

Nottinghamshire Police

Rushcliffe South Priority Setting Meeting

- **Chairman: John Crosby (Langar cum Barnstone PC)**
- **Police Representatives: PC Caroline Voce & PC Saskia Mills**
- **Minutes: Bob Clarke (Orston NW)**
- **Venue: The Old Court House, Bingham**

Minutes of Meeting – 17th October 2024

Attendees; Anthony Gee (R.O.T. NW), Winifred Pell (Staunton Group NW), Francis Purdue-Horan (Notts CC), Andrew Shelton (Bingham TC), Wayne Stapleton (Bingham TC), Tina Combellack (Nevile & Langar), Neil Clarke (Notts CC), Bev Bingham & Eileen Smith (Shelford PC), D Pennington (Flintham PC), Stephen Perkins (Bingham TC), A Wilson (Cropwell Bishop PC), Jacques Lacey (Cropwell Bishop PC) and Rowan Bird (Bingham TC & RBC).

Apologies: Julie Stephenson (Cotgrave), Pam Wregg (Cropwell Bishop PC)

Introductions

The chairman asked attendees to briefly introduce themselves and indicate any issues they wished to raise at the meeting. A number of delegates said they had no immediate concerns of criminal activity in their locality; however four delegates were unhappy at the continued illegal use of e-scooters.

Stephen Perkins (Bingham TC) said shopkeepers in Bingham were suffering from a rising incidence of thefts and that he had carried out a survey to try and highlight key issues which he would explain during the meeting.

Local crime levels and trends & recent police activity

E-scooters/ E-bikes

PC Caroline Voce (CV) said they were targeting an individual who was regularly riding an E-scooter in Cropwell Bishop. In Cotgrave the police have been visiting schools. Often they find E-scooter users are unaware their use in public places is illegal.

CV was asked if 'souped-up' E-bikes were now an issue locally. Caroline confirmed these were not currently a problem in part due to a couple having been seized under Section 59 (*i.e. a tool used by police constables and police community support officers to seize vehicles being used in an ant-social manner*).

Neil Clarke suggested it would be useful to include an article on the subject in the Rushcliffe Reports magazine. Bob Clarke (Orston NW) suggested he include, as an attachment to the minutes, a summary of the current legalities regarding the use of E-bikes.

CCTV in Bingham

Wayne Stapleton (Bingham TC) said that this initiative had received very positive feedback. There has been ongoing discussion with shop owners to make sure each camera gives optimum coverage. It is believed all key areas are now covered. Wayne thought it would be useful to monitor what positive impact this had on reported crime. Andrew Shelton (Bingham TC) added that the resolution of the images was very good.

Thefts from shops

Stephen Perkins (Bingham TC) gave details of his retail shop survey in Bingham. He visited 7 of the largest retail shops asking for their main concerns regarding criminality. Stephen said it 'boiled down' to three key areas.

1. Thefts are on the increase and no longer just a seasonal problem

2. Anti-social behaviour (ASB), generally in the area outside Boots and Boyes. Also, ASB, including threatening behaviour, occurs at Greggs when large groups of students go in together, mainly after the school day ends.
3. No recent engagement with local police

CV said that the police had a special team working with shops. CV also said they had done a lot of work with Boots and Boyes on how best to improve security by, for example, changing the store layout. CV added that the national stores tend to report issues to head office rather than the police, but it is very important they also report incidents to the police at the time of the offence. CV added that not every incident will require police attendance, only if there are positive lines of enquiry to follow up. CV would also encourage shopkeepers to attend police beat surgeries held in the town centre.

Stephen Perkins said shopkeepers had suggested that a visible presence by the police at key times of day would be useful.

CV said she would now follow up these issues by visiting the shops.

Scams

Bob Clarke (Orston NW) said he had had a number of so called 'parking fine scams' reported to him in the last few weeks. These were from Orston residents concerned because they had been threatened with heavy fines, court appearances and being banned from driving.

John Crosby related the scam that starts with a message that claims to be from a loved one. The message often says that their phone is broken and they are using someone else's phone temporarily. They request money or personal information. The requests have an emotional sense of urgency.

To safeguard against the scam John related the idea of families establishing a unique 'safe word'. This 'safe word' known only within the family circle acts as a secret code or password. In situations where a family member supposedly sends an urgent request, the recipient can ask for this 'safe word' to verify the sender's identity.

Safe Place scheme

Tina Combellack (Nevile & Langar) explained that the Police & Crime Commissioner was pushing forward with an initiative (Operation Portum Safe Spaces Scheme) to provide 'Safe Places' in retail shops.

A notice would be on display in the shop window. This would allow vulnerable and abused/controlled partners or children to be taken into a space where they feel safe and comfortable. The safe space would have on display details of various agencies they could telephone for help.

Since our meeting Tina has kindly provided further details – see below.

Any retailer interested, wanting more details, or to register should contact Judith Brown, Community Safety Projects Officer, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Rushcliffe Arena. Judith's email address is jbrown@rushcliffe.gov.uk.

The following is a link to an article featured in the West Bridgford Wire giving more details.

https://westbridgfordwire.com/safe-spaces-for-those-seeking-refuge-now-available-across-west-bridgford/?utm_source=West+Bridgford+Wire+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=57e6e4ffd5-Wire+Daily+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_38341112ed-57e6e4ffd5-432020365

This project follows on from the 'Ask for Angela' initiative used by pubs and other venues to keep people safe from sexual assault by using this code phrase to identify when they are in danger or in an uncomfortable situation.

Darker nights

Winifred Pell (Staunton Group NW) raised the important issue of security now that the nights were drawing in. It was agreed that it's a time when the police, council and neighbourhood watch representatives should be communicating the need to think about security during the winter months and particularly around the festive holidays.

CV said that there had been recent burglaries and car thefts so it is important proper security measures are taken both for houses and cars. The use of Faraday boxes/pouches or similar was mentioned. These are designed to block a key's electromagnetic signal. This protects against the signal being cloned by thieves to steal vehicles.

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

Any Other Business

Rural Crime Meeting

Tina Combellack (Nevile & Langar) informed delegates that Rushcliffe farmers and the equestrian community are invited to the next Rural Crime Forum on Wednesday 6th November, 7pm to 9pm at Oddhouse Farm, Colston Bassett Lane, Owthorpe NG12 3SF. RSVPs by 3rd November via the Rushcliffe Farm Watch WhatsApp Group or to J MacQuat 07790 846111 or Rob Inglis 07786 015450. Full details are included in an email attachment with these minutes.

Date/venue of next meeting

Thursday 16th January 2025. Venue: The Grange, (Radcliffe Room), Radcliffe-on-Trent

*(Attachments – *E-bikes – Need to Know Facts / * Rural Crime Forum poster)*