

Minutes of Shepton Mallet Neighbourhood Watch and Police and Local Community

Meeting held at Shepton Fire Station Wednesday 1st August 2018 7:00 pm

Present Redacted

Apologies: Redacted

Minutes Previous Meeting:

PM reported with sadness the death of Sue Feltham and commented on the excellent community service she had given in many areas of her life including Neighbourhood Watch.

Chairman's Welcome and Report

JP reported three areas of concern

Speeding was clearly a first concern of residents. The Waterloo Road crossing installation had been delayed as local residents had requested further consultation. The plan was to install during half term holidays in October but that was not definitely confirmed. Other areas of concern were Fosse Lane, The Old Wells Road and Bowlish. These were discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

Thefts from Vans Widely reported on Facebook and areas affected included West Shepton, Hospital Estate and Tadley Acres.

Parking was also an ongoing issue with areas Ridgway Estate (including Compton Road) and Charlton and Whitstone Road (customers to fish and chip shop)

Police Response and General Report

On van thefts the police reported these had been preliminarily identified as three people from outside the area. People move into a district because they are not known. There are daily briefings between Wells and Shepton Mallet on who is suspected of coming into the area. RG emphasised always to report crime, not just to post on Facebook. This can be done by dialling 101 or quicker to post on-line. "999" is used when a crime is in progress. Concerning a recent spate shop lifting an individual was named at the meeting and this issue now appeared under control. Drinking in the town centre was discussed and general comments were made how the whole décor and feel of the town centre, particularly Town Street had been improved. Specifically on drinking though people just move on. A potential area was off Compton Road near the showground. The Park and Garden of Remembrance were also now a concern and examples were given at the meeting. PC Nell said he would look to increase patrols. IF residents felt threatened they should 'phone "999". JP reminded everyone that with the Public Space Protection Order in force it was an offence to drink in a public place.

It was asked if there had been a reduction in police numbers and had this lessened effective patrols but there was no evidence of this.

There then followed an extensive discussion among attendees on two issues

Speeding along Fosse Lane and Compton Road

To summarise this was a traditional residential area where depots and larger stores had grown up around with high volume large lorry traffic. Lorries of course cannot stop as quickly as a car. One resident had fought tirelessly to try and get local companies to take greater responsibility and had had extensive consultation with various official bodies including councils at all levels. Various issues and solutions were discussed.

JP reported a survey had been undertaken and the official report had not identified this road as being significantly affected by speeding to warrant further measures. This view was challenged.

Flashing speed limit signs were not supported by Somerset County Council. A specific crossing was also not viable. JP reported he had written to all the companies involved.

Some companies put the responsibility back onto owner-drivers.

The police had occasionally deployed a speed van. Concerns were raised about the new Cannard's Grave Development throwing up similar issues.

Cllr Jon Hardy offered to conduct his own investigation.

Bowlish was raised again. A particular resident had intervened to get streets cleared so yellow lines could be painted.

Compton Road was extensively discussed. Here was a traditional residential area but now attracting problems of parking and speeding. Residents were opposed to the introduction of a residents parking zone. The issue was with Shape Mendip employees not taking up the alternative parking offered to them and taking the easy option. Another local resident had taken down registration numbers, challenged parkers and liaised with Deputy Chief Executive Mendip with limited success.

Issues were clarified. Two wheel parking on a pavement as long as there is space to pass is not an offence. Illegal parking IS a police matter. Residents just wanted clear access to and from their property.

Action RG to contact Tracey Aarons

Action RG to investigate the community speedwatch scheme

There was then discussion about the new school at Cannards Grave and whether sufficient "dropping off" would be included.

Chairman's Summary

Antisocial parking in St Peter's and Ridgway Estate, including Compton Lane and Windsor Hill were PACT issues

Speeding along Fosse Lane was a Neighbourhood Watch issue.

Date of Next Meeting. The initial suggestion was second Wednesday November but this clashes with Carnival Night so now moved to 15th November.

Secretary's note. The discussions were wide ranging and I have tried to reproduce the key elements as best I can. Please feel free to recommend to me any specific addition you would like to see included