

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

16 July 2018

Report of the Director of Central Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

This report will provide an update of some of the recent work of the Community Safety Partnership

1.1 Crime statistics

1.1.1 The borough of Tonbridge & Malling is a safe place to live, work and visit and we continue to have the third lowest crime rate in the county (behind Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks). The latest crime statistics to the end of May 2018 show that there has been a decrease in reports of anti-social behaviour in the borough (by 593 incidents) but an increase of victim based crime reported (up by 1,649 incidents). The Community Safety Partnership continues to work to help people to feel safe in the borough and we will be looking at these figures with the Police to establish whether there is anything additional that we should be focusing on with regards to reducing particular types of crime.

1.2 Tonbridge Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)

1.2.1 The Tonbridge Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) launched on Friday 13 July at Tonbridge Castle. Tom Tugendhat, MP, attended the event and local schools were also able to give performances on their views of alcohol.

1.2.2 The aim of the CAP is to reduce underage drinking in the town by raising awareness in young people of the risks of drinking alcohol, reduce incidents of alcohol sales to young people, reduce proxy purchasing of alcohol for young people who are under 18, reduce anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol consumption and improve the public's general understanding of different alcohol strengths and the number of units in different drinks.

1.2.3 Visits will be made to each of the licenced premises to make them aware of the CAP and to encourage them to use the 'Challenge 25' system (if someone looks under 25 but over 18 they should be asked for ID if they are trying to buy alcohol). Following these visits 'Test purchases' will be made through KCC Trading Standards which is where the premises are tested on the Challenge 25 system

(e.g. do they remember to ask for ID for someone who is under 25). If any premises do fail this then they would be offered further training and advice.

- 1.2.4 We will also be linking in with local schools to offer educational information and resources for teachers to encourage young people to think about any alcohol that they might consume.
- 1.2.5 Following the event we also held a crime prevention event outside Sainsbury's in Tonbridge. This ran from 12 noon until 2pm approx. and members of the Community Safety Partnership were on hand to talk to people about the CAP, hand out free crime prevention items and advertise events that are being organised through the Police Community Liaison Officer.

1.3 Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

- 1.3.1 The current PSPO is due for review by April 2020 and by this date we will need to issue a new PSPO as they only last for three years. A group of officers within the Council are currently looking at the current restrictions (a copy of the Order can be found on the Borough Council's website) and gathering evidence as to whether or not they are still required. As part of this process we will also be looking at whether we need any additional restrictions added in. Once confirmed, we will then go out for consultation to see if the public agree with our proposals and whether there are any other issues which should be included. We will keep this Board updated on progress on this matter, as reports will be provided to this Board as well as to Cabinet to authorise the final PSPO.

1.4 Successes in tackling anti-social behaviour

- 1.4.1 Danny Mooney, the TMBC ASB officer has been working hard to help residents who have been experiencing anti-social behaviour. Some of the issues that he has helped to resolve have included helping residents of The Slade in Tonbridge who were experiencing criminal damage, threats of violence and garage break-ins. Danny liaised with the Police over the identification of the individuals causing these issues and helped to install CCTV in the area to act as a deterrent or to catch those committing these activities. At present, the issues seem to have been resolved but Danny will continue to liaise with the residents and monitor the situation.
- 1.4.2 Another success by Danny has been issues occurring at the Summerhill Green estate in Tonbridge where groups of youths were being intimidating and causing nuisance behaviour. Danny brought together all interested parties to discuss the issues and look at how they could be resolved. As well as helping to identify the young people, Danny also arranged for KCC to clear an area which was overgrown and becoming a magnet for nuisance behaviour. Again, the issues have reduced although Danny is available to residents to report any further issues.

1.4.3 In Snodland, we received reports of litter, untidy gardens and general anti-social behaviour in an area. Danny visited the residents and requested that they remove the rubbish and tidy their garden. He also spoke to the residents about the anti-social behaviour. They have cleared the rubbish and tidied their garden and there have been no further reports of ASB in the area.

1.4.4 If you or residents in your area are experiencing ASB you can contact Danny for help or advice on 01732 876149 or by email csp@tmbc.gov.uk

1.5 Changes in the Community Safety Unit

1.5.1 A new Police Inspector is now in post at the CSU – Inspector Kerry Rothwell started on 2 July. There is also a new Sergeant in post, Chris Carter who will work alongside Sgt Andy Gallon.

1.6 Publicity

1.6.1 The latest version of the CSP newsletter (July/August) is now available – and can be downloaded from our website (www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk). Copies have also been distributed via email. We are also on Twitter and Facebook – please follow us for information about the CSP.

1.7 Legal Implications

1.7.1 None

1.8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.8.1 Any funding requirements are provided through the Community Safety Partnership.

1.9 Risk Assessment

1.9.1 All risk assessments are under taken as appropriate.

1.10 Policy Considerations

1.10.1 Community Safety

Background papers:

Nil

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