

SOUTH CAMBS CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO: Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Board

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to
 - (a) update the CDRP with regard to Neighbourhood Panel developments that have occurred over the past year,
 - (b) provide members with a summary of issues that have arisen at recent panel meetings.

Background

2. There are seven neighbourhood panels in South Cambridgeshire, covering five police neighbourhoods. The first South Cambridgeshire panel meeting took place in early 2006 in the Histon neighbourhood and all panels are now well established. The seven panels are:
 - Histon
 - Sawston
 - Linton
 - Swavesey
 - Comberton
 - Gamlingay
 - Bassingbourn and Melbourn
3. The panels cover a wide range of issues, which require action from various agencies. The South Cambridgeshire panels have predominantly been police led both during meetings and in taking forward actions, stemming from the Government's requirement on the police to consult with the public and allow them to have a say and influence the setting of priorities for their area. There is a great deal of variety across the district; some panels are well attended and vibrant, others less so.

Panel Developments

4. On 2nd December 2008 Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) gave a commitment to engage more fully in neighbourhood panels across the county. Officers have been nominated to each of the neighbourhood panels in the district; they are required to represent the whole council rather than their specific team. The County Council's Cabinet also agreed a basic set of minimum principles that it would like panels to be governed by:
 - (a) A primary role for locally elected members from all tiers of local government;
 - (b) Substantial time allowed for open questioning from the public;
 - (c) Time set aside for Neighbourhood Policing issues; and
 - (d) 'Bottom-up' agenda setting.

5. The Local Strategic Partnership, following a recommendation by the District Council, agreed to consult all panel areas from August 2009 to March 2010 to establish if there was an appetite for extending meetings to cover other topic areas as well as those relating to community safety. The response from those attending the panels was strongly in favour of the panels remaining in their current format. Responses from people who do not currently attend panels were more varied about the issues they would like to be able to influence, however, many stated that they were unlikely to attend panel meetings for whatever issue.
6. Since the consultation the following recommendations were accepted by the Local Strategic Partnership and are currently being implemented:
 - (a) Include a definition of community safety on neighbourhood panel agendas and include these topics specifically in panel terms of reference to be published on the SCDC website, with copies available at all meetings.
 - (b) Reflect partnership working in panel branding and ensure LSP and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership banner pop-ups are displayed at each meeting.
 - (c) Include a regular agenda item of Local Consultations at neighbourhood panels, which will enable partners to highlight and/or present consultations as appropriate.
 - (d) Suggest that relevant partners consider alternative methods of involving residents in discussions and/or decisions about community and youth facilities.
 - (e) Ensure wider advertising of panel meetings in parish magazines and on the SCDC website, plus posters with a year of dates in local venues (updated in January each year).
 - (f) Review the Linton Neighbourhood Panel boundary in order to try to address the “inconvenient” nature of the geography (i.e. Horningsea), which is reflected in the consultation findings as well as attendance at panel meetings.
7. The District Council has also committed to senior level officer representation at panel meetings, which began in January 2010.
8. Informal conversations have recently occurred on a county level with NHS Cambridgeshire to consider their involvement with panels across the area.

Panel Priorities

9. Appendix A shows the priorities set at the last two meetings for each of the seven panels. The priorities, in the main, relate to anti-social behaviour (17 of 40) or road safety (9 of 40)¹.
10. Actions are either taken forward by an individual organisation or in partnership through the CDRPs task groups, as appropriate.
11. The agenda for each meeting includes an opportunity for attendees to hear feedback about what action has occurred and comment upon whether they feel there has been an improvement since the priority was set.

Recommendations

12. The CDRP Board is recommended to note the content of the report.

¹ Some priorities can relate to more than one category.

Bassingbourn and Melbourn Panel	20/10/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In liaison with British Transport Police, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour linked to the railway stations at Ashwell, Foxton and Shepreth. Includes vandalism, thefts and anti-social parking. Continue with the anti-social behaviour reduction plan in place at High Street, The Moor and Vicarage Close, Melbourn. Reduce anti-social behaviour in the Shepreth village. 	ASB ASB ASB
	19/01/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackle anti - social behaviour affecting the Burtons, Meldreth. Improve community contact with Guilden Morden, Abington Piggots and Bassingbourn parishes. Tackle road safety issues to include speeding issues in Fowlmere Road, Heydon, Tadlow B1042, Ashwell Road, Guilden Morden, The Causeway and North End, Bassingbourn and in Steeple Morden. Parking obstructions outside the Fish and Chip Shop, High Street, Melbourn. 	ASB Engagement Road safety Parking
Comberton Panel Priorities	18/11/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue targeted traffic enforcement in order to reduce all traffic offences including speeding, use of mobile phones when driving and lack of insurance/tax; focusing on Hinds Lane and Green End in Comberton. Traffic enforcement to be carried out on The Green, St Neots Rd and Potten End in Eltisley. In Barton, enforcement to be carried out on the 30 mph areas in Comberton Rd and Haslingfield Rd. 	Road safety Road safety Road safety
	24/02/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address road safety concerns on A428 at its junction with Eltisley and Croxton. Address anti-social behaviour in Caldecote. Introduce preventative measures to tackle anti-social behaviour in villages linked to the bus route between Comberton and Cambourne. 	Road safety ASB ASB
Gamlingay Panel	21/10/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime and anti-social behaviour in the area of Mill Street, Stocks Lane and Church Street, Gamlingay. Anti-social use of vehicles across the neighbourhood to include parking issues in Gamlingay and Harston and speeding in Arrington, Longstowe and Harston. 	ASB ASB & road safety

	<p>20/01/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft of cycles from sheds in Gamlingay. • Anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in Orwell. • Tackle road safety issues to include speeding in Harston, Hauxton, Hillside, Orwell and B1042 Lower Road, Croydon, A1198 Arrington. Parking obstructions in main street, Gamlingay outside the Co-op and outside Harston Post Office. 	<p>Cycle theft ASB Road safety & parking</p>
Histon Panel	<p>13/10/09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle anti-social behaviour at the Milton Community Centre and in adjoining streets. These include Coled Road and Froment Way. • Tackle anti-social behaviour including criminal damage in Water Lane, Histon. 	<p>ASB ASB</p>
	<p>12/01/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce anti-social behaviour in Capper Road, Waterbeach • Impact on road safety in Cottenham including parking and speeding issues in the High Street • Tackle graffiti in Cottenham 	<p>ASB Road safety & parking Crim damage</p>
Linton Panel	<p>15/12/09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal damage in Linton. • Address perceived lack in community confidence in policing in Linton. • Dwelling burglary in Teversham and Balsham wards. 	<p>Crim damage Confidence Burglary</p>
	<p>23/03/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement preventative measures to reduce the impact of seasonal anti-social behaviour across the neighbourhood. • Review existing procedures to manage traffic on the A1307 and surrounding villages in the event of a closure of the A1307. • Examine and respond as required to complaints of dangerous driving and excess speed on B1047 between Horningsea and Fen Ditton. 	<p>ASB Traffic mgmt Road safety</p>

Sawston Panel	04/01/10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce burglary of homes and other premises in the Abingtons ward (Gt Abington, Lt Abington, Babraham, Hinxton and Pampisford). • Tackle problems of obstructive parking in Station Road, Whittlesford. • To continue to work with partners to address concerns about speeding and road safety in Haverhill Road, Stapleford (County Council to lead). 	Burglary Parking Road safety
	06/04/10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement preventative measures to reduce the impact of seasonal anti-social behaviour across the neighbourhood. • Tackle road safety concerns to include excess speed and obstructive parking. 	ASB Road safety
Swavesey Panel	17/11/10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle anti-social behaviour associated with under age drinking in Swavesey and Fen Drayton. • Investigate and respond to issues of anti-social vehicle use in Gibraltar Lane, Swavesey. This includes excess speed, obstructive parking and inconsiderate and dangerous driving. • Investigate and respond to issues of obstructive parking in Varrier Jones Drive, Papworth Everard. 	ASB Road safety & parking Parking
	23/02/10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deal robustly with all incidents of anti-social behaviour in Swavesey. • Develop partnership working initiatives to reduce crime at Papworth Hospital. • Reduce crime and disorder in Longstanton. 	ASB Crime (general) Crime & ASB