

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Colne and District Community Safety Working Group
held at Colne Town Hall on Thursday 5th Aug 2021
Jerry Stanford – in the Chair**

Cllr Kevin McNulty	Colne Town Council
Tim Horsley	Pendle Borough Council
PC David Cleal	NPT
PCSO Karen Lonsdale	NPT
Cllr Ash Sutcliffe	LCC, Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr D Cockburn-Price	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr Mark Chung	Colne Town Council
Cllr S Cockburn-Price	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr Alice Mann	Pendle Town Council
Mary Peden	Resident
Roger Whitehead	Waterside AS
Yvonne May	Resident Primet Heights
Steven Wilcock	Trawden Forest CC
Barry Hodgson	Trawden Forest CC

1. Welcomes and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, relieved and pleased that we can now meet face to face and thanked them all for their attendance.
Apologies received from Cllr Dorothy Lord and Cllr Jonathan Nixon

2. Minutes of last meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

Police Actions: None

Chair raised three serious Police matters that have arisen since the last meeting that he wished to deal with first.

In chronological order the first involved teens in the hot spell putting themselves in serious danger, being abusive and threatening to local residents who remonstrated with them for swearing and raucous behaviour in Colne Water behind 24 Cottontree Lane and other neighbours have also contacted the police for this ASB. Police and Pendle Borough Council have not felt anything can be done. Photos of some of the teens are available. **Action NPT to try and identify the teens concerned and discuss with Margaret Foxley the use of RJ.**

The second event occurred at Wycollar where a group of teens, some purported to be from the Birtwistle Rd area, approached a lone girl working in the barn and apparently attempted burglary and assault, including threatening with a knife. Police were summoned and took 45 minutes to get there but did nothing in spite of the teens still hanging around the village. The Ranger attended and took photographs so the teens should be identifiable; apparently the same teens appeared on several subsequent nights, accompanied by their parents intent on finding and punishing the Ranger. I notified Sergeant Hitchen who was unable to find a log of the incident and

promised to seek out the Ranger the following day. **Action – NPT contact Sergeant Hitchen and seek to identify the teens and take the necessary action.**

The third serious event started at Trawden Community Centre Library when a group of teens on scooters invaded the library, ignoring the required social separation, and refused all attempts to get them to behave, act responsibly and then to leave when requested to do so. This group have been causing trouble at the Centre for some time, with graffiti on the external area, wrecking the expensive planting and trees on the estate, threatening in the shop to the point where it had to be closed, have broken a window and use their bikes and scooters to harass particularly OAPs entering the premises for their weekly event. This latter including playing chicken in front of vehicles and leaving their bikes etc to inconvenience those trying to park. This behaviour is escalating and recently the parents of some of these teens have been abusing those running the Centre for accusing the youths. Clearly unless action is taken soon it is likely that vigilante reaction could surface with dire outcomes for all.

Action – 1. NPT to liaise with Steven Wilcock, view and identify the miscreants and formally record the mischief being caused. A decision can then be made on any Police action that might stem from it.

2. In the longer term the identified youngsters and their parents to be contacted with a view to engaging the services of the Restorative Justice Team through Margaret Foxley, and also with CYAG to engage them in worthwhile activities; also, longer term to consider a future session of Pause4Thought.

These actions can be considered relevant for all three of these issues.

Alice Mann: Vehicle long-term parked in Wackersall area; Yvonne May indicated that the van is currently absent, (perhaps on holiday) but will report if it returns and is again parked in an obstructive position. **Action YM**

Chair Actions: Contact UU

This gained a rapid response and apology from the Chief Executive followed by a longer response from Mr Caunce, the Network Delivery Manager, given below: My original letter is Appendix 1.

Further to the email from our Chief Executive, Steve Mogford, I am writing to provide further assurances that we are looking into the issues you have highlighted.

May I first apologise for the inconvenience that you have been caused and thank you for taking the time to write in to help us with areas where our service could be improved based on your experiences with United Utilities.

I am responsible for the performance of the water network in Lancashire and take feedback seriously as we are keen to provide great service to all our customers.

Our time to repair and reinstate is a key focus area of our current performance along with better prioritisation of work depending on location, age and performance and we recognise there is still work to do in this area. The examples you have provided will be used as part of this to establish the lessons learnt we can take and improvements moving forward.

At United Utilities we are always looking for feedback from our customers and if there are any other areas that you think we would benefit from looking into, please email me directly:

Andrew.caunce@uuplc.co.uk

Thank you Andrew Caunce

Update in Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS)

Cllr S Cockburn-Price reported that the money has been reserved for the purchase of these, but payment has to be processed by Lancashire Police; although they are anxious to have the devices, they claim no avenue for making this payment so there is currently stalemate. Cllr D Cockburn-Price believes that he may be able to resolve the issue but if this proves unworkable, Chair to write to Chief Constable, cc PCC Andrew Snowden, to seek their intervention. The existing brackets in various sites are felt by the manufacturers to have minor differences which may make them unsuitable. When a device is to hand it will be tested to see if the brackets can be adapted to fit.

Action DC-P to pursue & confirm to the Chair.

4. Matters of Concern:

Pat Maloney – significant nuisance in the Bunkers Hill/ Peel Rd area on a regular basis caused by vehicles and motorbikes speeding and creating excessive noise. Drug-taking and dealing is also an increasing issue.

Kevin McNulty – Drug taking under the Rail viaduct surfacing again; at the junction of Knotts Lane and Green Rd at 0010 hrs one morning he found the road completely blocked by a large number of vehicles whose BAME drivers were having a meeting.

Ash Sutcliffe – On Greenfield Rd in the small parking area, a horsebox unattached, was openly dispensing goods to significant numbers of the public, presumably drugs.

Action – all these are drawn to the attention of the NPT.

David Cockburn-Price – reported that early mornings particularly drivers are stopping at the corner shop Skipton Rd/Varley St to buy papers etc. are leaving their vehicles briefly in a position that obstructs the view for traffic negotiating the junction. Chair mentioned that there is no offence of obstructing views for traffic at junctions, following a Judge's ruling in London.

Action NPT to be aware

Mary Peden reminded that the slabs in the wall, surmounted by railings, on Newmarket St, opposite nos. 42 and 52 resp., are still in an unsafe condition and liable to fall on passers-by. Chair advised that was reported nearly two years ago to PBC; **Action Cllr Sutcliffe to action.**

Roger Whitehead – Potholes are creating a serious problem at the top of Lenches Rd up to the Nook. **Action** – Roger to fill in a pothole report at [Report a pothole - Lancashire County Council](#)

Alice Mann – Syringes in a dangerous condition have been found at the Bus Station in a flower bin. NPT to be aware.

The wall on Shaw St that was demolished by an unregistered car is about to be rebuilt after funds have been obtained.

Mark Chung – Reports the usual speeding by drivers using Castle Rd, especially in the mornings. This an intended site for the SIDs when they are eventually in action.

Potholes were also reported (see above)

Barry – reported that a new route appears to have been established for timed racing by youths in vehicles running from Burnley Rd, Trawden, up to Clarion on to Nelson and return; these are the usual high-powered expensive vehicles.

Jerry – There were three burglaries in Laneshaw Bridge and Trawden to steal keys for high value vehicles and any high value goods. Be aware and make sure you have anti-snap locks on patios and doors.

NPT have held a speed enforcement session on Keighley Rd, with 60 drivers stopped and dealt with. This will be repeated soon.

5. Crime Statistics & Police Priorities

The crime figures for July:

The crime figures for July together with figures for the same period in 2020: were overviewed by

	Waterside		Horsfield		Colne Rural		Vivary Bridge		Foulridge		Total		Plus/minus
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	
Burglary - Residential	1	0	5	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	8	3	-5
Burglary – Commercial	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	-1
Vehicle Crime	5	1	4	0	3	1	7	2	0	1	19	9	-10
Hate Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	=
Assaults	23	16	11	17	1	1	8	13	1	0	44	47	+3
Theft	7	12	3	1	0	1	8	6	0	0	18	20	+2
Criminal Damage	7	4	1	1	1	1	3	2	0	0	12	8	-4
All Crime	93	87	59	55	18	19	67	44	8	4	245	209	-36
ASB	36	34	33	34	22	21	31	21	2	3	124	113	-11

PC Cleal reported that these continue the recent downward trend in crime and are very encouraging. He added that a major influence has been the partnership with CCTV operations at Colne Town Hall.

6. CYAG Update:

Sarah reported the following:

Currently, our peripatetic activities include:

Tuesday at 5 p.m. Boxing at Kay's Boxing Academy, Colne

Tuesday at 5.30 p.m. Pizza Making at Foulridge Village Hall (for the next three weeks from 27th July)

Wednesday at 5 p.m. Football with Burnley FC in the Community at King George V Playing Field

Friday at 5.45 p.m. Friday Night Football at Fisher More

Saturday at noon Martial Arts at LBS, Cottontree

Saturday at 1 p.m. Boot Camp at Pendle Leisure Centre Sports Hall

We plan to restart Biking, this time in Laneshaw Bridge - probably Mondays and we also expect to start Kayaking with Pendle Paddlers at Foulridge, probably Wednesdays at 6.30 p.m. throughout the entire summer holidays and into September. Autumnal activities include Cosplay and gaming, plus mobile phone photography. Please do help us promote our activities, which currently benefit 60-70 children a week (including many of our "target" children/teens).

Those observant ones amongst you will have seen that, thanks to XLCR and friends of CYAG, new native trees have appeared on the banking besides the Youth Centre on Byron Rd. The intention is to provide a pollution screen for youngsters using the field, and next year we hope to extend the border to the bottom of Rutland St. We are still hopeful that LCC will grant us a lease to use the Centre as a Youth Amenity and we are about to seek applicants for two posts for Youth Workers.

7. Report from Main Committee

A shortish meeting with no changes reported to the various Services as a consequence of the pandemic, a preliminary summary from the Domestic Homicide Review was given by the Independent Chair, and no significant reports from the three task groups charged with activating the CSP Five Year Plan. My own group, community engagement is now hoping to hold the first Road Show at the 27th November Market Place event, with a stand manned by the services and our own CSP Group,

Pendle Crime figures were a little disappointing with nearly 2000 crimes between April and June, a 14.2% increase cf 2020. Violence against the person was the primary crime group up 21% and representing 50% of all crime in Pendle. Domestic abuse in Horsfield is a notable concern, up 56% with no other Colne ward showing rises. ASB showed 1200 incidents, a 23% reduction from last year, but the whole of East Lancs had a 34% decrease; Waterside was the only Colne ward to show an increase. Youth ASB showed 230 incidents in Pendle down 16% but Horsfield was the peak ward in Pendle. Skipton Rd and Church St being the main sources.

8. Any Other Business

There was no further business.

Next Meeting – 9th September; at Colne TH.

Please note that attendance is limited to 20 persons until the pandemic situation eases so will members please let me know if they are intending to be there.

jerrystanford@btinternet.com

Appendix One

This is the letter forwarded to United Utilities which elicited the response given in the Minutes:

Dear Mr Mogford

I write as Chairman of Colne's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) working group, a sub-group of Pendle Borough Council's CSP of which I am Deputy Chair, following Minuted issues with United Utilities work in Colne.

I should also explain that I am a retired Logistics Consultant and some of the issues are directly relevant to the area near my own residence. My intention in addressing you directly is in order to draw attention to areas where your Board might find it worthwhile to order a review of some work procedures with a concomitant resource improvement.

The first issue involves replacement of the inoperable fire hydrant to the rear of my residence in Favordale Rd. This hydrant is essential for fire-fighting not only of the seven houses in our road but also the rear of LCC's Favordale Care Home. The sub-contractors arrived to perform the operation some 3 months after first report (by your own dirty-water team), during which time we were without fire protection. Having opened the pipework they discovered that the unit to replace was circa 1935 and they didn't have the correct replacement; thus, a return journey to obtain the correct valve. On return they discovered that the stop-valve for the main supply (in Skipton Old Road) was too deep to reach and needed an extension fitting. This in spite of the valve having been used in the process of replacing lead-piping supplying my house 6 months before. Five days later the hole was closed in our lane leaving the hydrant still unusable, to await this extension. Some two months later the main stop-valve work was undertaken. Two months further on (with much jostling from myself) the replacement was commissioned and the sub-contractors arrived with an 18 tonne truck with an on-board digging grab – this in spite of my having reminded the previous team that only a 3.5 tonne vehicle could access the lane. After dark a small digger was delivered and the hydrant was dug out, but being in the dark, a large chunk of the beck banking went with it and some heavy boulders fell in. the hydrant was at last repaired the next two days and when the different sub-contractors arrived to complete the reinstatement they brought an 18 tonne truck! Eventually the reinstatement was completed, so badly that within a short time the surface has cracked and the underfill spilled into the beck, putting at risk both the safety of the water thoroughfare, the lane and not least the hydrant. This was agreed by your major works team who visited some months later to survey the replacement of the higher section of the supply line which is lead. They agreed that the reinstatement is unsafe and assured me that it will be corrected as part of the major works which are due to commence on 16th August by Messrs Amey. On this occasion I have the telephone number of the team manager, Gary Trotter, a welcome departure and one that would benefit all work.

The second issue involved the replacement of a fire hydrant, on the A6068 (Byron Rd) adjacent to a pedestrian crossing used extensively by local schoolchildren to and from the local secondary school, and opposite the Morris Dancers Pub. The hydrant is in the footpath and in order to maintain the "footway" a gated passage was constructed in the gutter. The crossing was closed, and temporary traffic lights installed. Having opened the pipework, the subcontractors discovered it was next to a live electrical conduit, so ceased work to seek guidance. The traffic lights remained over a weekend and well into the following week causing huge disruption, and increased air-pollution particularly at rush-hours. This road is a major route across the Pennines used by truckers both regularly, and as the diversion route whenever the M62 suffers accidents on it's eastern half. It is also the ambulance route for emergencies to Airedale Hospital at Keighley and to Blackburn Royal from the eastern

suburbs. The situation was only relieved after I set up a complaint on your web-site which takes too long to achieve a response when an issue is important; it took several days before the hole was filled in.

I did receive an apology and acceptance from your staff that they got it wrong. They returned to complete the work some weeks later and committed exactly the same mistakes, blocking the traffic with temporary lights, and several days (and a weekend) when no work took place with the same disruption.

The third issue relates to Castle Road at it's north-eastern end, where over a period of some weeks four major leaks have caused the road to be either shut or partially impeded by lights and bowers maintaining supply in inappropriate places. It would seem that having determined a weakness in a supply-line it would be more efficient and cost effective to replace the whole section in the first place.

All of these issues indicate lack of thorough planning, lack of supervision of sub-contractors with seeming tick-approval of sub-contractor works, lack of urgency when undertaking operations on a major route and worst of all, poor communications throughout the process of a particular project.

I hope that you will pass this to your Operations Director to consider whether processes could be improved and accept it as a genuine attempt to help improve your service rather than just a moan!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Stanford'.

Jerry Stanford BSc, MSc, FCILT, Master Mariner