

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Colne and District Community Safety Working Group
held at Colne Town Hall on Thursday 8th June 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
K McNulty	Neighbourhood Watch
Roger Whitehead	Resident, Waterside AG
M Peden	Resident
P Maloney	Resident
T Horsley	Pendle Borough Council

1. Welcomes and Apologies

Jerry Stanford welcomed everyone and thanked them all for their attendance. There were apologies from A Mann, Cllr K Salter, Sgt J Cooper

2. Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of 11th May were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising

Police Actions:

Youths on off-rovers in Albert Rd – identification, & other youth disorder reported:

No further news on this occurrence. Police advised 2 known, registered and licensed quad bikes which are regularly seen, but will watch for the unlicensed one.

Man in Peter St attempting car thefts – Police believe PC Scholfield is pursuing this.

Man in Birtwistle Ave acting indecently in front of children: Watch is being made for this individual.

Follow-up to Millenium Green fly-tipping: This has been cleared by operational services; no Police action taken.

No response from Primet Head Teacher re painting drainpipes with anti-climbing substance.. Action awaited on similar request to Primet School.

3. Matters of Concern:

XXX – **Earl St** - five young boys discovered breaking up pallets in a backyard; when asked to be quieter, greeted by threats to person, very foul language not expected of very young children. They didn't live at the address in question. **Action – NPT to monitor.**

XXX– **Lenches area** – Vehicles racing the circuit of Lenches Knotts Lane, Shaw St seen early evening, but often at random times.. Also racing vehicle heard along Byron Rd around midnight.

XXX – **Newmarket Back St** - vehicle driving dangerously at speed, NPT offered advice on action about making efforts to record evidence on phones etc and hand in..

XXX – **KGV Playing area** – around 6-30 – 7-30pm large group of youths congregating with bullying and fighting occurring; known drug-vendors sighted mixing with them. NPT already taking action and CYAG intending to engage.

Trawden play area – three known youths damaging Council property, removing signage and deterring proper use by children of the facility. Engagement with the parents has not been successful. Margaret Foxley now involved undertaking Resolution.

XXX– **Scrap carrying vehicle on the Moss** – Vehicle being followed lost a refrigerator off the back which bounced and narrowly missed the vehicle behind. On being stopped Driver gave angry verbals and threats. Chair stated that it is a driver's responsibility in law to ensure that any load is fully secure before departing from loading point; a dash-cam of the event would have been sufficient for the police to prosecute, but without identifying evidence, nothing could be done. To pick up Scrap vehicles have to have a licence, if in doubt record registration, name if evident, time and place and report to Police on-line or in person.

XXX– Observed a black Renault on **Briercliffe Ave** at about 9-30pm at racing speed (see remarks earlier). Also in same area a motorcycle no helmet or reg plates driving on the footpaths to the risk of pedestrians. Suggest occasional NPT patrols in this area. Suggested the need for double-yellow lines on Wackersall RD; Chair explained that LCC will not proceed without evidence of accidents to support the need.

XXX – **Blucher St**, complaints from residents about return of cannabis farm XXX – NPT reported that this is in hand.

The caravan owner on land off **Midgeley St** has again been threatening local residents and passers-by; NPT gave advice.

Skelton St – vehicles persistently travelling northward at dangerous speeds according to residents, NPT advice as above.

Keighley Rd – Scrap-metal persons taking metal from back yards without permission.

Action: Whilst the same advice pertains to residents, there seems to be an epidemic of probably unlicensed scrap metal collectors doing the rounds of central Colne and patrols are asked to please make checks wherever circumstances allow.

4. Crime Statistics & Police Priorities

The crime figures for May were reviewed against those of the previous year by PC Lydiatt.

May 2023

Incident	Waterside		Horsfield		Colne Rural		Vivary Bridge		Foulridge		Total		Plus/minus
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	
Burglary – Residential	4	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	6	4	-2
Burglary – Commercial	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	-2
Vehicle Crime	7	2	4	1	1	2	3	3	0	0	15	8	-7
Hate Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	=
Assaults	16	12	12	10	2	1	17	6	1	0	48	29	-19
Theft	17	3	17	9	3	2	9	1	1	2	47	17	-30
Criminal Damage	9	3	6	4	0	2	2	4	0	0	17	13	-4
All Recordable Crime	95	60	65	62	26	16	59	53	7	2	252	193	-59
ASB	32	8	20	19	7	1	17	8	0	1	76	37	-39

These are excellent figures and demonstrate falling crime figures on a consistent basis now over the past three months. NPT are however asked to note the actions and concerns expressed earlier and especially on those about scrap metal collectors.

5. Business Community Safety Group Report

A useful ASB meeting was held earlier this week between businesses and NPT; it is hoped a brief report will be available soon.

6. CYAG Update:

CYAG now has two employees working with the various functions and activities which continue to grow. The building on Byron Rd is continuing with renovations and it is hoped to have an Open Day in July, more information to follow.

7. PBC Removal of Support

The following email was received from the Localities and Policy Manager in response to a complaint about the failure to circulate the 11th May agenda and the previous minutes with no warning:

“I’m sorry to hear that the last Colne CSP agenda wasn’t circulated. Aga’s role is to provide support to the Chief Executive and Directors at Pendle Council. She has supported Pendle CSP the last couple of meetings to help out, as we no longer have an officer dedicated to do this.

Unfortunately this means that there is no longer the capacity for PBC to support the Colne CSP, in the same way that we have withdrawn admin support to other non-statutory groups over the years. Apologies for any inconvenience this causes, and I hope there is someone else in the group who can take on the role.

Thanks again for bringing this to our attention and sorry there isn’t a more positive response to this.”

Chair expressed his extreme concern that the local Borough Council seems unable to generate 30 minutes of administrative effort on a monthly basis to support the residents and businesses of Colne and District. The argument that other districts are not afforded this is specious because currently there is no volunteer prepared to undertake the management of a locality group elsewhere. The value of this group to resident organisations in Colne is inestimable and it benefits the Borough by diverting complaints that should go elsewhere, away from busy Council Officers and likewise for the Neighbourhood policing team.. Often knowledge within the committee is able to solve issues without them going further and to withdraw support for the group is a dereliction of duty to residents and businesses.

The group expressed their agreement. Councillors present indicated their agreement and will pursue this and also look at alternative sources of support. In the meantime Chair will circulate agenda and minutes to those with email addresses but he expressed concern that those without internet connection were effectively disenfranchised by the Borough Officers’ action.

8. Any Other Business

The question was asked of Councillors about the future of Langroyd Hall. Councillors explained that it was due to be aired at that evening’s meeting.

Next Meeting – 6th July 2023 at Colne TH, 5-30 pm.

Tel 07979 906975 (jerrystanford@btinternet.com)

SPAM REPORTS FROM LCC - Consumer Alerts – June 2022

Cold callers offering UPVC cleaning.

Beware doorstep callers offering to clean and restore the external plastics of your house. An elderly resident in the East of the County agreed to the services only for the job to suddenly escalate, with alleged roofing problems being found that were going to increase the price. Luckily a neighbour stepped in, and the householder did not lose money to the pushy cold callers.

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

Banking scam

Lancashire residents have been targeted by a banking scam. A text is initially received requesting that a number is contacted urgently. The scammer claims to be from the National Anti-Fraud Unit, gives a London address, and appears to have access to potential victims' phone numbers and some banking details.

On making contact, the scammer advises they believe your bank account has been compromised, and not to mention the conversation to anyone as they were trying to draw out a criminal. You will be instructed to withdraw cash and send it in a padded envelope via special delivery at a Post Office to a London address.

HMRC telephone scam

Beware receiving a telephone call alleging to be from HMRC. Initially an automated voice states you have been involved in a fraud scheme and takes you through to a representative who asks for personal details. The Lancashire resident targeted with this scam questioned the representative who became aggressive, threatening the police would turn up at their house and possible arrest if they did not provide the details.

Energy rebate scam

Beware receiving an email claiming to be from Ofgem stating 'You are eligible to apply for energy rebate', giving a short deadline for when you are required to apply by. Action Fraud received 752 reports in four days relating to fake emails purporting to be from Ofgem. The emails state the rebate is as a result of a newly announced government scheme. The links in the emails lead to genuine looking websites that are designed to steal your personal and financial information.

Scam 'job offer' text

Never respond to an unsolicited text offering an online job that you can do from home. One such text received by a Lancashire resident claimed there were no fees, no experience needed and promised a weekly salary of £980 plus. In many cases such texts provide a link that takes the recipient to a Whats App page.

This phishing scam may try and lure you into paying money for training or for checks required before being given the job. Bank details to receive your alleged salary along with other personal details will be asked for.

Details of phishing scams can be forwarded to the National Cyber Security Centre at report@phishing.gov.uk

Contact the Trading Standards Service via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0800 223 1133