

# Nottinghamshire Police

## Rushcliffe South Priority Setting Meeting

- **Chairman: John Crosby (Langar cum Barnstone PC)**
- **Police Representatives: PC Voce, PS Hodson, PC Pooley & PC Russell**
- **Minutes: Bob Clarke (Orston NHW)**
- **Venue: The Grange, Radcliffe-on-Trent**

### Minutes of Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Attendees;** Anthony Gee (R.O.T. NW), Andrew Shelton (Bingham TC), Wayne Stapleton (Bingham TC), Tina Combella (Nevile & Langar), Neil Clarke (Notts CC), Bev Bingham and Eileen Smith (Shelford PC), D Pennington and Helen Colby (Flintham PC), Stephen Perkins (Bingham TC), Jacques Lacey (Cropwell Bishop PC), Anne McLeod (R.O.T. PC) and Pam Wregg (Cropwell Bishop PC)

**Apologies:** David and Karen Griffin (R.O.T. NHW), Marion Blake (Newton), Jacqui Turrell and David Cartledge (Flintham), Julie Stephenson (Cotgrave), Winifred Pell (Staunton Group NHW), Francis Purdue-Horan (Notts. CC), A Wilson (Cropwell Bishop PC), Rowan Bird (Bingham TC & RBC).

#### Introductions

The chairman asked attendees to briefly introduce themselves and indicate, in brief, any issues they wished to raise during the meeting. Although quite a number of delegates had no immediate concerns of criminality in their localities the following issues were raised.

- **Neil Clarke** cited e-scooters and parking on pavements as particular concerns.
- **Tina Combella** said her connection with the Farm Watch Scheme highlighted vehicle theft and hare coursing as recent problems.
- **Pam Wregg** said she wished to bring up issues arising from recent fox hunting meets.
- **Stephen Perkins** said he had again visited store managers in Bingham as a follow up to his earlier survey regarding shop thefts and still had concerns. He also said hunting with dogs was an issue.
- **Andrew Shelton** raised the problem of e-scooters and parking on pavements.
- **Wayne Stapleton** said he would like feedback on the new CCTV in Bingham.

#### Local crime levels and trends & recent police activity

The police representatives confirmed there were no out of the ordinary 'spikes' in criminal activity and overall crime levels in our localities were comparatively low.

#### **CCTV (Bingham)**

Wayne Stapleton asked if the police had been making use of the new equipment and whether or not it had been useful. PC Caroline Voce (CV) confirmed they had used it but had experienced not particularly clear images. Wayne and also Andrew Shelton said their experience had been quite different and suggested it may require a discussion around repositioning of some cameras.

#### **Shoplifting (Bingham)**

The police representatives said there had not been many reports of shoplifting incidents. Stephen Perkins said that his recent discussions with store managers were at odds with this. Store managers at both Boyes and Boots had told Stephen there had been an increase, even after changes to the store layout at Boyes. They also said they had not had any visits from the police.

CV stated that this was not the case. She personally had, for example, discussed at length security with the counter staff at Boyes and had also visited the head at the school regarding, in particular, theft of sweets and makeup. CV also said that if shops did not report incidents to them, obviously they would not be aware of the trends in shoplifting.

Because of this conflicting information it was agreed CV and Stephen Perkins would arrange joint visits to store managers.

## **E-scooters**

John Crosby informed the meeting of a police operation in Nottingham city centre during which a number of privately owned e-scooters and electric bikes were seized. Riding e-scooters in public places is illegal unless they are hired as part of a government-approved scheme.

## **ASB – ‘Idling’ vehicles**

Anne McLeod said cars and buses ‘idling’ outside schools in Radcliffe were causing a health concern. Some of these vehicles are left with engines running for long periods during cold weather.

*(Rule 123 of The Highway Code looks at ‘The Driver and the Environment’. It states that drivers must not leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running or leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while the vehicle is stationary on a public road.)*

## **Pavement parking**

There was a lengthy discussion on the legalities of vehicle having mounted the pavement to park. Jacques Lacey specified a builder’s van on Stockwell Lane in Cropwell Butler parked regularly on the full width of the pavement. CV said the police will speak with the owner. This is also an issue by the school and doctors’ surgery.

It was mentioned this was particularly frustrating for those with push chairs, mobility scooters and sight impairment.

PC Pooley stated that only in exceptional circumstances can police get involved, i.e. vehicle in a dangerous position or causing an unnecessary obstruction at the time.

Tina Combellack added that it is a process of education that pavements are to keep pedestrians safe and not for parking.

*(The following information is quoted from the RAC website:*

*“Since 1974, Highway Code rule 244 has stated that drivers **MUST NOT** park partially or wholly on the pavement in London and **SHOULD NOT** do so elsewhere unless signs permit it.”*

*The key things to note here are the words **must not** and **should not**.*

*In London, you **must not** park on the pavement, the **must** indicating there is legislation behind this rule and you could receive a fine for breaking it.*

*However, outside of the capital or “elsewhere”, the Highway Code states drivers should not park on the pavement, meaning it is advisory and not, therefore, backed up by any legislation.*

*Rule 242 is where it gets a little less clear, stating: “You **MUST NOT** leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.”*

*This is a **must not**, again, meaning if your car is reported or seen by a police officer and judged to be either in a dangerous position or causing an unnecessary obstruction of the road, you could receive a Fixed Penalty Notice.*

*We advise people to use common sense when faced with no other option but to park on the pavement. If you are parking along a narrow road, where parking wholly on the road would stop other cars, and particularly emergency vehicles, from getting through, then it is a sensible option to park partially on a pavement, providing there are no parking restrictions and providing you are not blocking a wheelchair user or pram from using the pavement.*

*If there are restrictions, or your parking would cause wheelchair users or people with prams to have to walk into the road, then you should find somewhere else to park.”*

## **Fox hunting**

This was raised by both Pam Wragg and Stephen Perkins. There have been a number of meets so far this fox hunting season resulting in dogs straying onto residential properties and children’s’ play areas. Tenants are also illegally allowing release of dogs on Crown land and the hunts have crossed council land.

PS Hodson recommended signage on restricted land and a letters to the hunts with maps specifying clearly showing no-go areas. PS Hodson and Stephen Perkins are to discuss this in detail and try and devise an effective strategy.

### **Road accidents causing closure to A46**

Deb Pennington and Helen Colby (Flintham) said that following serious accidents the closures of the A46 had caused severe congestion and chaos to surrounding minor roads and village. Could the police not provide clearer and more appropriate diversion routes?

The police representatives said this was problematic as drivers would mainly use the diversion routes dictated by their sat navs.

The Flintham delegates also asked if there was a protocol of introducing speed cameras following a certain number of serious accidents. The police confirmed protocols were in place.

### **Burglary in R-O-T**

David Griffin (R-O-T NHW) had requested Bob Clarke to ask the police if there had been similar burglaries. The method of entry was by a ladder to a bedroom window. There were no alarm sensors upstairs although valuables and cash were kept there.

PS Hodson said there had been burglaries elsewhere with a similar M.O. with houses backing onto fields. One person has been arrested and the hope is others will follow.

### **Reporting crime**

CV said the lack of reporting of criminal incidents was still a major issue. There is a lot of noise on Facebook but much more formal reporting of incidents to the police was needed. It was agreed everyone should encourage this.

### **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. E-scooters
2. Thefts from shops
3. Anti-social behaviour

### **Date/venue of next meeting**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025.** Venue: The Community Hall, Main Road, Barnstone NG13 9JP