

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Colne and District Community Safety Working Group
held at Colne Town Hall on Thursday 1st December 2022
Jerry Stanford – in the Chair**

Cllr A. Sutcliffe	LCC & Pendle Borough Council
Cllr D. Cockburn-Price	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr S. Cockburn-Price	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr A. Mann	Colne Town Council & Waterside Action Group
Roiger Whitehead	Resident
Cllr B Hodgson	Trawden Parish Council
Tim Horsley	Pendle Borough Council
PC Tom Schofield	NPT, Lancashire Police
PCSO Keeley Evans	NPT, Lancashire Police

OBSERVERS

Kevin Jenkins	Pendle Lead Fire Officer
Andrew Pratt	Deputy Police Crime Commissioner

1. Welcomes and Apologies

Jerry Stanford took the chair with the agreement of the group and welcomed everyone, in particular the Deputy Crime Commissioner and the new Fire Officer for the region, thanking all for their attendance. Apologies recorded from Mark Chung, Sgt J Cooper, Kevin McNulty, Aneesa McGladdery. Jerry announced that Cllr Mark Chung has decided to stand down early from his position of Chair of this Committee and if the Group are willing, he is happy to resume as Chair. The Group approved.

Jerry asked that members trawl their contacts with a view to finding a suitable new Chair soon.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2022 had not been fully circulated so approval was left in abeyance.

3. Matters Arising

Police Actions:

Problems in Blucher St

Keeley explained that she and Scott had attended on several occasions but had been unable to find any indications of the problems mooted. No official Police report had been received that made it impossible to pursue any further action at this stage. Ash explained that residents greatly feared for their safety should they be identified as having been in contact with the Police and so reported it to their Councillor as a safer alternative. He asked why reports to this official; Committee under its confidence rules couldn't be treated as an official report to Police. Tom Schofield explained that unless it has been logged the Police were limited in any response they could make and suggested that a Councillor reports the matter on the resident's behalf either direct to Police or on-line. Any decision on reports to this Committee being recognised as Police reports need to go to a higher authority.

Action – Councillors to report on behalf; Chair to seek guidance on Committee authority to report.

Derby St Mill – vehicles on highway

Councillors reported that these vehicles have now been removed.

Caravan on land adjacent to Ambulance Hall.

Chair explained that this involved a caravan that has been a perpetual problem for this Committee and the authorities with the latest issue involving defecation and urination both in public and in neighbouring gardens. The difficulty as always lies in recoding such activity to evidence standard. Tom explained that they have visited the area without sighting untoward behaviour but that following this further report a strategic action plan would be drawn up by the NPT and they would report back. Tim stated that various agencies are working with the offender on other issues with him.

Action NPT**Child going AWOL North Colne**

This involved a child out of control to the despair of his parents. Tim advised that the Children and Welfare Service was the one to which this problem could be referred to. Chair agreed to contact Cllr Lord who first reported it, for the necessary details.

Action Chair and Cllr Lord**Greenfield Rd - abandoned cars blocking carpark.**

Chair explained this outstanding issue and the potential of it being linked to a "chopping shop". Tom undertook to ensure that this was followed up.

Action NPT**Deerlands Park Estate –**

Off-road motorbike noise nuisance continues and proliferates in various parts of Colne. Tom explained that this has been a problem in Nelson as well, and that they believe it is centred on one or two individuals. They will pursue this issue whilst continuing their broader action on law-breaking road-users.

Increased crime figures last month in Foulridge

Chair drew attention to a significant increase in crime in Foulridge indicated in last month's crime figures and asked if there was a specific link or just coincidence. Tom was unaware of any individual or connecting link and would investigate.

Action NPT**4. Matters of Concern:**

Roger – Wood St – caravan on private land has applied for planning permission to build a barn. Residents are aware that this person has been asked to empty premises he currently occupies nearby which is full of cars and car-parts. They are concerned that this barn is sought to be the target for his car business, in spite of claiming agricultural use. Sarah understood this to be on Area Committee and the matter will be dealt with by them.

Park Lane Farm appears to be in the business of polytunnel sales and has a 20' polytunnel on its land with a strong smell of cannabis.

Action – NPT to investigate.

Alice – Following residents' meeting Blascomy Square is now quiet but disturbances seem to be in Patten St with litter being scattered and general ASB.

Action NPT to patrol.

Millenium Green suffering a wave of graffiti. NPT asked to keep an eye open.

Barry – A group of youngsters have run amok in a caravan in a field behind St Mary's Church Trawden, initially using it as a drug-taking den but having resorted to wrecking it. This group are out of control and are taking serious drugs.

Action NPT to work with Trawden Parish Council to address problem.

Sarah – Abandoned cars continue to be an on-going problem at the bottom of the Tram tracks and at Ball Grove carpark. This has been reported to PBC but they claim it is not possible to pursue the abandoned car legislation. Tim explained that this applies only to vehicles on the Highway and that other avenues are being used. For Ball Grove there is PPO whilst for the Tramways the Officer involved has been off sick.

Action PBC

(PS This issue was raised at the subsequent Area Committee who have put further actions in place.)

5. Crime Statistics & Police Priorities

The crime figures for December

The crime figures for December together with figures for the corresponding period in 2021: were overviewed by PC Schofield. He welcomed the encouraging negative figures and explained that they were focusing on flooding areas that have youth ASB problems with a high police presence on random occasions and this was proving a successful deterrent.

	Waterside		Horsfield		Colne Rural		Vivary Bridge		Foulridge		Total		Plus/minus
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	
Burglary – Residential	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	3	-
Burglary – Commercial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vehicle Crime	8	7	5	6	1	1	2	2	0	0	16	16	-
Hate Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Assaults	12	10	16	14	1	2	3	2	1	2	36	30	-6
Theft	12	12	7	4	2	2	11	133	0	1	32	32	-
Criminal Damage	3	2	5	2	0	0	3	1	1	0	12	5	-7
All Recordable Crime	44	39	37	35	7	7	34	30	7	6	129	117	-12
ASB	34	35	30	32	8	5	14	10	0	0	86	82	-4

6. BID Report

There was no BID report this month.

7. CYAG Update:

Sarah explained that all was going reasonably well with CYAG and that there had been a incident at the Trawden Youth Club two weeks ago which led to threats to the two Lady Supervisors from a group of youths who then stole biscuits and bottles of water. This issue has been sorted by this week giving the Group a firm talk about their behaviour together with a visit from the Police; they requested a set of rules to be written down and they would sign them, and this is being effected. The youth causing the issue had not returned his form so was not admitted to the Group and was sent home to have the form completed.

There has been further vandalism of the trees planted 18 months ago.

Otherwise, there is a possibility of a large grant for both revenue and capital being pursued from Government money held by PBC which will help with immediate pressures. These include a leaking roof which has recently flooded several rooms and is an urgent problem. The Annual Report and Accounts are about to be submitted to the Charity Commission this month and show a thriving and effective organisation.

8. Any Other Business

Scam reports from Lancashire CC will be attached to these Minutes.

Secretarial Support - The Group still seeks secretarial help in recording minutes and other minor admin tasks. Anyone who knows someone who might be interested should contact Jerry (contacts below). The same applies to finding a long-term Chair.

There was no further business.

Next Meeting – 2nd February 2023 at Colne TH.

Tel 07979 906975 (jerrystanford@btinternet.com)

Lancashire County Council Scam Reports

Beware claims you have damp in your home.

Residents in the Chorley area have reported receiving phone calls from a man claiming to know that there is a lot of damp in their house. He then asks if he can come round and check the inside of the house, including the attic. When one householder said they would pass the phone to their son, the man ended the call at once.

Please do not get drawn into conversation with cold callers - just say no and put the phone down. Be wary of letting anyone you do not know into your house, regardless of any offers they may give you relating to insulation and damp proofing.

If you believe you have a problem with damp in your home do your own research and call traders yourself. A good tip is to search online for reviews of traders before employing them. If possible, use know local trades people.

Trading Standards advice is to always say no to cold callers. The Safetrader scheme can help you find a trader in your area, contact 0303 333 1111 or go to www.safetrader.org.uk

Big Brand Scam Emails

Beware receiving an email impersonating big brands such as Amazon, Currys, Aldi and Asda. The emails suggest you have won a prize, a gift voucher for £500 or sometimes more, or claim you have been chosen to enter a loyalty programme and invite you to click onto a link. The emails imply the offer is for a limited time or the reward is for a limited number of people, urging shoppers to respond quickly.

Close inspection will show the email has not come from a legitimate email address. However, the scammers have taken this a step further and examples have been found where the email address is spoofed to look like it has come from the genuine retailer.

These scams are all trying to gather personal information. If you believe you may have entered sensitive information such as your bank details into a third-party site via a suspicious email, get in touch with your bank.

Suspected scam 'lost parcel' email.

If a parcel or goods you were expecting to arrive has got lost in the post or has simply never arrived, please remember, in most situations your contract is with the business you bought the goods from, and you need to go back to them to claim your money back, not the parcel delivery company.

This reminder follows after a Lancashire consumer received an email alleging to be from a parcel delivery company, supposedly relating to goods they had ordered that had never arrived. On replying to the email, the customer was offered a percentage of the value of the goods as a refund. This sounds like a scam email phishing for bank account details.

Suspicious phishing emails can be forwarded to report@phishing.gov.uk