailsa Gill:

	Waterside		Horsfield		Colne Rural		Vivary Bridge		Foulridge		Total		Plus/minus
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
Burglary - Residential	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	5	1	-4
Burglary – Commercial	4	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	6	6	=
Vehicle Crime	8	4	0	5	0	0	4	4	0	0	12	13	+1
Hate Crime	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	+1
Assaults	13	17	9	13	2	5	7	5	2	1	33	41	+8
Theft	7	12	6	4	2	0	8	11	1	0	24	27	+3
Criminal Damage	5	7	4	3	1	6	0	5	0	0	10	21	+11
All Crime	75	65	35	38	17	20	40	38	5	3	172	164	-8
ASB	26	66 (21)	28	47 (15)	5	18 (5)	10	19 (6)	3	1 (1)	72	151 (47)	+83

NB ASB figures in brackets are Covid-breach cases. These are down 19 (30%) from last month.

AG drew attention to the assault figures for Waterside, Colne Rural and Horsfield, citing school-children assaults and domestic violence as notable contributors. She also mentioned the ASB figures being still of concern and described the Problem Oriented Policing exercise from last weekend set to address this (see appendix). Chair thanked Ailsa and her colleagues for the efforts they have made and the success of the POP project.

6. CYAG update: SC-P

SC-P reported that LCC had advised that they are now considering a second alternative bid for the Byron Rd premises, in spite of having previously stated a decision on its future would be made last week. CYAG's first event will take place at KGV Field MUGA, run by Burnley FC, and will shortly be offering bike maintenance classes on Monday/Tuesdays, at various venues. Dance sessions and other events are also planned. Over Easter an application form will be prepared and youths wishing to participate must have filled one of these in before being allowed to take part. This will allow monitoring and support to be in place. Some indoor events will start in June/July subject to lockdown easing allowing it.

Chair added that the success of CYAG was down to the hard work of a few, ably led by Sarah and he congratulated her for the significant impact had resulted as displayed in Facebook posts and press comment.

7. Any Other Business:

There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting: TBA – Please contact Jerry if you have issues in the next two months (jerrystanford@btinternet.com)

APPENDIX

In response to complaints from the community, Colne and West Craven Neighbourhood Policing Team, alongside colleagues from the Special Constabulary and response teams, carried out several evenings of targeted engagement.

Complaints received included youths throwing stones, eggs and other missiles at taxis, houses and vehicles, including Police cars. After talks with local taxi firms, councillors and our own investigations, we noted that several groups were responsible, some of whom were as young as 9 years old!

On the first evening, Officers spoke to over 30 youths most of whom engaged with the Police and were educated regarding the current covid guidelines at the time. However, some fines were also issued.

Unfortunately, the following evening, there appeared to be other groups of youths who saw fit to run from Officers, some shouting abuse before being apprehended, taken home to parents and issued with a fixed penalty notice for breaching covid guidelines.

Subsequent evenings saw a reduction in large groups of youths being out, although good weather and a change in covid regulations has resulted in more families using local parks as intended.

ASB related calls to the Police have reduced dramatically to the point where in the last week we only received one.

Over the period of the Operation, we have spoken to over 50 youths; taken home 23, mostly boys; and issued 23 fixed penalty notices for breaches of covid regulations.

Although the Operation was initiated to target stone throwing, egg throwing and covid breaches, word leaked out with the result being that we experienced only one call of egg throwing. However, faced with large groups breaking covid restrictions, this is the issue we dealt with.

We will continue to run this operation and deal robustly with offenders.

Colne NPT.

Stanford

Message Sent By

Ailsa Gill (Police, PCSO, Pendle NPT)

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