

NOTES OF THE NORTH BRISTOL CO-ORDINATORS MEETING

THE OASIS ACADEMY BRIGHTSTOW ON MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2013

Meeting commenced at 7.30

Apologies were received by Bristol NHW Network from 27 people unable to attend or to send scheme representatives.

Wendy Hull opened the meeting, welcoming everyone, conducting the housekeeping and introducing the guests:

Insp. Mark Runacres and Insp. Keith Rundle,

Liz Freeman from West of England Care and Repair and Barbara Franco a volunteer with Silverlinks

Sue Mountstevens - Police and Crime Commissioner

INSP. MARK RUNACRES : Understands that there are many inconsistencies across the City and the Force with the way Neighbourhood Policing teams engage with their Neighbourhood Watch schemes, which needs addressing on a Force level. Clarity has been reached now on what Neighbourhood Watch can expect to receive from your local Neighbourhood Policing teams.

Essential task which must be reached:

- 1 Co-ordinators must receive contact at least once a month by their preferred contact method
- 2 Information should go out as and when it happens regarding crime
- 3 Once a week information should go out giving general updates on what has gone on in the area.
- 4 Ringmaster system must be used to pass messages.

Desirable tasks

- 1 6 monthly co-ordinators meetings will continue and are considered important
- 2 Where possible individual scheme meetings will be attended by members of the Neighbourhood Partnership team if requested.

Local area updates:

SHIREHAMPTON

PCSO's Abby & Leanne established a business watch and are working with pubs to reduce crime levels.

Social Crime down 5% on this beat and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) statistics are static.

Avonmouth & Shirehampton Beat team recently won the Bristol Neighbourhood Policing team of the year. They are going forward to finals next Thursday.

SEA MILLS BEAT

Paul & Tess slight increase in crime and ASB. But overall crime levels low. ASB incidents up to 102 from 79 incidents in the same period last year.

The Sea Mills Beat and the Stoke Bishop Beat will be merged sometime between now and March 2014 as part of a wider review of the Policing Team structure. Both Beats have low levels of reported incidents.

LAWRENCE WESTON

Tom recently joined the team replacing Nathan, who is leaving to become a Police Officer in Cumbria.

Good news, Crime down 15% and ASB down 6% bucking the general trend.

PC Sean Underwood was named as Beat Manager of the year for the city, so will again be going forward to the Force awards next Thursday. As a result of his success he now has the opportunity again for temporary promotion and will be working down at Bridewell. Paul Cozens will be covering across to help out on the Lawrence Weston beat.

HENBURY & BRENTRY

Richard PCSO. Nick Merrick Schools Beat Manager for the Oasis Academy will be off work following a forthcoming knee operation, so PCSO Kim Wrixon will be helping out at the school.

Crime on this beat is down 13%, but there has been an increase of 9% on ASB which will be closely monitored to address this increase.

SOUTHMEAD

PCSO Phil Wilde moved to this beat recently from Lockleaze. Tony Hughes has moved to a post in the 'Troubled Families' team, which is government funded work.

Beat Managers Lee Pattison & Sean will remain here leading the team.

Good progress recently tackling ASB which although year to date is up 16%, this is down from a 35% high in the summer following specific targeting of the groups causing the problems.

Crime in general across the estate is down 3%.

HENLEAZE AND WESTBURY-ON-TRYM

Beat Manager Paula and PCSO Paula Perry . Good management of some complex neighbourhood disputes and offences.

Good crime reduction in Westbury-on-Trym, crime 14% down, but a increase in crime in Henleaze. Particularly significant has been the increase in thefts from shops. Also an increase in ASB. To combat these increases an addition PCSO is being moved across to help.

Toby who is in tutorship at the moment will be joining the two Paula's working on this beat in the next few weeks.

STOKE BISHOP

Beat Manager Paula and PCSO Claire Fisher – total crime down 12%. ASB up slightly, but volumes of crime generally low across this beat.

The Sea Mills Beat and the Stoke Bishop Beat will be merged sometime between now and March 2014 as part of a wider review of the Policing Team structure. Both Beats have low levels of reported incidents.

LOCKLEAZE AND HORFIELD

Lockleaze - Charlotte joined as new Beat Manager and has done some really good work on problem solving and ASB around Emerson Square.

Sunisa now returned from a career break & Katie Mullins has joined the team from Horfield.

Crime is down 15% and ASB down 11%

Horfield - PCSO vacancy at present. Total crime is down 9% and ASB down 6%.

Overall burglary in North Bristol down 39%. ASB has risen, but is now generally stable in Bristol and lower in North Bristol than elsewhere across the Force.

FUTURE FOR THE TEAM. Tackling ASB over Halloween.

Secured £6000 to organise engagement and diversionary activities for young people, working with Safer Bristol.

The Force is in the process of reviewing their structures. Termed as 'Operating model review'. Consultation is ongoing on PCC's Website.

INSP. KEITH RUNDLE – West Bristol. Positive outlook around crime overall, with the Total Crime figures showing 140 fewer offences (-7.1%)

Crime figures for the year to date in Bishopston, Cotham, Redland, Clifton, Clifton East

Dwelling Burglaries - 35 fewer offences (-17.6%) down to 164 this year from 199 during this period last year across the five beats.

14 fewer robberies (-45.2%), total down to 17 this year from 31 last year.

Theft of Motor Vehicles - 40 fewer offences (-40%) this continues to reduce year on year.

Theft From Motor Vehicles - 53 fewer offences (-19.8%)

Non Dwelling Burglary - 25 fewer offences (-18.2%)

Theft from the Person - 15 more offences (+75%)

Taking of a Pedal Cycle - 13 fewer offences (-8.2%)

Shoplifting - 26 more offences (+9.4%)

Insp. Rundle emphasised the crime reduction message with a story of a young lady who had her phone stolen, but had her phone tracking activated. This resulted in the phone being located and the offender apprehended.

£10,000 in funding was secured for a camera at Cotham Hill attached to the Council CCTV network – the request came from the local community groups and NH watches.

Methods of communication with Neighbourhood Watch groups is being reviewed.

LIZ FREEMAN – WEST OF ENGLAND CARE & REPAIR.

WE Care and Repair work with people who are over 60 and disabled people of all ages.

Work is carried out across Bristol, BANES, South Gloucester and North Somerset.

Repairs, leaky taps, fixing doors and broken locks, the erection of shelves etc. can be carried out in homes by CRB checked workers.

Roofing and electrical work can be arranged and expertise is available for more major building work. Providing basic services to people, helps them to stay independent for as long as possible. They can also project manage work. Teams of surveyors will work with project workers to help raise funds.

WE Care & Repair provide expert advice and practical help when people return home from hospital. Their Hospital Discharge Scheme arranges for any work to be done prior to discharge, if alterations within the home, are needed to enable the person to remain in their own home. Advice is also available when decisions whether to stay in their home or move to somewhere more suitable for their needs are being made.

They have a Home Share Scheme, where someone can have a room for free in exchange for 10 hours of work. This could be gardening, shopping or other necessary tasks.

A Home Design Centre is behind Gardner and Haskins, in Waterloo Street, St Phillips. This can be visited Monday – Friday. It's a walk through store like Ikea, with rooms laid out displaying items helping people remain independent. Phone 0300 323 0700 to book an appointment if you wish to see a fully qualified Occupational Therapist.

Silverlinks Pilot Project - Older volunteers work on a one to one basis with an elderly person. Each volunteer has had personal experience of having repairs or adaptations made to their homes, or have moved house, or have supported someone close to them to do so, so can offer first hand advice.

Two Co-ordinators spoke up and said they had used their services and were completely happy with the service and work that they had had done.

SUE MOUNTSTEVENS – POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Sue started her presentation by saying how amazed she was at the number of people attending the meeting, stating that this was possibly the most successful Neighbourhood Watch area across the whole of the Force area. She attends numerous meetings and constantly promotes Neighbourhood Watch, believing that it provides a really vital role, which is why she believes this type of meeting, where there is the opportunity to meet the local policing teams and share information is of paramount importance.

Back in November she stood for the role of PCC. She doesn't believe it should ever be a politically led role, politics should not play a part. She gave an over view of her background as fifth generation of the Mountstevens bakery family, her role for 15 years as a magistrate on the Adult, Youth and Family Bench., on the Monitoring Board of Bristol City and a member of the Police Authority. Sue feels the really important difference that this role has brought is that if the public don't like what she implements they have the ability to get rid of her in the next elections in May 2016.

Doesn't do - Anything operational, cannot tell officers directly what to do, where to go or who to arrest.

Does do – Appoints the Chief Constable and holds him to account, sets out the 5 year policing plan based on local priorities , sets the annual local precepts, the amount of our Council Tax which goes towards the police. This has remained the same for two years at £168. She now has three options : - to keep the precept the same and not increase it, to increase the precept 2% the equivalent £3.36 per year increase, or to increase it by 10%, equal to £16 per year. To take the 3rd option that would require a referendum which would cost £1,000,000. Sue is very happy to listen to which option people would prefer and asked for people to take part in her online consultation or contact her. Having had to make £35,000,000 over last 3 years she now has to make a further £15,000,000 over the next two years. 80% of her budget is people, if these cuts are on people alone it equates to losing 200 officers and PCSO's, when over 400 officers have already been lost since 2010.

Her remit has now been extended to cover the prevention of crime and the Criminal Justice System. Her most important role is to be your voice. To make sure that the Constabulary is listening to your views.

She has had over 5000 people contact her during the past 10 months, and encourages you to contact her to invite her to meet you or your group so your voice can be heard. Her statutory role is to do a Police and Crime Plan. She very aware that one size doesn't fit all. Policing is very different across areas of the Force, she therefore did 6 Police and Crime Plans, making it as local as possible.

The priorities she has set the police are:

1. Reducing the impact of Anti Social Behaviour,
2. Sexual violence against women and children. Not enough victims are coming forward, so the attitude of the police and the reporting procedures may need to change.
3. Burglary, the impact on people's lives is huge and can last for years.

She is putting victims at the heart of her plans.

She received a Home Office Grant of £2.4 million to fund community safety activities.

£10,000 has been given to ally gating projects to help prevent burglary

Sue has set up an action fund of £200,000 this year. Groups can apply for up to £5000 for specific local projects.

People told Sue that they didn't like the police investigating complaints against their own officers, so she recruited an independent resident's panel by advertising, to look at complaints. Our Police Force belongs to our community, therefore promoting openness and transparency is at the heart of her plans.

Business's have an important role in our success - a business crime forum has been established

For more consistency, a three year, rather than annual business plan is being worked towards with the Mayor.

Listening and responding to views, PCSO's have now been given the power to detain and to search outer clothing.

To conclude her presentation, Sue emphasised how importantly she views the role of Neighbourhood Watch groups, and that her role is to listen to what the residents of Avon & Somerset say. She encouraged everyone to contact her with any issues or good ideas they might have and to complete her consultation survey which can be accessed on her website.

WENDY HULL - BRISTOL NHW NETWORK (THE NETWORK)

Wendy was pleased to introduce Alison Simmons, the Co-ordinator who designed and developed the Website for The Network, also Keith Rodgerson who took the lead on the photographs for the calendar.. Samantha Hodder a Graphic Designer also a NHW Co-ordinator from Kingswood offered her services to design the calendar She thanked them for freely giving their expertise and time.

Early in 2013, sponsorship was sought to cover the production cost of the 2014 calendar, and NHW members were asked to submit photographs for inclusion. 253 photographs were submitted, many not suitable because of subject matter, orientation, poor quality or insufficient resolution to allow for enlargement. The Network committee had the final vote on the 13 photos needed.

Calendars went on sale at the end of August costing £2 again this year . All money raised will be used to support Bristol NHW schemes – **order forms for the calendar are on the website.**

Spring 2013 - NHW membership cards were re introduced and the membership card discount list updated. **Membership card order forms on the Website**

The icing on the cake for The Network and for the Avon and Somerset Constabulary – on 18th June two committee members won National recognition for their exceptional work in their communities. Liz Kew won the Environmental Award and Hazel Durn won the Community Engagement award. The awards were presented at The House of Commons.

On 11th July we held the Bristol NHW Network AGM at Police HQ. Our Constitution was reviewed and minor changes made. Officers and members of the committee were elected.

National NHWN achieved sponsorship for a supply of Roundal NHW window stickers. Avon & Somerset have been issued with 10,000, as a finite number up until June 2014. 2000 of these passed to The Network. A strict record has to be kept on numbers issued and to which NHW scheme to help prevent stockpiling. **An order form for window stickers is now on The Network website.**

Planning for an Open Gardens event again in 2014 is underway – volunteers willing to open their gardens were requested to please contact Wendy or their committee member.

Photos for the 2015 Calendar will be requested in the spring, so keep clicking!

The formal meeting then concluded with thanks to all the guests.

The date for the next meeting set at 14th April 2014.

Round table talks with Beat Managers and PCSO's continued for some considerable time.