

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

23 July 2019

Report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

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 latest crime statistics from Kent Police for the end of May 2019 show that there has been a slight increase of 2.5% in the amount of crime reported (from 9,526 to 9,768). However, reports of anti-social behaviour to the police have decreased from 1,870 last year to 1,494 this year. Tonbridge & Malling remains a safe place to live, work and visit, as we remain the third lowest area for crime in the county.
- 1.1.2 It is difficult to know the exact reasons for the increase in reported crime (albeit that the increase is relatively low). There has been an increase in the theft of motor vehicles and reports of stalking and harassment have increased (although this may be due to increased media interest in this topic). As well as some increases there have also been some decreases and burglaries and criminal damage have both seen reductions (-27.6% and -22% respectively). The Police will of course continue to target offenders committing these crimes and bring those individuals to justice.
- 1.1.3 A recent issue reported to the Community Safety Unit has been dangerous cycling in the borough (although this is also a problem for our neighbouring districts). Unfortunately groups of young people have been 'riding out' on their bikes without due regard to their safety or the safety of others. To address this the Police have sent out a letter to all local schools to pass on to parents about the dangers of this activity and what might happen to their children. They have also warned the young people that their bikes could be seized if the behaviour continues.
- 1.1.4 In Snodland the Police, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and the local youth group have been talking to the young people about diversionary activities that could be put into place to encourage the young people to ride their bikes in a more

suitable location. This work is ongoing but it is hoped to have some activities in place for the summer holiday period.

1.2 Rough Sleepers Task and Finish Group

- 1.2.1 The Community Safety Unit and TMBC Housing have set up a new Rough Sleepers Task and Finish Group with the aim of discussing individual rough sleepers in the borough and looking at actions that can be put in place to help them to find accommodation and access support.
- 1.2.2 A number of different partners were involved in the first meeting (held at the beginning of July) and the work will be developed over the next few months. We hope that this work will help to reduce the number of rough sleepers in the borough and ensure that anyone who is rough sleeping can get the help they need.

1.3 Anti-social behaviour issues

- 1.3.1 The Anti-social Behaviour Officer, Danny Mooney is still dealing with issues at Tonbridge Town Lock involving groups of people who are causing issues. He is regularly visiting the area with the local PCSO to talk to these people and where appropriate to give them warnings about their behaviour.
- 1.3.2 Danny is also continuing to work to reduce neighbour disputes and he was recently able to organise mediation services to visit two neighbours involved in a dispute. This is continuing work but we hope that it will help to resolve the issues and ensure that these neighbours can live more peacefully with each other.
- 1.3.3 The Community Safety Unit is also co-ordinating some work to tackle ongoing issues at Woodlands Parade in Ditton. These issues have been ongoing for a number of years and we are trying to work with the landlord to address the issues. Visits have been arranged for the businesses and residents and if appropriate we will be looking at taking enforcement action.

1.4 Events/training

- 1.4.1 We recently held some Gangs training for professionals (funded by KCC through the Police and Crime Commissioner) which was well attended by over 50 people. This was very hard hitting and although in Tonbridge & Malling we do not have a gang issue it helped those attending to think about how they could engage with young people who might be at risk of being drawn into gangs in other areas of the county.
- 1.4.2 The Community Safety Partnership has or will be attending events during the summer and representatives recently attended the 'Tonbridge Funday' event on 14 July at Longmead Stadium in Tonbridge organised by Tonbridge Baptist Church. The event was very well attended and we were able to interact with a large number of residents. As well as talking to residents about their issues we

were also able to distribute crime prevention items such as purse chains and shed alarms.

- 1.4.3 The CSP will also be having a stand on Tuesday 30 July outside Waitrose in Tonbridge where we'll be handing out crime prevention items and speaking to residents. This is part of an 'All out day' that the Police are organising.

1.5 Legal Implications

- 1.5.1 None

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.6.1 Any funding requirements are provided through the Community Safety Partnership.

1.7 Risk Assessment

- 1.7.1 All risk assessments are under taken as appropriate.

1.8 Policy Considerations

- 1.8.1 Community Safety

Background papers:

Nil

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