

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Partnerships Review Committee held on  
Friday, 19 June 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ben Shelton – Chairman  
Councillor James Hockney – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: David Bard Henry Batchelor  
Kevin Cuffley Andrew Fraser  
Roger Hall Janet Lockwood

Councillor Sue Ellington was in attendance by invitation.

Officers: Mike Hill Health and Environmental Services Director  
Jean Hunter Chief Executive

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jose Hales.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

### **4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No public questions had been received.

### **5. POLICING, CRIME AND DISORDER**

The Chairman welcomed Chief Superintendent Dan Vajzovic and Chief Inspector James Sutherland from the Cambridgeshire Constabulary to the meeting. Charles Kitchen, Director of Public Engagement and Communications, and Rebecca Avery, Outreach Worker from the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office were also welcomed to the meeting.

The perception of crime amongst South Cambridgeshire residents was discussed:

- Whilst it was recognised that South Cambridgeshire was a very safe place, the Constabulary felt that awareness of crime and awareness of residents in protecting themselves and their property in some South Cambridgeshire villages, was too low. Operation Oaklands, which had focussed on tackling home and shed burglaries, continued to find that many residents were leaving their homes, vehicles and sheds unlocked.
- It was suggested that a cyber security message should be included in Operation Oaklands. The Chief Superintendent agreed to feed this back.
- Members were informed that the issues of most concern raised by residents at Police Neighbourhood Panels were parking, speeding and the 101 service and it was felt this reflected a lack of awareness amongst residents of the types of

- crime of which they were more likely to be the victim.
- Members were informed that South Cambridgeshire was safe and getting safer, with crime having fallen by just under 2% in the last year. Dwelling burglary had fallen by just under 5%.

Members were informed that it was likely that human trafficking and the exploitation of vulnerable people and immigrants was happening in the district:

- Work was being undertaken to raise awareness of these crimes so that local people would be more likely to recognise if this was happening in their areas and report suspected activity.
- An anti-slavery summit would be taking place in Cambourne in October 2015, in order to raise awareness of human trafficking. This would be hosted by the Police and Crime Commissioner's office in partnership with the Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Information regarding this would be circulated in due course and members were asked to raise awareness of this event through their parishes and any other networks. If this event was successful, a similar event could be held regarding child protection.
- Members were informed that there was a risk regarding houses of multiple occupancy and human trafficking, which Operation Puffin had been addressing. The operation had been supported by South Cambridgeshire District Council with Council Enforcement Officers involved in joint raids on properties.
- Members were informed that there were no brothels in South Cambridgeshire, however the potential for 'pop-up' brothels was a concern.
- The Director of Health and Environmental Services informed Members that houses of multiple occupancy was a service priority, with housing standards being checked and information being shared with the Police.

Reporting of crime was discussed:

- Members were informed that not all crime was reported but that where crime was reported, the Cambridgeshire Constabulary was adhering 100% to crime recording standards and the Chief Superintendent was satisfied that there was an ethical crime recording culture in Cambridgeshire.

Members were informed that speeding was taken seriously by the Police as this was a safety issue. A small team of special constables worked on speeding in small villages and there was a way for the public to report areas where speeding was a concern.

In response to a question about Automatic Numberplate Recognition (ANPR), Members were informed that South Cambridgeshire had a sufficient number of ANPR systems placed where they were needed.

Parking was discussed as this was raised as an issue of concern in most South Cambridgeshire villages:

- Members were informed that parking was not a Police priority. Investigating and preventing crime and keeping people safe was the priority. It was recognised that parking was a nuisance but prioritisation by the Police would not solve the issue.
- While it was recognised that there were no traffic wardens in South Cambridgeshire, PCSOs would not be used as traffic wardens.
- Options were being explored as to whether Speedwatch could be adapted to deal with parking as well as speeding.
- Members were informed that road traffic powers could not be delegated to anyone who wanted to volunteer as a traffic warden.

Police Neighbourhood Panels were discussed:

- Average attendance at these was poor at 20-25 people which was not felt to be representative, however meetings were now being streamed live on-line which had seen increased public involvement with 124 people logging in to watch the recent Neighbourhood Panel in Cambourne. As well as watching the meeting live online, members of the public could submit questions live via Twitter.
- Members felt that despite low turnout in person, the Neighbourhood Panels were valuable as organisations and groups sent representatives to these to feed information back to their groups. Members were assured that these would continue.

Burglary was discussed:

- Members were informed that the majority of burglaries were carried out by a small number of prolific burglars who when caught, would often admit to a string of burglaries for which there had been little evidence.
- When asked whether burglars were travelling into South Cambridgeshire and committing burglaries along the motorway corridors, Members were informed that it was likely that there was some clustering of crime around major roads.

The Constabulary budget was queried:

- Members were informed that the savings target by 2018/2019 was £17 million.
- The Chief Superintendent informed Members that with the decrease in the budget it was inevitable that headcount would reduce, however the Constabulary was confident it could continue to provide a service that met the needs of communities and protecting frontline policing was a priority.
- Working with other areas such as Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire as well as working with local authorities and utilising new technology, would be important in protecting frontline policing.

Cyber crime was discussed:

- Members were informed that the City of London took the lead on cyber enabled crime. Links with the Internet Watch Foundation were very good, with former police officers working for the IWF.
- Tackling cyber crime needed to be partnership led, with partnerships between the police, schools, parents and other organisations.
- Members were informed that the Safer Schools Partnership in Peterborough was being looked at, to see how this could be modelled in South Cambridgeshire.
- The Constabulary had a strong online presence. All PCSOs had been trained in social media and were all active on social media. PCSOs would also be proactively engaging with schools by having a physical presence in schools in order to build relationships with staff and pupils.

The potential vulnerability of mental health patients being treated in the community in Sawston was raised as a concern by a local member:

- Members were informed that Complex Case Teams had been established and maintained by the Constabulary and well trained and experienced police officers helped manage any issues with particular individuals with mental health issues in the community.
- There had been a fall in the complaints regarding anti-social behaviour relating to these cases, which suggested the Police's approach was working.

PCSOs were discussed:

- Members were informed that it was unlikely that having volunteer PCSOs would be possible due it not being possible to delegate some legal powers. Members

were informed that volunteers were being used by the Police in other areas, such as tasking vehicles in Cambourne, thereby freeing up officers' time for other tasks.

- Members were informed that it was not legally possible for Parish Councils to sponsor PCSOs for their villages. However, Members were informed that an effective way for communities to get additional services could be to have a budget to fund overtime working in order to have a dedicated resource.
- The reduction in PCSO's in Sawston was raised as a concern by the local Members. Members were informed that there had been a reduction in PCSO attention in Sawston due to vacancies in the Sawston sector. These would be filled, however Members were informed that there would be less visibility of PCSOs in villages as they would be undertaking other work in the community, such as visiting schools.
- The Chief Inspector assured Members that it was not thought there was a link between PCSO visibility and petty crime, and that South Cambridgeshire had never been as good as other areas with regards to PCSO visibility.
- The Chief Inspector assured Members that the Police did pay attention to petty crime and gave an example of a case of graffiti that was dealt with in Sawston.
- Members were informed that all Anti-Social Behaviour cases were reviewed every morning by the management team.

The local Member for Balsham made the Chief Superintendent and Chief Inspector aware that the Rehabilitation of Offenders programme caused concern in Balsham, particularly amongst the elderly residents when young offenders were taken around the village:

- It was requested that Parish Councils be informed of when this would be happening so they could inform their elderly residents.
- Members were made aware that the Probation Service ran this programme and Mike Hill would take this back to the Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- The Chief Superintendent advised that Parish Councils may consider asking the programme to task offenders with tasks that would be of benefit to the parish.

It was asked whether there was a connection between the number of rental homes and human trafficking:

- Members were informed that there was a risk around houses of multiple occupancy and that Operation Puffin had been addressing this. The operation had been supported by South Cambridgeshire District Council with Council enforcement officers involved in joint raids on properties. Members were informed that there were no brothels in South Cambridgeshire, however it was recognised that there could be 'pop-up' brothels operating out of hotels.
- The Director of Health and Environmental Services informed members that houses of multiple occupancy was a service priority, with housing standards being checked and information being shared with the Police.

In response to a question helicopter capacity, Members were informed that whilst there were fewer helicopters covering the service nationally, air capability was as good as the service also had fixed wing aircraft. The Chief Superintendent was satisfied that there was sufficient capacity.

In response to a question regarding helicopter capacity, Members were informed that while there were fewer helicopters covering the Police service nationally, there was sufficient air capability as this was also provided by fixed wing aircraft.

The Director of Health and Environmental Services provided an update on the South

Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The work of the CDRP and the priorities it had identified, were praised by the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

Charles Kitchen, Director of Public Engagement and Communications, and Rebecca Avery, Outreach Worker gave an update from the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner's office:

- Police officer numbers would be protected as much as possible.
- The PCC was looking at where volunteers could add value to the work of the Police.
- It was recognised that the overall visibility of the police concerned people. The PCC was working to increase visibility such as through the provision of contact points in communities, for example in supermarkets where police officers would be present during advertised time slots.
- Waiting times with the 101 service was a recognised problem. Improvements were expected with the recruitment of 10 new members of staff and the introduction of new technology.
- Members were informed that the Police and Crime Commissioner had good links with central government and Members should contact him with any issues of concern that should be raised.
- Engagement and communication with the public was discussed. The Outreach Worker attended parish council meetings on a regular basis and sought the best ways to communicate with them in order to keep them informed of police issues. Methods of engagement that already existed were tapped into where possible.
- Members were informed that small grants were available from the PCC and details of this would be circulated to Members. The grants supported projects that targeted young people and helped them to keep away from crime.

The Chairman thanked representatives from the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Police and Crime Commissioner's Officer for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

## **6. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The committee **NOTED** the update reports that had been received from members appointed to represent the Council on outside bodies.

Councillor Sue Ellington informed members that United Care Partnerships had taken over care of the elderly in the community. The service had already avoided a number of elderly admissions to A&E.

The Chairman thanked Councillors Ellington, Hunt and Bridget Smith for their updates.

## **7. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16**

The committee agreed it would look at bus services at its next meeting. Representatives from Stagecoach and the County Council would be invited to attend the meeting.

The new Cambridgeshire MPs would also be invited to a future meeting.

## **8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The August 2015 meeting date would be changed. A date for the next meeting to be held in September would be agreed outside the meeting.

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**The Meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.**

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