

Nottinghamshire Police

Rushcliffe South (Northern Cluster)

Priority Setting Meeting

- **Chairman: Rowan Bird/John Crosby**
- **Police Representatives: PC Caroline Voce & PC Paul Sanders**
- **Minutes: Bob Clarke (Orston NHW)**

Minutes of Meeting – 18th January 2024

Attendees; Joanna McOuat (Rushcliffe Farm Watch), David Cartledge (Flintham), Winifred Pell (Staunton Group NW), Julie Brown (Aslockton PC), Sue Clegg (Radcliffe PC), Nadia Jejna (Bingham Town Council), Andrew Shelton (Bingham Town Council), Tina Combellack (Cllr Nevile & Langar) and Bev Bingham (Shelford PC)

Apologies: Inspector Tim Cuthbert, Anthony Gee (R.O.T. NW), Jacqueline Turrell (Flintham PC), Francis Purdue-Horan (County Cllr Bingham East), Sue Barker (Shelton), David Griffin (Radcliffe NW), Karen Griffin (Radcliffe NW)

Change of Chairman

Rowan Bird, having chaired the meetings for the past six years, was happy to hand over the role. John Crosby, having volunteered, was elected as the new chairman. Rowan was sincerely thanked for his services as chairman having done a splendid job keeping the PS Group meetings interesting and relevant.

Local crime levels and trends & recent police activity

PC Caroline Voce (CV) confirmed that there had not been any particular spikes in reported crimes.

Burglary/Theft

There had been a burglary in Bingham and the culprits arrested within hours. It was also mentioned that 6 offenders had been arrested and charged by the Rural Crime Team which will have a big impact.

The usefulness of CCTV and Ring video doorbells was discussed. PC Paul Sanders (PS) said that both were very useful to the police. With reductions in cost more and more houses are equipped with this type of security technology and therefore give more opportunities for the police to detect criminals.

Anti-social Behaviour

CV was pleased to report that the number of incidents of ASB had greatly reduced. Much of this has been as a result of the police team visiting schools, and youth services providing support to families. The extra planned CCTV cameras for Bingham should also have a positive effect.

Reporting

CV reiterated how important it was to report suspicious incidents. Unfortunately, many people use social media instead which doesn't help the police. By contacting the police via "101" there is a record for Inspector Tim Cuthbert to check crime trends and use this to allocate resources. PC said that using "101" is the preferred method for reporting crime. It also informs the local beat teams what is happening on their patch.

Winifred Pell said it was not straightforward reporting location to “101” when in a rural area. John Crosby suggested the use of the free “what3words” app. This divides the world into 3m squares and gives each square a unique combination of three words.

Car thefts

There have been “keyless car thefts” in West Bridgford and Bingham: BMWs and Lexus targeted. A number of arrests had been made. CV warned that there are a lot of cars left unlocked. Owners mistakenly think they’ve locked the vehicle. PS said that the old fashioned steering wheel locks were still an extremely good deterrent.

John Crosby mentioned the danger of leaving your key unprotected in the house from criminals using scanning equipment to start your car on the drive using the signal from your key. John had brought to the meeting a Faraday Box (circa £15). This effectively shields all signal from your key and prevents criminals from using key fob skimming tools to access your vehicle. Faraday RFID blocker pouches are also available (circa £8).

E-scooters

The illegal use of these is still a problem. Parents buy these relatively expensive items for their children without checking, or being informed, of the illegality of using them on the highway. This is an ongoing challenge of education through schools and the media.

Ask for Angela campaign

John Crosby gave a brief summary of this national scheme that helps anyone who is feeling vulnerable on a night out to get the support they need. It was agreed that it could be useful in rural areas as much as in the city.

Farm Watch

Joanna McOuatt was asked about the situation with Farm Watch. She said a WhatsApp group was in place for farmers to share concerns on suspicious activity, etc... There are Farm Watch gatherings twice a year that are well received. The police have visited many farms providing advice and support.

Rowan Bird (Bingham)

Rowan said there had been thefts from outside charity shops. He also mentioned he had been contacted by phone to countersign a signature. He then found the woman had contacted another 5 councillors with the same request. He warned that we should be very careful and not readily agree to countersign for anyone we don’t know.

David Cartledge (Flintham)

The old Islamic site has been cleared making it easier to identify and report any suspicious activity.

Bob Clarke (Orston)

A road safety petition was submitted by the residents to Notts CC in December. This was targeted at making the approaches to the village and certain junctions within the village safer for road users. NCC is to respond by 22nd February and Bob said he would provide feedback on the outcomes at the next meeting in April.

Actions/priorities for next three months

On the basis of these discussions the following Group priorities for the next 3 months were proposed and agreed:

1. Anti-social behaviour
2. E-scooters

3. Reporting crime - Providing education on its importance, and encouragement to report all incidents of crime

Date of next meeting

Thursday 18th April 2024 at The Grange, Radcliffe-on-Trent. *(TBC)*.

End of note