

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Colne and District Community Safety Working Group
held at Colne Town Hall on Thursday 11th May 2023
Jerry Stanford – in the Chair**

Cllr A Sutcliffe	Lancashire County Council and Pendle Borough Council
Cllr D. Cockburn-Price	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr S. Cockburn-Price	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr D Lord	Pendle Borough Council
Cllr K Salter	Pendle Borough Council and Foulridge Parish Council
K McNulty	Neighbourhood Watch
Roger Whitehead	Resident, Waterside AG
Cllr A Mann	Pendle Town Council
A Chamberlain	Resident
S Chamberlain	Resident
M Peden	Resident
P Maloney	Resident
A McGladdery	Colne Bid Manager
T Horsley	Pendle Borough Council

1. Welcomes and Apologies

Jerry Stanford welcomed everyone and thanked them all for their attendance. There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The previous minutes of 2nd March had not been previously approved so were approved as a true record; the 30th of March Minutes were also approved as a true record..

Matters Arising

Police Actions:

There was no Police presence. (Subsequently notified of a major disturbance in Nelson which had required all available officers to be there.)

The issue of follow-ups to the youths on a motor-bike and a quad bike in Albert Rd, the youths on Primet Junior roof and garages in Standroyd Drive, and door kicking in Cleveland St and Market St are to be resolved.

Chair's Actions:

Letter to Mr Holmes re anti-climbing paint – reply awaited.

Letter to Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner – response received and action to follow.

SC_P reported that the inability of local mobile units to pursue was a common problem everywhere with training and manning levels insufficient to train everyone and that public safety was always the priority. The information has been taken on board by the PCC.

It was advised that the man causing public concern in Lidgett and Venables area is being dealt with.

3. Matters of Concern:

XXXXX advised committee that the B6251 Whitemoor Rd has a sharp bend which has had three accidents in the last three months where vehicles have failed to negotiate the corner and damaged the local farmer's wall; the field it protects contains stock and unless the vehicle is identified the farmer has to rebuild from his own resources. There is no signage and Lancashire Road Safety Partnership have been asked to take action.

Action – XX to notify Chair if he needs additional support for action to be taken over signage and preventative measures.

XXXXX – reported that youths have been reported to him for climbing on the roof of Fisher-More School.

Action - XX to contact head to suggest anti-climb paint be applied to pipe access to the roof.

XXXXX – advised that a house managed by Neighbourhood Housing in Lilac St has been boarded up and is a safety concern. Action is in hand.

A tree-surgeon's tools have been stolen from a store overnight in Castle Rd. Theft reported.

Tim Horsley – reported that various vehicles long-term parked have been removed.

XXXXX – reported that a man had been seen in Peter St trying car door handles and visiting their house to try the door, in clear view of their CCTV. This has been reported to Police, especially as there has been a burglary close by. No subsequent effort has been made to further contact them. There have also been incidents of children throwing stones at houses.

They also reported that a man in the Birtwistle Avenue area has been making it a practise to urinate in the street, usually waiting until children are in the vicinity, making no effort to be discrete. This has the potential to lead to more serious crime and needs to be investigated.

Action – Police to visit XXXXX for further details.

Walton St allotments has become a regular spot for drug-dealing, and information has come forward (XXXXX) that taxis are being used to carry drug-dealers to supply users.

Action – Police to take note of this development and potential line of enquiry.

XXXXX – reported that boy racers have again been in action in the Lenches area later in the evenings, particularly at the weekend; this road has many sharp bends and is popular for walkers so the risk to the public is excessive. (Chair – last Sunday at midnight racers were also heard travelling west on Byron Rd at very high speed.)

Action – NPT be aware.

XXXXXX – fly-tipping at Millenium Green was reported to Police on-line because the growing pots smelt strongly of cannabis and other black-bag rubbish contained an identifying address which was photographed. This obviously poses a forensic and investigative opportunity but has not been followed up by the Police and the rubbish remains undisturbed at the Green.

Action NPT

4. Crime Statistics & Police Priorities

The crime figures for April have not been supplied though they are made available in the Area Committee. They will be circulated separately when available.

APR 2023

	Waterside	Horsfield	Colne Rural	Vivary Bridge	Foulridge	TOTAL

5. BID Report

The Bid Manager reported that a second meeting of the ASB group had taken place and the shop-holders in Shackleton Hall had expressed concern about occurrences on the glass roof that had led to detritus on the floors on opening up. Young people are suspected. Businesses have expressed concern about how to deal with young people in their premises when they act aggressively or badly-behaved. BID is arranging a training course to assist in their understanding of ways to defuse and respond. Shoplifting in general appears to have reduced. The next ASB meeting had to be postponed and it is hoped to be rearranged for 6th June.

6. CYAG Update:

The outside signing has been completed and looks excellent.

The drama group is going well with good support and the Autumn camps are already oversubscribed.

CYAG has been successful in employing a full-time staff member. Generally the organisation is developing very well.

7. Any Other Business

1. The report by the Chair from the Community Safety Partnership held on 17th April::

Committee Meeting

Monday 17th April 2023

Brief Review – Jerry Stanford Dep Chairman

The Government have commissioned a review in the form of a questionnaire mooted proposals about closer working between PCC and CSPs on the issue of anti-social behaviour. It includes suggestions that Dispersal orders might become available to Local Authorities, and Public Space Protection Order powers offered to the Police and that Community Protection Notices age limit of 16 could be lowered. PBC will be responding, though one of the issues is resourcing more stringent enforcement.

Serious Violence Duty legislation came in in January which requires authorities to work closely together to learn about and reduce serious violence. The strategy in Lancashire was outlined and is likely to involve, amongst others, the CSP. Trading Standards explained that there were 173 different types of retailers selling knives, and they instituted a survey of young people in pilot schools. West Craven was one, and revealed 40 % of responders were unhappy about the carrying of knives by other youngsters. They are making the figures available.

Claire Bennet presented “Prevention and early Intervention” in East Lancs and outlined work on domestic abuse, child exploitation and youth anti-social behaviour. She mentioned that she would welcome closer working with CYAG to determine their work.

Crime figures:

All crimes recorded in Pendle were down 10.9% for January -March 23 47.2% of which were attributable to decreases in violence against the person. Robbery offences saw the greatest increase up 10 from last quarter and five higher than last year. Residential burglaries reduced by 6 offences. Vehicle offences are down 4 offences (4.8%) whilst theft has decreased by 16.2%. Violence offences are down 11.6% and 165 (20.4%) down on last year.

Domestic Abuse saw 314 offences (21.6% of all crimes) in Pendle, a 10.3% reduction on last quarter, a bigger reduction than East Lancashire and Lancashire as a whole.

ASB fell by 11% down 77 from last quarter and 13.8% down from last year. Three wards had increases – Barnoldswick +28 incidents, Boulsworth & Foulridge +8 and Barrowford +3.

Youth related ASB in Pendle represented 28% of all ASB, a 12% reduction on last quarter and 27% down from previous year. Barnoldswick and Vivary Bridge had the highest increase in youth ASB with more than 49% of all youth related incidents in Pendle.

There were no other items of interest to this group.

.2. Lancashire now have a new Cyber Protect/Prevent Officer PC Charlie Bamber; as part of the Lancashire Cyber Crime Unit. They deal with all manner of cyber-crime (crime that can only be committed using computers/ICT. If you need to report such a crime contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit the Action Fraud website.

Next Meeting – 8th June 2023 at Colne TH, 5-30 pm. (TBC)

Tel 07979 906975 (jerrystanford@btinternet.com)

SPAM REPORTS FROM LCC

Beware cold callers in the Burnley area.

A householder in the Burnley area received a knock on the door from roofers claiming there was a pre-arranged agreement for them to carry out work to the roof. The cold callers were on the roof for no more than 5 minutes asking for nearly £700. The householder did not have that much cash in the house but did hand over some cash as the traders were pushy and the householder felt threatened.

This is a scam, no work was carried out to the roof. Be very suspicious of anyone knocking on your door claiming work you are unaware of has been agreed. Double check with other members of your household.

Roof repair cold callers in Rossendale & Preston.

Reports have been received from residents in the Rossendale and Preston areas where they have agreed to some roofing repairs after being cold called. The work has been of very poor quality, often with capping falling off shortly after being fitted, gutters still leaking after a repair has been carried out and the traders not coming back to rectify. Householders were asked to pay in cash, in one case VAT was charged, but the trader was not VAT registered.

You can check a UK VAT number via the www.gov.uk website.

Trading Standards advice is to never do business with 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

WhatsApp 'I've lost my phone' scam

Beware receiving a WhatsApp message from someone pretending to be your son or daughter claiming they have lost their phone. The message will of course come from an unknown number but you're your instinct will be to reply to help them out. The sender, pretending to be your son or daughter will then ask for money, eventually providing bank account details to pay this money into, sometimes with the explanation that the account number is that of a friend, as your son or daughter cannot access their account due to supposedly losing their mobile phone.

This is a version of the 'Hello Mum' WhatsApp scam. Be on the alert if you receive such a message, ring you son or daughter independently.

Mobile phone upgrade scam call

Beware receiving a phone call, supposedly on behalf of a mobile service provider, offering an upgrade. Once the scam caller has gathered the necessary personal details, they then contact the phone company, which posts out a new handset to the victim's address. When it arrives, the victim is contacted again and told that the wrong phone has been sent and is asked to post it back – this time, to the scammer's address.

Once the scammer receives the new phone, they disappear – leaving the victim with no phone and a new, more expensive contract.

Contact the Trading Standards Service via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133