

Minutes of Shepton Mallet Neighbourhood Watch and Police and Local Community

Meeting held at Shepton Fire Station Thursday 30th May 2019 7:00 pm

Present

John Parham (Chair) Robert Goodhand (Sec) Paul Massey (Treasurer)

Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC Jane Ellis PCSO Hannah Hood PC7118 Stephen Redding

Apologies:

Minutes Previous Meeting:

Agreed

Chairman's Welcome and Report

Leaflet

Trial print of 300 produced. TO be distributed at Collett Park festival

Shopwatch Scheme

now up and running. Andy Neale undertaking training on how to deal with "shop-lifted" conflict. Posters available to display. An issue linking with the police WhatsApp group is being resolved.

Elections

JP no longer a Town or District councillor. RG commented that it had been of great benefit to this group to have a councillor familiar with the workings of all three tiers of local government, able to identify responsibilities and often with influence to bring about results.

Miscommunication with Avon and Somerset Watch Scheme administrator

JP briefed the unfortunate circumstances where the administrator had tried to recruit a replacement for an existing coordinator. RG added the root problem was that Avon and Somerset seemed not to recognise or use the resources of the SMNW which kept accurate records of all participating coordinators.

Action RG to email details to SR who will investigate further to ensure better linking.

Action RG to write to GB.

Speedwatch Scheme

Edric Hobbs was coordinating. 5 potential sites identified – Waterloo Road, Paul Street, West Shepton, Fosse Lane and Cannards Grave Road – but only more volunteers needed to make a viable scheme.

Action RG to email out link to NW mailing list

Traffic Calming Waterloo Road

After an initial lukewarm reception, the measures have proved very successful.

Police Report

Juvenile Crime

After a spate of incidents in Shepton involving the same group of youngsters, the police have conducted a “zero-tolerance” response, well reported in the local press. CPN’s (Community Protection Notices) were issued. Fines were issued on shoplifting in New Look. One individual is now monitored by the Youth Offending Team

County Lines

With a force wide intensification this activity appears to have been brought under control. Vulnerable people who were being cuckooed have been relocated. The policy is for properties to be closed for 6 months.

Theft from Vans

Vans are very vulnerable and tools need to be clearly marked for any chance of recovery. Fortunately it seems we have not had a recurrence

(Hillmead

RG commented how the Hillmead area has been transformed over 4 years. While leaflet delivering consistently met polite and helpful people with almost no rubbish inside or outside the flats. He had sent an email to Aster.)

Street Drinking Market Place

The police undertake a push on this once a year. The area is now subject to a PSPO (public space protection order). There is a liaison issue over who enforces to be resolved. The PSPO covers all Shepton which explains the slightly conflicting signs in Collett Park.

Treasurer’s Report

A healthy bank balance of £1295 reported which some expenses due. Cheque raised for Shopwatch scheme – RG to deliver.

Issues Raised by Attendees

Pavement Parking

This was reported as a major concern in areas of Tadley Acres. Photos were produced. The police clarified that cars were obstructing if a double pushchair could not pass through. The police had their own “yellows” procedure – members of the public posting their own flyers often resulted in “issues”.

Action RG to forward procedure to individuals who had raised.

Inconsiderate On Street Parking

JP summarised there were only really two solutions each with unintended consequences

a) Yellow lines which of course prevented residents parking as well

b) A residents' parking scheme which carried a cost

Cars that had been moved out of the Ridgway Estate now appeared to be parking on the bend along from the Surgery on Cannard's Grave Road. RG observed the pavement parking certainly breached the "pushchair" rule.

Action The Police agreed to monitor more closely

Police Station Update

The target date October 2019 would likely slip to early 2020. An internal lift and staircase needed to be installed as well as an external fire escape. The Old Police Station was reported to be converted to a house in multiple occupancy (HMO). JP summarised the additional safety requirements this brought about.

Neighbourhood Watch Signs

RG observed we had the funding and he knew of the resource so if details were forwarded to him he'd progress.

Overgrown Vegetation Shaftgate Avenue to Coombe Lane

Action RG to investigate

Date of Next Meeting

Agreed Wednesday 4th September SM Fire Station 7:00 pm for police availability.

Action RG to book

This would be our AGM where we would appoint Chair Secretary and Treasurer