

MINUTES OF CHILTERN & SOUTH BUCKS POLICING ISSUES FORUM

Tuesday 29th March 2022, via ZOOM

In attendance:

Chiltern & South Bucks Policing Issues Forum: Andy Garnett (Chair), Graham Young (Vice-Chair), Robert Gibson

Thames Valley Police: Insp Richard Vine, Insp James Ellis, Sgt Roy Evans, Anisa Shaikh

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner: Matthew Barber

Buckinghamshire Councillors: Cllr Graham Harris, Cllr Qaser Chaudhury, Cllr Alison

Wheelhouse, Cllr Wendy Matthews, Cllr Patricia Birchley, Cllr Linda Smith, Cllr Peter Martin

Buckinghamshire Council: David Rounding, Matt Shutter

Residents: 24 - not listed in case of GDPR concerns

Inspector Richard Vine (RV) reviewed existing Neighbourhood Policing Focus areas and other policing matters.

‘Serious Acquisitive Crime’ had been set as a focus by reference to the combined results of the Buckinghamshire Council Community Safety Survey in October 2021 and the Forum’s survey in November 2021.

The Neighbourhood Policing team had participated in a number of proactive operations with other police teams, with a focus on the southern and eastern borders, since it is estimated that around 80% of miscreants come into the area from that direction.

Crime statistics:

On a rolling 12 months, domestic burglary is still down 20% compared to an 8% increase in Thames Valley Police as a whole. While the rolling average is likely to turn up in due course, there has been a consistent reduction over a 5-year period. This is attributed to resources and time devoted to the issue, with LPA Commanders being very supportive.

Also on a 12-month rolling basis, theft from motor vehicles is down 9%, but theft of motor vehicles up 1%, mainly due to keyless car theft.

Regarding **Anti-Social Behaviour**, RV mentioned positive outcomes from an operation to identify and target drug dealers in Chalfont St Peter.

House to house visits and ‘Have Your Says’ had been carried out to build public confidence.

Work by PCSO Jacqueline Day was singled out, diverting children with activity involving boxing.

In Chesham, a Public Spaces Protection Order has been extended for Watermeadow Car Park, and additional patrols made.

A lot of support in dealing with ASB comes from Buckinghamshire Council, and RV expressed gratitude to the Community Safety Team (CSP).

Re **SPEEDING**, RV shared data from across the Thames Valley from the new-look Community Speedwatch:

| | |
|---|-----|
| PEOPLE WHO HAVE JOINED NEW TVP CSW SCHEME | 635 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|---|------|
| SITES APPROVED ACROSS TVP | 413 |
| ROADSIDE SESSIONS IN HOURS | 735 |
| OPERATOR HOURS ACROSS TVP | 2057 |
| Percentage of NON re-offenders after receiving 1st letter | 95% |

RV explained that in Chiltern and South Bucks there had been problems in rolling out the training scheme for Police Officers, but in time ALL Neighbourhood Police officers will be trained to use the laser and will be asked to go out and support some of the schemes.

RV shared numbers of enforcements by camera vans and fixed cameras between December and February:

| | Dec | Jan | Feb |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|
| CAMERA VANS | | | |
| Chiltern | 236 | 262 | 125 |
| South Bucks | 137 | 337 | 97 |
| FIXED CAMERAS | | | |
| Chiltern | 443 | 105 | 10 |
| South Bucks | 0 | 190 | 359 |

Re **Rural Crime**, 46 visits had been made to farms to get sign-ups to Countrywatch Rural Crime Task Force had worked on 'Greenbelf' operation with Herts, multiple vehicles had been seized.

There had been DVLA operations around Chesham, with seizures, clampings etc

Inspector James Ellis (JE) added that spreadsheet auditing of all speed enforcement is being carried out and feeds into the Quarterly Updates from Neighbourhood teams.

Re ASB in South Bucks, working in Iver on an entrenched situation surrounding one particular family and its associates.

Active cases of trial bikes and motor cycles encroaching on private land is another theme.

With the merger of Chiltern & South Bucks and Wycombe LPAs, JE will take over as Inspector for the whole Chiltern & South Bucks Neighbourhood team.

- He will ensure delivery of high quality quarterly policing updates, distributed as widely as possible.
- He will be responsible for attending/communicating with the 7 Community Boards for the area, which is a larger number than any other Inspector across

Buckinghamshire.

- The CSB Policing Issues Forum is increasingly important as it offers the opportunity for efficient communication, and is reliant on representation by all Community Boards
- Supt Emma Burroughs is very keen that the Chiltern & South Bucks Neighbourhood team continues to deliver for residents.
- (in answer to a question), social media is a 'big key' for TVP, with details of operations - recommend following @TVP_ChiltSBucks (Twitter) and TVPChilternandSouthBucks (Facebook); also recommended Jane Brown's "Informed Ivers" weekly roundup of news and social media stories.
- JE also suggested that residents may wish to access presentations he has made to Community Boards in South Bucks. For example, presentation to Gerrards Cross, Denham and Chalfonts CB, Jan 2022: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLhj-YvQHIQ&t=296s>

Personnel issues: Hedley Gabriel had joined as Sergeant for the Beaconsfield and Burnham, Taplow & Farnhams team.

Our team of 8 Police Constables has been reduced to 7 by one retirement.

3 vacancies for PCSOs have opened up in Chiltern, partly because some have moved up to be PCs.

Matthew Barber (MB), Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

MB explained about his proposed Road Safety Summit on May 9th.

Road safety is a concern in many areas; the debate goes well beyond policing.

The Summit will bring together the Highways Authority, Highways England, representatives of various road user groups, as well as policing.

Some 'easy wins' may be possible to start with: there is a need to improve taking of third party reports (eg dash cams); measures to slow down traffic; look to overcome 'them and us' mentalities, eg motorists/cyclists.

Link to Community Speedwatch: there will be a bigger media launch as we come into Spring.

Rural Crime Task Force: has added capacity, expertise, equipment (eg drones) to capabilities.

Over £400k stolen equipment seized.

Proactive patrols. stopping vehicles potentially behaving suspiciously.

Joint operations with neighbourhood police officers helping spread knowledge.

Police Officer recruitment: Just approaching the financial year end, at the end of the second year of recruitment drive. Should be on course for an increase of 365 Police Officers vs 2 years ago.

As PCs are added, to an extent they cannibalise PCSOs as some PCSOs make the step to PCs, so still recruiting for PCSOs.

Knife Crime: serious violence across Thames Valley down 11% but homicides up. Over the past 3 years serious violence is down but each incident represents a tragedy.

Questioned whether all the powers that the Police have are being used.

Question: we hear from a couple of local Speedwatch groups that they are experiencing difficulty in 'converting' existing members, getting them to complete training etc. As a consequence, numbers dropping.

MB: understand that, but reiterated real benefits of new system, and benefit of volunteers understanding bigger picture. Keen to make volunteers feel 'more loved'.

Question from Cllr Qaser Chaudhury re need for more policing to solve drugs issue.

MB: credit to Police teams; where there is a need for systemic change, it's about putting Neighbourhood Policing at the heart of the community, well structured, strategic, intelligence led.

Also mentioned challenge of Neighbourhood Officers periodically needing to support Response Teams.

Question from Jane Brown re catalytic converter theft; Jane listed many of the harms, and asked how it can be moved up the policing priority list.

MB: problem not just catalytic converters, but also workmen's tools.

Stated that the Home Office is having a new focus on 'Neighbourhood Crime'.

Often catalytic converter theft linked to organised crime, and also to rural crime.

Looking for funding from Home Office for cat 'guards' and theft prevention devices with motion sensors.

RV added that at least once a quarter there is a Joint op with the Met and Herts Police focussed on organised crime, ops also with Surrey force and British Transport Police.

At least once a month there are operations across the Local Policing Area.

On a rolling 12 months, theft from vehicles is down 9%, including catalytic converter thefts.

5 of the Neighbourhood team's cars are now fitted with ANPRs and devices that pick up activations from ANPRs.

Question from Cllr Patricia Birchley re ASB in Chesham - why can more not be done about it?

RV explained the disparate nature of ASB. In relation to Chesham, there has been a problem with cars 'displaying' on Water Meadow car park - a Public Spaces Protection Order has been put in place and extended.

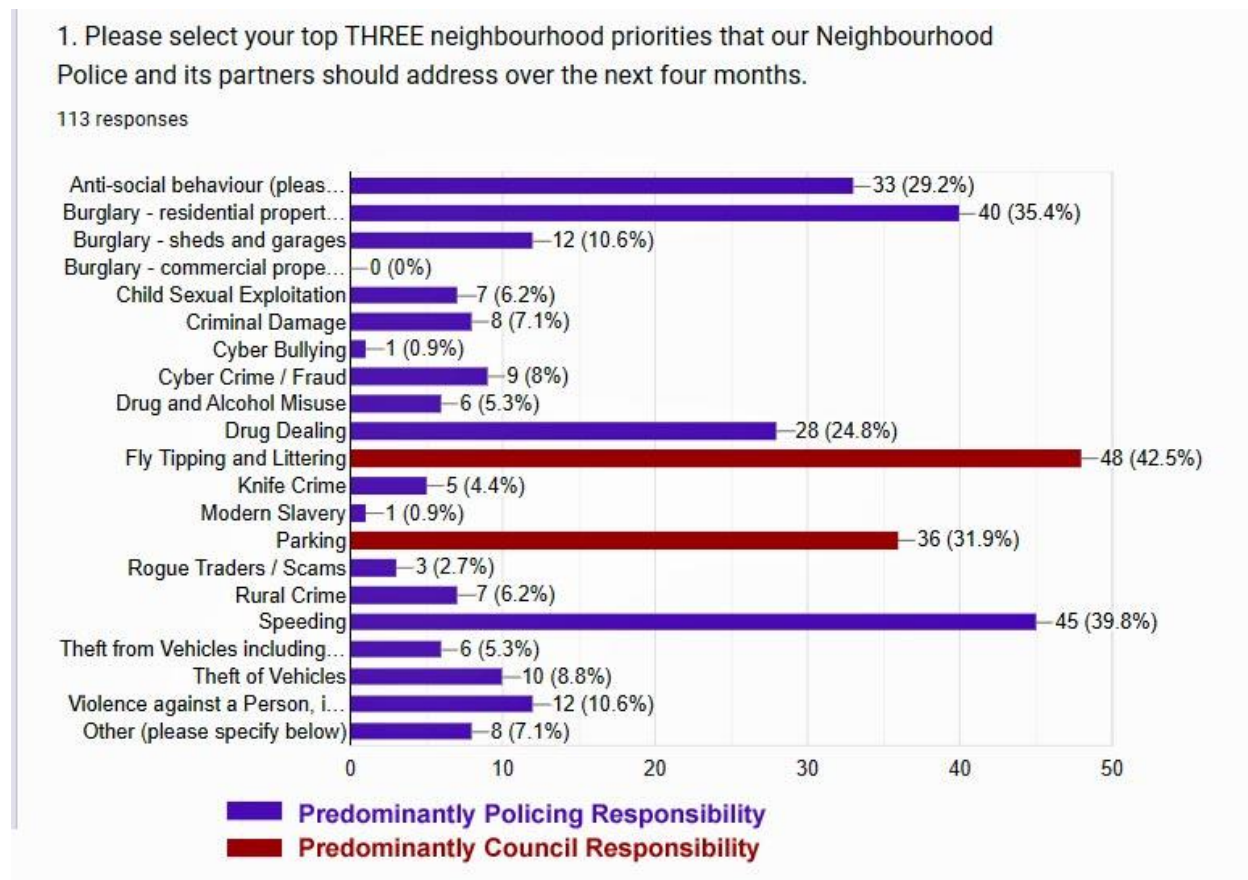
Cllr Birchley asked whether there is a connection between the drug problem and ASB. RV: "not particularly", though when problems arise from gatherings of youths, it is sometimes commented that there is drug taking.

Robert Gibson (RG) presented the data from the survey of concerns

RG said that in a world in which survey fatigue is a real factor, we had tried to make very clear that our survey was different to most: its results were taken forward very quickly and transparently into the discussion of Neighbourhood Policing focus areas, and once set, these focus areas go immediately into the worksheet and reporting schedules of Neighbourhood policing officers.

After a slow start, the survey had managed to obtain 113 responses, and for the first time, Fly Tipping had been voted the primary concern among residents. Leading concerns by Community Board had been unusually disparate.

The results of the survey are summarised by the following chart and table:



| Top Residents' Concerns by Community Board Area - March 2022 C&SB Forum Survey | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Amersham and Villages | ASB (55%) | Residential Burglary, Fly Tipping & Littering (46%) | |
| Beaconsfield & Chepping Wye | Parking (67%) | Speeding (44%) | Residential Burglary (39%) |
| Beeches | Residential Burglary (60%) | Fly Tipping & Littering (53%) | Speeding (33%) |
| Chesham and Villages | Drug Dealing (47%) | Residential Burglary, Speeding (35%) | |
| Denham, GX and Chalfonts | Fly Tipping and Littering (59%) | Speeding (41%) | Residential Burglary (36%) |
| Missendens | Speeding (55%) | Fly Tipping and Littering (40%) | ASB, Parking (35%) |
| Wexham and Iver | Fly Tipping and Littering (70%) | Parking (40%) | Theft from Vehicles (30%) |

David Alder (Neighbourhood Watch multi-scheme coordinator) asked whether any work is being done to correlate actual experience of crime, and crime stats, with survey results. MB commented that a project IS being undertaken by his office to pull together crime and council data, which will eventually have a front (presumably public) end as well as a back (admin) end.

JE also said that TVP is working on some management processes to map demand.

FLY TIPPING - the number one concern in the survey. David Rounding (DR), Chief Enforcement Officer at Buckinghamshire Council was present and had supplied an updated 'heat map' of prosecutions within Buckinghamshire which showed how badly the South of the County and LPA area is affected. DR had also supplied a recent presentation which included the following bullet points:

- Around 70% of waste dumped locally comes from outside the County, mainly London & Slough
- Two thirds of fly tipping is committed by professional dumpers, where someone has paid for their waste to be taken away and it is then dumped.
- Average total offenders pay at court is £1,875. Buckinghamshire Council receives over 70% of the investigation and clean-up costs for fly tips that are prosecuted at Court.
- Re-offenders are much more likely to be caught and will be at a higher risk of a prison sentence (to a maximum of 5 years)
- Over 90% of dumped waste is either trade waste (40%) or entirely free to dispose of at Household Recycling Centres. Charges at centres have had no impact on fly tipping. .

MB agreed that it was his understanding that charges at the waste sites had not really contributed to the fly tipping problem. He agreed that Buckinghamshire has a good reputation for investigation and enforcement.

It was also observed that while enforcement is Council led, the fly tipping team has a very active and close relationship with TVP.

John O'Keefe commented that there is probably an awful lot of shoplifting that is not reported by traders. JE said that often shoplifting may be a part of a bigger picture of ASB, and would be looking at the 'demand' picture going forward.

Neighbourhood Policing Focus Areas. These were not set, partly due to time, partly because there was not a quorum of a majority of Community Board Chairs or their delegates. Andy Garnett, Chair, has since written to the 7 Community Board Chairs with proposals, and asking for their inputs.