

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Colne and District Community Safety Working Group  
held Virtually on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Jerry Stanford – in the Chair**

Cllr Kevin McNulty	Colne Town Council
Tim Horsley	Pendle Borough Council
Sergeant T Hitchen	NPT
Cllr Ash Sutcliffe	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr Dorothy Lord	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr Mark Chung	Colne Town Council

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

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

He announced that Cllr Mann had volunteered to be the Co-optee to Colne Area Committee, and that she was having technical difficulties joining the meeting.

Apologies received from:

PCSO Ailsa Gill; Insp A Ainsworth, R Whitehead, Cllr J Nixon, Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price  
Cllr Alice Mann

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were approved as a true and correct record.

### **3. Matters Arising**

**Police Actions: None**

**Chair Actions:**

**Sgt Hitchen responded to Chair's email contact on the outstanding issues as follows:**

#### **School Lane obstructive parking & A6068**

*The parking issue is not something we can address if the cars are not parked illegally, and then we cant deal as it would be Parkwise's remit. Unfortunately there is no offence of obstructing a view for road users entering the main road at this location and we cannot enforce moving them. I have my reservations about placing warning stickers on the windscreens as we have no authority to do this, and they are not causing any offences unfortunately. The only way to resolve this issue would be to ask highways to put parking restrictions on the junction but the collision figures may not justify this. I am not sure what their criteria would be but maybe a petition from local residents submitted via the local councillors may hold some sway? ( JS suggested that Laneshaw Bridge PC should contact Parkwise and demand that they visit and take action.)*

*I will go down and have a look at the issues today and see if there is something I hadn't thought of previously which may assist.*

**Long-term parked vehicle Wackersall Rd – TH:** *In relation to the van at Wackersall, I think it may be the one advertising the tyre place, as this was raised some time ago. I drive past it every day, on my way into work, and it is legally parked and wouldn't commit an offence in its usual position. I will drive past again today but , if I remember correctly, it wasn't that close to the junction to obstruct drivers exiting the side road. I will drive into, and out of, that road to see for myself.*

I responded that I thought this was an issue further into the Estate. Sgt Hitchen then visited the area and did not see any obstructing vehicle. **Action** Can Cllr Mann please clarify if the problem is still extant.

**S C-P Action: Update on SIDs:**

SIDs – Five SIDs have been ordered and will be managed by the NPT, with the Lengthsmen responsible for charging and erecting as directed. The positions of existing mounting plates have been mapped and the supplying company have been asked to confirm that their devices can be mounted thereon.

**4. Matters of Concern:**

**Cllr Sutcliffe** reported that residents had complained about a red sports car being parked wholly on the footpath at the corner of Craven St and Keighley Rd East side. This is a wide area so obstruction is limited; Sgt Hitchen mentioned that driving on a footway is an offence. The owner is known.

**Action** Tim Horsley will arrange to have the owner spoken to.

**Cllr Chung** – The lighting and speeding on Castle Rd continues to be a problem, Chair responded that he hadn't had a further reply from the Speed unit but will chase them. A recent problem has been the frequent obstructive temporary lights due to a series of water leaks at the higher end of the road. UU use a Tanker to maintain supplies whilst repairs are being undertaken but the position of this is in the worst place.

**Action** Chair to contact UU on behalf of residents

**Cllr Lord** – Recent harassment and misbehaviour, notably by one individual has upset Accent residents in the Hall St, Duke St; she reported that the individual has been recalled to prison and it seems the problems have ceased.

**Cllr McNulty** – continued complaints about the reduced lighting levels in the Hereford Rd area. Chair will pursue issue with Diane Speed at LCC.

**Cllr Mann** – (via email) commented that increased Police presence in the Waterside area was to be welcomed and she hoped it wasn't the result of offences increase. Cllr Lord commented that the NPT and especially PC Sarchet were making a big impression; Sgt Hitchen promised to pass the compliment back and felt there were no special difficulties. Cllr Mann also raised the increased frequency of police emergency vehicles along Burnley Rd and questioned whether Colne Station was being used for increased Police parking. Sgt Hitchen assured the committee this was not the case.

**Chair** – Mentioned a recent problem at Ivegate Pet Supplies with the owner being unreasonably fined for not displaying a face covering warning to customers. This has been resolved. He also drew attention to two serious scams reproduced below:

**Just 15% of people have heard of a 'ghost broker'.\* Do you know what one is?**

Have you ever heard of a 'ghost broker'? No, we are not talking about things that go bump in the night – this is a lot scarier. 'Ghost brokers' are fraudsters who sell fake or invalid car insurance policies. Victims are sold fake insurance documents for a policy that does not exist, or for a genuine policy that has

been set up using false details to lower the price of the premium.

### **How do 'ghost brokers' operate?**

Fraudsters lure victims in with the offer of cheaper insurance premiums, usually via social media or by word-of-mouth. These individuals or groups pose as middlemen for well-known insurance companies, claiming they can offer you legitimate car insurance at a significantly cheaper price.

This type of fraud is typically carried out either by forging insurance documents, falsifying your details to bring the price down, or by taking out a genuine policy for you but cancelling it soon after.

Often, the victim is not aware that they have been scammed until they are involved in an accident and try to claim on the policy.

### **Who do 'ghost brokers' target?**

'Ghost brokers' tend to target vulnerable communities, including members of non-English speaking communities who may not have full knowledge of UK insurance and laws, as well as young people looking for cheaper insurance deals.

Last year, Action Fraud received 694 reports of 'ghost broking', with almost a third (29%) coming from victims aged 17-29. The reported losses for these victims alone totalled £113,500, with each individual losing an average of £559.

Figures also indicate that over half (58%) of all reports in 2020 were submitted by men.

### **What could happen if I drive without valid insurance?**

As policies sold by 'ghost brokers' are either invalid, non-existent or fraudulent, this means that the driver is technically uninsured, meaning that you could face:

- £300 fixed penalty notice
- Six points on driving licence
- Vehicle being seized and crushed

### **How can I protect myself from 'ghost brokers'?**

There are simple steps that you can take to spot the signs of these scams and avoid being taken for a ride by 'ghost brokers':

- 'Ghost brokers' often advertise and communicate via social media, online forums and messaging apps. If a broker is only using a mobile phone or email as a way of contact, this can be a sign of this type of crime. Fraudsters do not want to be traced after they have taken money from their victims.

- They may also try to sell insurance policies through print adverts in pubs, clubs or bars, newsagents
- If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. If you are not sure about the broker, check on the [Financial Conduct Authority](#) or the [British Insurance Brokers' Association](#) website for a list of all authorised insurance brokers. You can also contact the insurance company directly to verify the broker's details. You can also check to see if a car appears to be insured on the [Motor Insurance Database](#) website.
- If you think that you have been a victim of a ghost broker, you can report your concerns to Action Fraud at [actionfraud.police.uk](#) or on 0300 123 2040.
- You can also contact the Insurance Fraud Bureau via its confidential Cheatline on 0800 422 0421 or on the [IFB website](#).

\*According to a YouGov survey commissioned by the IFB

***Message Sent By***

Action Fraud (Action Fraud, Administrator, National)

## **Mobile Phone Upgrade Scam**

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau are aware of an ongoing scam where consumers are being cold called by individuals impersonating employees of legitimate mobile network operators and suppliers.

Victims are offered early handset upgrades, or new contracts, at significant discounts. Once customers have been convinced that the deals are genuine and agree to proceed, suspects then ask for their online mobile account credentials, including log-ins, address and bank account details.

Suspects then place orders with genuine companies on behalf of victims, however select a different handset to that requested and have it shipped to the customer's address.

Upon receipt, suspects assure victims that this has been an error and instruct them to 'return' the handset to a different address not affiliated to the mobile company. These addresses are usually residential.

Upon intercepting the 'returned' handsets, the suspects cease contact and victims find themselves stuck with no phone and liable for the entirety of a new contract taken out in their name.

Only contact your mobile network provider on a number you know to be correct. If you receive a device that you did not order or expect, contact the genuine sender immediately, be suspicious if asked to return to a residential address.

## 5. Crime Statistics & Police Priorities

### The crime figures for June:

The crime figures for May together with figures for the same period in 2020: were overviewed by Sgt Hitchen

	Waterside		Horsfield		Colne Rural		Vivary Bridge		Foulridge		Total		Plus/minus
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	
Burglary - Residential	3	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	1	-6
Burglary – Commercial	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	-3
Vehicle Crime	5	5	5	2	2	1	4	5	0	0	16	13	-3
Hate Crime	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	+1
Assaults	15	14	11	8	7	5	7	11	0	0	40	38	-2
Theft	6	8	8	4	2	0	10	5	0	0	26	18	-8
Criminal Damage	2	3	2	5	2	4	6	7	0	0	12	19	+7
All Crime	67	52	66	39	26	14	66	42	1	3	226	150	-76
ASB	31	54	37	26	23	6	25	18	4	3	120	107	-13

Sgt Hitchen commented that these were as good a set of figures as we have seen in recent time and only 1 burglary was exceptional. Committee were complimentary about the NPT; Cllr Lord expressed the hope that the school holidays don't reawaken the youth ASB.

## 6. CYAG update:

### Full update;

UNDERWAY

Tuesdays 5-6pm – Boxing at Kay's Academy, Greenfield Road

Tuesdays 5.30-6.30pm – Pizza-Making with All Fired Up, one more week at Trawden Community Centre then move to Laneshawbridge Primary School for 3 weeks, then probably on to Foulridge

Wednesdays 5-6pm – Horticulture at Open Gate, by King George V playing fields, off Castle Road

Wednesdays 5pm – attend for a few minutes the BurnleyFC in the Community football at the KGV MUGA to collect any new forms

Fridays 5.45-6.45pm – Football at FisherMore School

Saturdays 12-1pm – Martial Arts at Standroyd Mill, Cotton Tree

Saturdays 1-2pm – Boot Camp with MG Fitness at Pendle Leisure Centre

## BEING PLANNED / CONSIDERED

Mondays 5.30-6.30pm – Cycling with GoVelo, finished at Park High, considering other venues, poss Laneshawbridge Primary's pump track & grounds

TBC – Wargaming & Cosplay with Shauna who runs the shop in Shackleton Arcade, poss use Primet Community Centre

Cricket, with Colne Cricket Club – being discussed

Tennis, at Alkincoates Park? will need to find coach

Kayaking, with Pendle Paddlers in Foulridge?

Sailing, at Lake Burwain?

Rollerskating, at Earnies?

Business-related activities could include time being spent like an intern or junior worker in restaurants, shops, supermarkets, banks, insurance companies, factories, engineering works, emergency services etc etc to illustrate what the world of work is and what it entails. This fits nicely with the money we've received from the Colne BID.

Similarly, organised talks by successful and/or interesting Colners could include Geoff Crambie (historian), Tim Webber (Barnfield, PEARL), Lee Duerden (XLCR), Matthew Moulding (head of Hut Group), Stephen Burke (cyclist), Jerry Stanford (set up Colne's first youth club, career in merchant navy), etc etc to provide inspiration to both the young and perhaps the older as well. Maybe rope in a Burnley footballer too.

From a specific youth services messaging perspective, look at talks by reformed prisoners, drug addicts, criminals and by Police and Armed Services. These may not be optional to attend for some.

Cllr Lord commented that the Q Club is also working hard to engage with young people.

## 7. Any Other Business:

**Date of Next Meeting:** Discussion agreed that we hoped that meetings would return to face to face from August in the Town Hall at 5-30 pm prior to the Area Meeting. Chair to confirm once the 16<sup>th</sup> July has been passed and the position is clearer. Provisionally – 5<sup>th</sup> August at Colne Town Hall at 5-30pm – TBC.

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