



Working together for a safer
Chiltern and South Bucks

South Bucks Community Forum – 11th June 2019 – Fitzwilliam Centre, Beaconsfield

Chair: Graham Young

Attendees:

- David Quinton
- Andrea Essery
- Michelle Pratt
- Claire Windsor
- Andrew Strathdee
- Katie Galvin
- Jane Brown
- Vijay Desai (VD) PCSO TVP
- Ian Stacey NHPT admin officer TVP

Apologies: None

Introduction by Graham Young (GY). Explanation of forum purpose and legislation. GY explained that the on-line survey was a better indication of what is important to residents. There are normally 100-200 responses to the survey which is much more than attendance at the meetings.

Police report – Unfortunately, there was no one in attendance to give an overall view of the last three months for South Bucks but PCSO Vijay Desai was able to give an insight into issues around Beaconsfield.

Burglary is the top priority for South Bucks residents and the top priority for TVP. Often, houses with high value cars are targeted in order to steal the car keys. Police have put efforts into targeting roads where this has and is likely to occur.

Police have been working with banks to combat scams and other forms of theft. Often, fraudsters will telephone or email vulnerable or elderly people and either get their bank details or get them to go to their bank to withdraw money. In the past week, a Beaconsfield man withdrew £2000 so he could pay a man purporting to be from the Inland Revenue. Banks will ask discreet questions as to why they are withdrawing the money and if necessary contact police if they become aware of a vulnerable person trying to withdraw large amounts of cash.

Police along with other partners go into banks/building societies at least twice a month to give crime prevention advice.



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Shoplifting and theft from the person is on the rise in supermarkets. Often, offenders travel to Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross by train to steal in order to fund their drug habit. Not only will they steal valuable and easily sold items like meat, razor blades and alcohol, they will often try to steal purses and wallets. Vijay explained that many shoppers are distracted whilst shopping and police have been focussing on likely victims. The elderly are top priority and frauds and theft in general can have a detrimental effect on the lives of people.

Anti-social behaviour. Police are working with the local authority and housing associations to deal with a couple of problem families. Often it easier and quicker to remind tenants (if applicable) that their home may be under jeopardy if they or their children continue to misbehave. Four anti-social behaviour contracts (ABC's) have been issued recently along with conditions and curfews, which police regularly check.

Q. There was a question regarding parking on the pavements and leaving the engine of a car running whilst outside schools. VD explained that most parking enforcement was no longer the responsibility of police. Police do have the power to issue a fixed penalty notice to vehicles that have parked on the pavement that are causing obstruction and often do so. Regarding the road the questioner was referring to police are aware of the problem. The road has unrestricted parking.

Often, motorists park on the pavement to avoid blocking the road. Regarding leaving an engine running, provided the car is not unattended it is not an offence. It can however be anti-social.

Q. There was a question and discussion regarding 999 calls and non-attendance of police. The questioner was particularly concerned as she had been told to dial 999 in similar situations. **VD** apologised if the questioner did not receive the service she should have. Often, police do attend but do not always get back to the caller. He accepted this was bad practice.

There was a discussion regarding the closure of Beaconsfield/Burnham/Gerrards Cross Police Stations and the impact on police numbers. Could the concerns of this forum influence the cuts in police numbers? Graham Young suggested inviting Rt Hon. Dominic Grieve QC MP to the forum. Katie Galvin reminded attendees that there are 24 hour response teams as well as the neighbourhood policing teams.

Q There was a question regarding a recent traveller incursion in Burnham. Several caravans arrived, they were witnessed cutting the chain to the field with an angle grinder, police attended and no action taken. It took 12 days for the land owner to get them evicted. The questioner wrote to the Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC) office by email and letter and as yet to receive a reply. He wrote to the Rt Hon. Dominic Grieve QC MP the same time and received a reply the next day.

KG had knowledge of this incident and stated that there is a well-established traveller protocol between police and local authorities which was followed on this occasion. KG had the email from Inspector Murray documenting police action which was read out.



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The questioner felt disappointed that action had not been taken earlier to stop the incursion.

Regarding the lack of a response from the PCC's office it was suggested that he contacts the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel who are responsible for the oversight of the PCC and his office.

Priorities survey – the recent survey returned about 100 replies, which was down on the normal amount. (In fact, there were no replies from the Beaconsfield ward). There was general discussion on how the survey is circulated.

The number one concern was residential burglary with almost 70% regarding this as a priority.

There was a discussion as to the other two priorities. Drug dealing and theft from motor vehicles were the other two.

1. Residential burglary
2. Drug dealing
3. Theft from motor vehicles

Any other business – There was a discussion regarding stolen property at car boot sales and similar. The point was raised that if someone is regularly selling lots of power tools then surely this must be suspicious? This was answered by the fact that to prove theft the police must be able to identify who the real owner of the property belongs to and often this is difficult because there are no identifying features.

KG said that there are numerous tool marking events and she and her team work with the planning department and visit premises where builders are likely to be to encourage them to have their power tools and other marked.

VJ said that police regularly hold bike marking events to encourage owners to have their post code put on their bikes.

GY said he was concerned about the lack of response from the PCC and will look to get this escalated.

Representatives from Holtspur Housing would like to be part of the Anti-social Behaviour Action Team (ASBAG). Katie Galvin will deal.

There was discussion as to where the next meeting should be held. Two youth clubs were suggested in an attempt to get more young people involved. Often, their priorities were completely different to older residents.



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Andrew Stratthdee will look at dates for the September meeting at Burnham Youth Club.

Meeting closed 8-30pm



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