

Nottinghamshire Police

Rushcliffe South Priority Setting Meeting

- **Chairman: John Crosby**
- **Police Representatives: PC Caroline Voce & PC Saskia Mills**
- **Minutes: Bob Clarke (Orston NW)**
- **Venue: Langar cum Barnstone Community Hall, Barnstone**

Minutes of Meeting – 25th July 2024

Attendees; Anthony Gee (R.O.T. NW), Winifred Pell (Staunton Group NW), Sue Clegg (Radcliffe PC), Francis Purdue-Horan (Notts CC), Andrew Shelton (Bingham TC), Wayne Stapleton (Bingham TC), Julie Stephenson (Cotgrave), Tina Combella (Nevile & Langar), Neil Clarke (Notts CC), Maureen Stockwood (Bingham), Mike Sylvester (Langar) and Sharon Ellis (Langar/Barnstone).

Apologies: Rowan Bird (Bingham TC & RBC), Jacqueline Turrell (Flintham PC), David & Karen Griffin (Radcliffe NW), and Pam Wregg (Cropwell Bishop PC)

Introductions

The chairman, John Crosby, welcomed delegates to Barnstone Community Centre as this was the first time one of our meetings had been hosted there. John asked attendees to briefly introduce themselves and indicate any issues they wished to raise in the meeting.

Local crime levels and trends & recent police activity

The chairman asked delegates to inform the meeting of any concerns relating to their localities.

Maureen Stockwood/Francis Purdue-Horan – Referring to recent news coverage of shoplifting being of serious concern nationally the police representatives were asked if this was of concern locally. PC Caroline Voce (CV) confirmed this was an issue and it covered a wide range of merchandise including meats, cheeses, confectionary, alcohol and fish. The problem usually increases towards Christmas. Often thefts are to order and/or to feed drug addicts. School children in Bingham have also been involved.

CV said that two arrests were made in Cropwell after a significant number of shoplifted goods were found in a car. Very recently an arrest was also made in Cotgrave when shoplifted M&S goods from Leicester and fish and alcohol were seized. In view of the cross-border nature of offences and incidence of repeat offenders this creates a big workload to close these cases.

CV said they are working closely with stores advising them on improving security and also on an education programme with schools in Bingham.

The police representatives were asked about the relatively high number of ABH (Actual Bodily Harm) incidents in the reported crime statistics. CV said 95% of cases were youngsters fighting at school. Although the school will usually sanction offenders, if parents persist then the school recommends parents contact the police.

Neil Clarke (Notts CC) – Neil asked if the police were aware of ‘travellers’ passing £20 counterfeit notes. CV confirmed this was predominantly in Radcliffe-on-Trent and £5 notes.

Neil congratulated the local police team for their success in seizing large amounts of cocaine and heroin during coordinated raids.

CV said that a number of warrants had been issued in Bingham and Radcliffe-on-Trent. This had involved a lot of work in preparation for the raids and together with the workload aftermath had obviously impacted on other duties.

John Crosby (Barnstone-cum-Langar) asked if there was a check-list for identifying properties use by drug gangs. CV provided some indicators:

- a. On streets you would least expect
- b. Rental properties
- c. Quiet area so occupants come and go unnoticed
- d. Curtains always shut
- e. Gardens not well tended
- f. Distinctive smell, particularly at night
- g. Soil and fertilizer being carried in

Sue Clegg (Radcliffe) – There have been incidents of glass scattering, apparently deliberately, in the Skate Park. This is obviously dangerous, particularly to young children playing there. There is liaison between the parish council and the trustees of the Park and the police are now aware.

Tina Combella (Nevile & Langar) – Main issues are vehicle theft, fly-tipping, hare coursing and parking on pavements.

The police representatives were asked about the legal situation regarding pavement parking. CV said it was illegal to drive on a pavement but the police would only get involved if the vehicle was causing a genuine obstruction. CV added that with the growing numbers of cars it is likely to be an ongoing problem.

(Attached to the covering email to these minutes is a House of Commons briefing paper headed "Pavement and on-street parking in England" dated 14th January 2020. Section 3 of the report explains current government thinking on a nationwide ban on pavement parking.)

Julie Stephenson (Cotgrave) – ASB is an issue at the Cotgrave Community Garden. Julie said that Cotgrave TC have offered a 3 way split in costs to upgrade the security. This includes CCTV and security fencing. To date no response has been received.

PC Saskia Mills (SM) said the police were working on plans to counter ASB there and had issued Community Protection Warnings to known offenders.

Motor bikers riding through Cotgrave, on and off pavements and without helmets were an immediate issue of concern. SM is aware of the problem with bikers heading through Cotgrave to the legitimate biking track at Cropwell Bishop. SM said ideally the police 'Off-road Team' needs to be there but to arrange that the police need to know when these bikers are active in Cotgrave. Is there a pattern?

Julie mentioned reporting incidents via '101' required giving time consuming preliminary information which then meant any possible immediate police action was too late. It was mentioned that reporting online was very swift and SM said that if the incident was in progress then '999' was probably the best option. The call would then be assessed as to its priority status.

Bob Clarke (Orston NW) – The only issues raised with Neighbourhood Watch, and reported to the police, are two incidents of ASB at the Millennium Green on Smite Lane involving the eco toilet and damage to insect hotels there. Also, plants have been stolen from gardens.

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

John Crosby (Barnstone-cum-Langar) asked that Bob Clarke include within the minutes information on reporting crime to the police.

(The following information was provided by PC Paul Sanders and previously included in the July 2023 minutes.

Reporting Crime -

- **Online** (<https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk>) – this gives various options such as reporting a crime, obtaining an update on a current crime, requesting to speak to a specific officer or team, reporting a road traffic matter. You can request to remain anonymous.
- **By phone** – 999 in an emergency and 101 for non-emergency. (BP advised that via 101 it's most efficient to report to your local police officer than leave the information with the central desk.)
- **Video relay service** - for British sign language
- **Via Crimestoppers** – Anonymously
- **By visiting a police station**
- **Via social media**
- **E-mailing your local officer)**

Any other business

Next meeting venue - John Crosby asked delegates if travelling to venues outside R-O-T or Bingham was an issue. No objections were raised. It was agreed the next meeting be held at The Old Court House, Bingham.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 17th October 2024. Venue: The Old Court House, Bingham.