

**South Bucks Community Forum – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – Room 1 Burnham Park Hall**

**Chair:** Graham Young

**Attendees:**

- Graham Young
- Andrew Strathdee – Burnham NHW
- Jane Brown – Iver NHW
- Pat Bird – Burnham Parish Council
- Max Lipman - Resident
- Eva Lipman - Resident
- Claire Goodwin - Resident
- Paula Prince – Burnham Parish Council
- J Mulvihill - Resident
- O Mulvihill - Resident
- Bob Slater – Royal British Legion, Burnham
- Jackie Slater – Burnham Parish Council
- Alison Stevens - NHW
- Viv Nicholas - Resident
- PC Trevor Walker - TVP
- PS Rachel Dale - TVP
- Inspector Brendan Murray – TVP
- Ian Stacey – TVP (minutes)

**Apologies:**

- Naomi Arnold
- Katie Galvin

**Graham Young (GY)** opened the meeting with an explanation of the purpose of the meeting. There was an introduction from all persons present.

Burglary, speeding and anti-social behaviour were the previous set priorities. GY explained that Chiltern & South Bucks Council's Community Safety Team circulated a questionnaire to local residents to ask for their opinions on what the priorities of the local policing team should be.

The survey, which was completed by 98 residents, voted overwhelmingly in favour of residential burglary being the main priority (71%), followed by parking, ASB, littering, speeding and drug dealing all with similar results.

**Inspector Murray (BM)** explained the reason for the forum and its format. Police were obliged to consult public and partners. Generally, the priorities that the police believed to be important were similar to the public survey results. Often there were differences within the survey area of priorities. What is important in Gerrards Cross is not necessarily important in Dorney, for example.

**GY** asked that people encourage friends and relatives to complete the survey so a more representative picture of what people consider to be important can be obtained.

The separate youth survey showed more concern for violence against the person and sexual abuse.

**Question** regarding fly tipping at the rear of Burnham tip. The tip is earmarked for closure and it was felt that this would result in more rubbish being illegally dumped. It was suggested that anyone with concerns should go to the next Bucks CC meeting and express their feelings.

**BM** stated that it is not an area that police would lead on but can help, with residents, to deter offenders. It would be helpful if residents do continue to report fly tipping and photographic evidence is excellent. Fly tipping in Iver was thought to be a result of one or more organised groups of individuals.

**Question** regarding the parking around The Bishops Centre, Taplow particularly in Hag Hill Lane. Parking on the bends, causing obstructions and parking across drives. Residents find there is a lack of response from police and council. Double yellow lines in Hitcham Road will not help as the traffic will park in Hag Hill Lane.

**BM** Parking has been de-criminalised. There are very few offences that police or PCSO's can issue tickets for. Double yellow lines are not a police matter. If you ring the council ask for details of whom you are speaking. Get an email address. Send photos.

**Question** What can be done about drugs and ASB in and around Eastfield Road? There is usually a tremendous smell of cannabis, numerous cars day and night and when the weather gets better, young men, shirtless, drinking and just hanging around. They are not committing any specific criminal offences, but are intimidating to residents.

**BM** What we would be able to do is hold a Have Your Say meeting in and around the area. This would enable us to build up a picture of how residents feel, any intelligence and gather complaints. We could consider a closure notice under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Successive governments' have moved the police service away from dealing with drug offences. There is however, crime associated with drugs, knife crime, for example. There is very little reported knife crime in South Bucks.

**Question** Do police go into schools to speak about knife crime?

**Claire Annison** Claire introduced herself and her role. The answer to the question is yes, predominantly secondary schools. All junior schools have a PCSO attached to them and are pro-active re knife crime. It was suggested that it would be helpful for parents/grandparents etc for police to communicate their school strategies regarding knife crime in schools.

**Question** There are concerns regarding parking around schools.

**BM** Police are pro-active in advising parents in conjunction with the schools. PCSO's and officers regularly patrol around schools at opening and closing time.

**Question** What can be done regarding kids on motorbikes on footpaths?

**BM** Illegal riding and the like are what are called "found committing" by a police officer. So unless we are there at the time there is little we can do. However, if you have registrations, CCTV, mobile phone pictures then that can help. In recent Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) lots of vehicles without insurance were flagged up. Police wrote to the registered keeper to "advise" them that they did not have insurance and in 98% of case the vehicle got insurance.

Kissing gates were suggested to stop the bikes however these are not particularly good for child buggies and wheelchairs.

**Question** What can be done regarding mobile phones and driving?

**BM** Again, this a found committing offence but if officers see offenders and they can be stopped then the offenders are dealt with. A fixed penalty notice for this offence is now 6 points and £200.

**Question** Burglary. Is the rate high or is perception?

**BM** The burglary rate for South Bucks is very low. Obviously, if you are the victim then one is too many. South Bucks tends to suffer from burglars who are organised. As South Bucks is an affluent area it is attractive for criminals who steal to order. Offenders are generally from outside the area. A lot of times it is for high valued cars. The residential burglary figures have risen due to shed burglaries being counted as 'residential' rather than not.

We tend to hear more about burglaries than in the past with the use of social media. Four people were arrested two weeks ago for burglary. There have not been any burglaries since then.

The overall crime rate for Chiltern and South Bucks Local Policing Area is very low. Lots of crime is from Beaconsfield Service Station which tend to increase the crime figures. There is virtually no night time economy, so there are less reported assaults and anti-social behaviour.

**Question** There are concerns about door to door salesmen. Are they genuine?

**BM** Difficult to say. Nottingham Knockers usually say they have come out of prison and are trying to sell goods to make a living. This may be true it or it may be a way of finding homes suitable for burglaries. If there any issues dial 101.

**Priorities** Burglary, speeding and anti-social behaviour (drugs).

**Next meeting** Date and time to be arranged

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