

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

14 November 2014

Report of the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

1.1 Community Trigger

- 1.1.1 So far this year we have received 1 Community Trigger applications. This met the criteria and was dealt with through a Community Trigger Panel. The main complaint was around racist/foul language coming from a neighbour. However, following discussion it was felt that a lot of this was around perception. A noise recorder had been installed which had found no evidence of this issue. Environmental Health agreed to keep the case open for a further two months and it was also agreed that parent/teen mediation would be offered to the neighbour (although this was not accepted). Following the Panel there have been no further reports of any issues and the case has been closed.

1.2 Safer Towns Partnership

- 1.2.1 The Safer Towns Partnership is now independent from the Borough Council and employ the Safer Towns Co-ordinator directly. Mandy Smith has moved on to another job and the co-ordinator is now Benita Lee-Allder, who works for 18 hours per week. She has a hot desk at the CSU but spends the majority of her time in Tonbridge.

- 1.2.2 An update from the Safer Towns Partnership will be provided for the next meeting.

1.3 Crime Prevention Panel

- 1.3.1 As of July this year the Crime Prevention Panel is no longer operating as they took the decision to stop the Panel. This was due to the increased working between partners and meant that a lot of the activities undertaken by the Panel were being carried out by the CSP. There was some funds left in the Crime Prevention Panel's bank account and this has now been transferred to the CSP for use on crime prevention items.

1.4 Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG)

- 1.4.1 The Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG) is a group of people who meet to act as a 'critical friend' to the Police. As critical friends IPAG members

constructively advise and challenge Kent Police on their policies, procedures and practices and advise the force on how to enhance these areas, so that policing performance is improved.

- 1.4.2 An IPAG for Tonbridge & Malling has recently been set up and they are looking for members who are able to represent sections of the community to attend. Meetings are held at 6pm at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council offices, Kings Hill and in 2017 meetings will be held on Wednesday 25 January, Wednesday 12 April, Wednesday 5 July and Thursday 5 October.
- 1.4.3 If you would like further information or would like to register your intention to attend the next meeting please contact ipag.sevenoaksdistrict@gmail.com.

1.5 Community Speedwatch

- 1.5.1 The Community Safety Partnership is encouraging Parish Councils and other community groups to set up Community Speedwatch schemes within their areas. Speedwatch is a community based scheme that helps volunteers make their local roads safer by reducing speeding without penalising passing drivers.
- 1.5.2 A group of two or three police trained volunteers operate at carefully selected roadside sites where speed limits of 20, 30 and 40 miles per hour (mph) are in place. Using a portable speed indication device, they accurately measure the speed of passing vehicles.
- 1.5.3 Without using photography, the volunteers capture and report details about the vehicles travelling at, or above, nationally recommended speed thresholds (25, 35 and 46 mph). The details of vehicles reported speeding are stored by Kent Police for 12 months. A letter of advice may be sent in that time to the registered owners of vehicles who repeatedly speed and/or drive at more than 50% over the limit. Police officers usually hand deliver advice letters to frequent offenders.
- 1.5.4 Kent Police helps schemes get started safely by training all new volunteers and pre-approving areas where they will operate. They can also help with funding towards any equipment needed.
- 1.5.5 If you are interested in setting up a Speedwatch in your area you can get details by phoning 01622 653781 or email speed.watch.data@kent.pnn.police.uk

1.6 Hate crime

- 1.6.1 Following the Brexit result there were reports nationally that Hate Crime reports were increasing dramatically. However, in Kent although there has been a slight increase we have not seen the same amount of reports.
- 1.6.2 In July this year the Government published an updated Hate Crime Action Plan entitled 'Action against Hate: the UK government's plan for tackling hate crime'. The five key focus areas of the plan are: **Preventing** hate crime; **Responding** to

hate crime in our communities; Increasing the **reporting** of hate crime; Improving support for the **victims** of hate crime; and Building our **understanding** of hate crime. The plan mainly focusses on the Police and the CPS working with communities and in partnership with other agencies. Although there are no specific references to local authorities or community safety partnerships there may be opportunities to raise awareness or link into some of the recommended actions and areas of work.

1.7 Speedwatch

- 1.7.1 I have been liaising with Kent Police and Parish Council's in the borough regarding establishing more Speedwatch schemes within the borough. There are some Parish Councils who already have Speedwatch schemes including East Malling & Larkfield, Wateringbury and Hadlow and we have an action in the Action Plan to increase this number.
- 1.7.2 Kent Police have appointed a new Speedwatch co-ordinator (Alan Watson) and he has been making contact with those Parishes where Speedwatch is currently in place but also attending a variety of meetings to try and increase the number of Speedwatch schemes.
- 1.7.3 We are hopeful that the number of Speedwatch schemes within the borough will increase and can help with the issue of speeding in key locations.

1.8 Prevent training

- 1.8.1 The Borough Council will be running Prevent training for all staff on the morning of Wednesday 9 November (9.30am start) and the afternoon of Tuesday 15 November (2pm start). They will be given an overview of how to identify someone who may be at risk of being radicalised or planning a terrorist activity.

1.9 ASB Officer post

- 1.9.1 As you will know, Sarah Taylor has now left her post of Anti-social behaviour officer. We are holding interviews this week and hope to have someone in post by early December.

1.10 Legal Implications

- 1.10.1 None

1.11 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.11.1 None

1.12 Risk Assessment

- 1.12.1 All risk assessments are undertaken as appropriate

Background papers:

contact: Alison Finch

Nil

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