

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Colne and District Community Safety Working Group
held at Colne Town Hall on Thursday 27th March 2024
Jerry Stanford – in the Chair**

Cllr David Cockburn-Price	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr Sarah Cockburn-Price	Pendle Borough Council & Colne Town Council
Cllr Alice Mann	Colne Town Council
Cllr Barry Hodgson	Trawden PC
Cllr Anthony Chamberlain	Colne Town Council
Cllr Ian Robinson	Colne Town Council
Tim Horsley	Community Safety Officer, PBC
Kevin McNulty	Resident
Mary Peden	Resident
Cllr Michael Moffitt	Colne Town Council, W R G
PC K Lydiatt	NPT

1. Welcome and Apologies

Jerry welcomed everyone and thanked them all for their attendance.
There were apologies from, D Lord, C Emmett, R Whitehead, A Sutcliffe
The Minutes of 7th March were corrected to show Alice Mann's apologies, and membership of CYAG to be more than 350 and were then approved as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

Police Matters:

Update from Sgt Emmett:

Break-in at XXX - PC Laura Dawe did a comprehensive investigation on this for the first break. CCTV was checked and a CCTV trawl conducted yet offenders were not picked up. I believe CSI may have some forensic evidence which our taskforce department are trying to progress with a possible offender. (This later shown to be indistinct.) The second incident has been re-visited by Ivan and the owner provided with the relevant re-assurance. Ivan had a conversation with the CCTV operator and was told the cameras were not working at the time of the offence. They are clearly back up working now.

We have had a few incidents in the TC including the market-place break-in, yet not to a point where we are unduly worried where someone is on a crime spree. We will look to do some plain clothes work in the coming weeks, but rest assured our taskforce, targeted crime team and NHP team are all looking at burglaries currently.

PC Kai Lydiatt commented – a person from XXX has now been arrested; the graffiti offender has yet to be discovered but no recent offences detected.

XXX – Patten Gardens progress has been made with residents with help from NPT and Town Council and it is hoped residents will now take ownership to tidy and manage the area.

XXX – Progress on Together Housing discussions regarding the Byron Rd Community Centre car park. No progress has yet been made. Chair commented that four slots are now permanently occupied by containers. Action – Ash to speak to Neighbourhood Housing.

3. Matters of Concern:

XXX – Lighter evenings are encouraging youths from Colne to come down to Trawden on electric scooters and create ASB. **Action** – NPT to try and identify and pursue offenders.

XXX – a sequence of potholes has been frequently reported to LCC; these are reportedly being caused by the reporting person and are being dealt with by Ash.

XXX - Gangs of youths are congregating in the evening outside the shop in Green Rd and causing ASB. **Action NPT**

XXX – Reported that the residents' carpark at Matthews Close in Waterside which has no protective barrier at the lower edge and cars, recently, have rolled down the steep grass. **Action PBC** in discussion with builder. Chair to contact.

XXX - Whilst litter-picking with children from West St School a bag and a wallet were found. The latter had a driving licence in for a man living in Burnley, but there has been no robbery reported.

At ...XXX... following tenancy to the houses, serious disagreements have occurred between residents including damage to vehicles and houses; further, the area has been despoiled with litter and lack of respect for the surroundings which were designed to be attractive. An electrical unit has been apparently damaged by someone nearby, and PCSO Ivan has arranged for anti-climb paint to be applied by the company.

Action – Sarah to arrange next steps to restore order with the necessary organisations.

XXX – reported minor infractions including dog-fouling on Shaw Rd and potholes. Chair suggested the potholes be reported to LCC on-line. More seriously the pedestrian crossing lights on Burnley Rd near Phillips Lane go off phase in the evenings. **Action - Kevin** to report on-line to Highways.

4. Crime Report Mar 2024

Sgt Emmett comments – “there doesn't appear to be any major exceptions. Barnoldswick violent crime is slightly elevated compared to March last year yet can likely account for that for the change in crime classifications as discussed last month. On the Colne side we have the commercial burglaries in the town centre which we are currently investigating, again discussed elsewhere. PC Lydiatt commented that the recent arrest of two prolific offenders has already had an improvement in burglary figures.

Incident	Waterside EG1/2/3		Horsfield EG5/6/7		Colne Rural EG4		Vivary Bridge EG/8/9/10		Foulridge EG11		Total		Plus/ minus
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
Burglary – Residential	3	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	0	0	10	7	-3
Burglary – Commercial	0	2	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	6	+3
Burglary Non-dwelling	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	+1
Vehicle Crime	6	1	1	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	7	=
Assaults	22	9	18	10	1	2	10	16	0	0	51	27	-24
Theft	16	6	4	10	0	0	11	3	1	1	32	20	-12
Arson/Criminal Damage	6	6	9	3	0	3	4	6	0	0	19	18	-1
All Recordable Crime	75	33	55	47	7	9	42	38	2	2	181	129	-52
All Recordable Crime – YTD	156	151	146	159	34	41	107	137	12	10	455	498	-43
Hate Crime	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	4	=

1. Business Community Safety Group Report

No report. Meeting was held at Sainsburys to discuss progress in reducing ASB. Sainsbury's have suffered 680 abuse of staffs reports and over 300 thefts which they are working to improve with support of the NPT and CYAG. Another meeting is planned for mid May.

.CYAG Update

Horticultural activities are developing, with the planters being set up with various herbs. The HAF holiday activities are taking place, fully subscribed along with PCC-funded events, and due to demand extra funding and volunteers have been found to allow a further ten places.

The building improvement is nearing completion with only the music room and the shower room to do. The solar panels are working reducing requirement for electricity.

The website has been updated and the orchard is making progress, with gifts of hedging whips and young trees.

Any Other Business

There was no further business.

Next meeting is on 9th May at 5-30 pm

Scam reports will follow when available.

The following may of interest:

Data from Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, shows that **22,530 people** reported that their online accounts had been hacked in 2023, with victims losing a total of £1.3 million.

How are accounts hacked?

On-platform chain hacking

This is when a fraudster gains control of an account and begins to impersonate the legitimate owner. The goal is to convince people to reveal authentication codes that are sent to them via text. Many victims of this type of hacking believe it's a friend messaging them, however the shared code was associated with their own account and the impersonator can now use it to access their account. Usually when an account is taken over, fraudsters monetise control of the account via the promotion of various fraudulent schemes, while impersonating the original account owner.

Leaked passwords and phishing

The other predominant method of hacking reported is leaked information used from data breaches, such as leaked passwords, or account details gained via phishing scams. This becomes prevalent as people often use the same password for multiple accounts, so a leaked password from one website can leave many of their online accounts vulnerable to hacking.

How to secure your accounts

- **Use a strong and different password** for your email and social media accounts. Your email and social media passwords should be strong and different from all your other passwords. Combining [three random words](#) that each mean something to you is a great way to create a password that is easy to remember but hard to crack.
- **Turn on 2-Step Verification (2SV)** for your email and social media accounts. [2-Step Verification \(2SV\)](#) gives you twice the protection so even if cyber criminals have your password, they can't access your email or social media account. 2SV works by asking for more information to prove your identity. For example, getting a code sent to your phone when you sign in using a new device or change settings such as your password. You won't be asked for this every time you check your email or social media.

If you live in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, victims of fraud and cybercrime should report to Police Scotland on 101.

If you receive a suspicious email, you can report it by forwarding the email to: **report@phishing.gov.uk**.

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: Gov.uk/stopthinkfraud

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service have joined together with three local councils from Chorley, Bolton, and Blackburn with Darwen along with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire Police and Greater Manchester Police, using legal powers to protect the environment and prevent wildfire devastation on moorland.

A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for parts of Chorley, Darwen and Bolton came into force on 21 August 2023 to prevent devastation to wildlife and reduce the risks of wildfire on the moors.

Representatives from the authorities gathered on the site of the PSPO this week to raise awareness of the new order and to encourage people to stay safe when in the area and not use any instruments which can cause devastating fires.

The PSPO bans any activities on moorland that carry a significant risk of causing wildfires - such as lighting barbeques, building or lighting campfires or camping stoves, lighting fireworks, or setting off night-sky paper lanterns.

Moorland fires are difficult to control. At the time of the Winter Hill fires in this same area in 2018, over 100 firefighters and more than 20 fire engines were tackling the blaze, supported by soldiers, volunteers from local mountain rescue teams and a helicopter from United Utilities.

Breaching the PSPO is a criminal offence and could result in a fine of up to £1,000.

Matt Hamer, Area Manager at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "Lancashire knows only too well the devastating effects of wildfires following a fire on Winter Hill near Bolton in summer 2018,

which destroyed 18 square kilometres of moorland, and a large fire started by a disposable BBQ on Darwen Moor in 2020.

“As spring approaches, we start to see an increase of calls for moorland and grass fires as the warm and dry weather begins, and the direct impact of wildfires upon our communities can be massive and can tie up critical emergency service resources.

“We fully support the PSPO and will continue to work with the councils and our partners to protect Lancashire’s great outdoors so everyone can enjoy it safely.”

STREETSAFE

Have you heard about StreetSafe?

It’s an online tool where you can anonymously tell us of locations where you feel unsafe, regardless of whether a crime has taken place. This will help us identify areas of concern across the county and we’ll use this information to assess measures, actions and initiatives to make our streets safer for everyone.

Find out more here: <https://www.lancashire.police.uk/help-advice/personal-safety/street-safe/>

Please note – this tool is not for reporting incidents. To report crime call 101 or 999 in emergencies.

PARKING QR Scams

I wanted to bring to your attention an alert regarding a fraudulent QR code parking payment scheme that is targeting motorists.

Recently, there have been reports around the country of scammers placing fake QR codes on parking meters. These QR codes lead unsuspecting drivers to unauthorised payment sites where they are prompted to input their personal and financial information. Unfortunately, this has led to instances of identity theft and financial loss.

To safeguard yourselves and others from falling victim to this scam, I urge you to take the following precautions:

- 1. Verify QR Codes:** Before scanning any QR code for parking payment, carefully examine it for authenticity. Look for any signs of tampering or irregularities.
- 2. Use Official Payment Methods:** Stick to using official payment methods provided by legitimate parking authorities or apps. Avoid making payments through unfamiliar QR codes or websites.
- 3. Stay Vigilant:** Be on the lookout for any suspicious behaviour around parking meters, such as individuals tampering with them or loitering nearby.
- 4. Report Suspicious Activity:** If you encounter any suspicious QR codes or witness suspicious behaviour related to parking payments, please report it to the authorities immediately.

By staying informed and vigilant, we can collectively combat this fraudulent scheme and protect ourselves and others from falling victim to financial scams.

Kind regards,
Lancashire Partnership Against Crime