

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Colne and District Community Safety Working Group
held at Colne Town Hall on Thursday 7th December 2023
Jerry Stanford – in the Chair**

Cllr D. Cockburn-Price	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr S. Cockburn-Price	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr K Salter	Pendle Borough Council & Foulridge Parish Council
T Horsley	Pendle Borough Council
Cllr A Sutcliffe	Pendle Borough Council & Lancs CC
Cllr A Mann	Colne Town Council
Cllr D Lord	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
K McNulty	Resident
Anthony Chamberlain	Colne Town Council
PC Tom Schofield	Police NPT
Cllr Kieran McGladden	Pendle Borough Council
Roger Whitehead	Resident

Some people omitted – could they please let me know so they can be added to the list.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Jerry Stanford welcomed everyone and thanked them all for their attendance. There were apologies from Barry Hodgson, Mary Peden, Aneesa McGladdery

2. Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of 2nd Nov were approved as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Police Matters:

A brief update was provided by PC Schofield in respect of the outstanding actions, including the Birtwistle Ave flasher whose activities have now been stopped.

Anthony:

Actions from special meeting on Ellesmere Ave issues were described and showed a productive and successful meeting. A camera has been provided to catch any future activities, a leaflet has been prepared and circulated, NPT are making regular patrols and another meeting is planned.

Ash:

Action on Linden Rd issue, - new lines have now been painted solving the issue.

4. Matters of Concern:

XXXXX – An epidemic of graffiti seems to have broken out notably on bus shelters and walls; residents are asked to advise if they see any of it taking place in order to identify the culprit and the NPT are asked to use CCTV to attempt to identify.

Harassment has again arisen at an address in Skipton Old Rd; action is being taken to ameliorate it.

Red Lion Car Park has been left with mess and things seem to be occurring in a recess; PBC advised.

XXXXX has again been parking his car on the pavement at Cleveland St. Difficult to stop.

XXXXX – A gang has been raiding addresses in Foulridge and elsewhere in attempts at Hanoi Style car key robberies. Believed to be West Yorkshire, and Police actively pursuing.

Lady XXXXX being visually harassed by a male. Cannot be considered a crime, but will be dealt with via other issues.

XXXXX – Shop selling cannabis to youngsters – Trading Standards advised and taking action.

XXXXX - Youngsters taking risks climbing on existing scaffolding (Cllr Robinson)

Other youngsters harassing market stalls on Market day. NPT aware.

Millenium Park and Burnley Rd bins being pushed over.

XXXXX – Break-in in Peter St – NPT aware.

5. Crime Report

Nov 2023

Tom Schofield gave the following crime report, noting that these were again a strong set of results. He went on to describe the actions they were taking to address those few spikes including Op. Defender where they visit the victim and pursue the CCTV trail from the area.

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	1	3	0	6	0	0	1	3	0	4	3	16	+13
Burglary – Commercial	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	+4
Burglary Non-dwelling													
Vehicle Crime	7	6	6	10	1	2	2	1	0	1	16	12	-4
Assaults	10	6	14	10	2	2	2	5	2	0	30	23	-7
Theft	12	5	4	18	2	3	13	8	1	0	32	34	+2
Arson/Criminal Damage	2	6	2	11	0	0	1	6	0	0	5	23	+18
All Recordable Crime	39	27	35	49	7	7	30	24	6	5	117	112	-5

6. Business Community Safety Group Report

No Report

7. CYAG Update

Furniture, potted plants purchased and the kitchen almost complete at Byron Rd, awaiting the splash-back. Holiday provision has been increased following further funding. Working closely with schools to help those youngsters getting into trouble. More whips have been planted around the boundary. Thanks to LCC for providing soil for the planters.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting – 11th January 2024 at Colne TH, 5-30 pm.
Tel 07979 906975 (jerrystanford@btinternet.com)

Consumer Alerts December 2023

Beware roofing scammers.

Rogue roofers are taking advantage of Lancashire residents worries and concerns about leaking roofs over the winter months. An older resident in Leyland was cold called by roofers stating the roof tiles needed some attention. Worried about leaks the householder agreed, giving an initial deposit of £1500 for materials. The work then began to escalate to an alleged roof being required, luckily no further monies were given.

In the Morecambe area a resident thought some property repair workers had come to finish off a small repair carried out in the summer months. This wasn't the case, the property repairers stated the repair could not be carried out as part of the roof was rotten, escalating the price of what had already been paid by another £12,000 to enable the work. Luckily a neighbour intervened before all the money was paid.

A Colne resident requiring a small roof repair put his job on an online trader platform. They quickly received a phone call from an interested trader who came round to look at the job, saying he could do it for a discounted rate there and then. The householder paid just under a £1000, with no repairs carried out to the roof tiles as had been agreed, and other minor repairs done badly.

Reputable roofers can be difficult to get hold of, especially at this time of year. Trading Standards advice is to always to use known local traders, shop around and get 3 quotes from different and independently sourced traders. Always ask for a quote in writing before making any decisions. Never feel pressurised into using cold callers or into making hasty decisions for a supposed reduction in price.

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

Romance fraud

After dealing with a spate of romance frauds, each of which has caused losses of many thousands of pounds to the victims, Lancashire Trading Standards is warning about online dating scams. You may think you have met the perfect person, when in reality they are gaining your trust before taking your money.

Warning signs include: a quick declaration of love; they ask you not to talk to others about the relationship; they claim to be based abroad so you cannot meet in person; once you are getting on well, they start asking for money for medical or rental emergencies, or so that they can save for air fares to come and see you.

Our advice is to take time to think, don't let yourself be rushed, don't make bank transfers, or send vouchers to anyone you have met in this way. Talk to friends or family if you are worried.

Further information can be found at www.actionfraud.police.uk and at www.Crimestoppers-0rg.uk.

Purchase fraud/ online shopping scams

With the festive season nearly upon us, avoid getting caught by fake social media listings or fake websites who try to trick you into paying for goods or services that don't exist. Such scams often offer DIY equipment or electronic devices at very low prices to tempt you.

Check for poor spelling or grammatical errors on websites, often contact details can be missing. Is there a sense of urgency about buying the goods so that you don't miss out? Be suspicious if payment is wanted by bank transfer rather than using the online platform's secure payment options.

Remember, for purchases over £100, paying by credit card will provide greater protection. If you think you have been scammed, always contact your bank or credit card company.

Report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Scam parcel delivery texts and emails

At this busy time of year make sure you keep track of online orders and parcels that you are expecting to be delivered to your home. Be on the alert for scam texts or emails claiming to be from a delivery company to reschedule or pay additional delivery fees, or false tracking information being given for parcels that never arrive. Often the main aim of this scam is to attempt to obtain your personal information or bank details.

Scam emails can be reported via report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages can be forwarded to 7726.

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

Further information about current scams can be found on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/StanleyDards/