

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

12 November 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 September 2019 show that there has been a 2.4% reduction of reported crimes from 9,879 last year to 9,643 this year. However reports of anti-social behaviour to the police have increased from 1,522 last year to 1,674 this year. It is not clear why there has been this increase in reports but the Police will continue to target offenders committing the crimes and bring the individuals to justice. Tonbridge & Malling does however, remain a safe place to live, work and visit and we remain the third lowest area for crime in the county.
- 1.1.2 There has been a recent spike in thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles in the borough which the Police are asking residents to be vigilant about. This is thought to be because of the high value of precious metals they contain which can be sold on easily. Police are spreading crime prevention messages to residents around keeping vehicles in garages where possible or parking in well lit, busy areas to help prevent these thefts.
- 1.1.3 As part of the work around Serious and Organised Crime the Police are planning a number of operations in the borough to target drug users, check for human trafficking victims and victims who are being cuckooed (where someone moves into a vulnerable person's home and sells drugs from the property). These operations will be taking place during October and November.

1.2 Tonbridge Safer Towns Partnership

- 1.2.1 A new Safer Towns Partnership co-ordinator for the Tonbridge Safer Towns Partnership, Gary Smith, has been appointed. He started in August and is currently making contact with all the businesses in Tonbridge to ensure that they are all aware of the scheme and are happy to continue to rent the radios. At

present there are approximately 30 businesses signed up to the scheme but Gary will be working to increase this number. Gary will also be linking in with the Town Centre PC and PCSO's.

- 1.2.2 A Safer Town Partnership (also known as a Business Crime Reduction Partnership) is a constituted partnership made up from members from all sectors of the business community working in partnership to reduce crime and disorder against businesses. As part of the scheme they can rent a radio which links them to the Co-ordinator, the CCTV control room and the Police. This means that they can alert each other when there are problems or if they see/suspect a shoplifter. The aim is to reduce crime within the town centre and make it a safer place for people to visit.

1.3 Community Alcohol Partnership's

- 1.3.1 The Community Alcohol Partnership's (CAP) in Tonbridge and Snodland continue to meet on a regular basis. In Tonbridge we recently held an event on 11 October at Tonbridge Grammar School to recognise 12 pupils who had recently passed a 'Young Health Champions' Course. During the course the students learnt about the risks to physical, mental and social health, ranging from social media issues to substance misuse. They developed a better understanding of the services and facilities available in their local community and engaged with their peers at school and in the wider community to provide support and guidance on healthy behaviours. Following on from the course they will now arrange assemblies within the school, give peer mentoring to younger pupils and talk to parents.
- 1.3.2 The Snodland CAP also continues to meet regularly. Earlier in the summer CAP members were reporting an increase in anti-social behaviour issues linked to alcohol consumption. This involved the theft of alcohol and reports of groups of young people causing an issue. The Police were able to speak to the shops in Snodland around the location of alcohol within their stores and the alcohol was moved to a different area. This seems to have reduced the amount of thefts taking place. The Police, Borough Council, Clarion and Project Salus were also able to set up a bike project within the town to help educate the young people around bike safety. This has proved to be very popular, with over 50 young people regularly attending sessions. An event was also held at Larkfield Fire Station and a trip has been arranged to the Road Safety Experience at Rochester. This has reduced the number of reports about anti-social behaviour in Snodland.

1.4 Events/training

- 1.4.1 A number of events have been held or attended by the Community Safety Partnership since the last meeting. These have included Mediation training, representation at the Tonbridge & Malling Seniors Forum event and at the Over 55's Advice and Information Fair organised by Tracy Crouch.
- 1.4.2 The Mediation training was held on 10 September and 19 partners attended to learn about the Mediation service, what Mediation can do and how best to refer.

1.5 White Ribbon Accreditation

- 1.5.1 The Borough Council is proceeding with White Ribbon Accreditation. The White Ribbon campaign wants to end male violence against women, once and for all. They believe that men should stand against sexism and gender based violence in all forms and they want to encourage organisations to sign up to the campaign and raise awareness. Males within an organisation are encouraged to become 'Ambassadors' who are willing to engage with and encourage other men to stand up against male violence towards women. They exist to inspire and lead by example, actively promoting gender equality and the White Ribbon message.
- 1.5.2 We are currently at the process of completing an Action Plan which we then have to submit to the White Ribbon organisation who will then assess this and let us know if we can proceed with becoming a White Ribbon organisation.
- 1.5.3 As part of the Action Plan we will need male members of staff and/or Members to volunteer to become 'ambassadors' and further information will be circulated about this in due course. Other local authorities such as Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent Police have already achieved White Ribbon status.

1.6 Legal Implications

- 1.6.1 None

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

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

1.8 Risk Assessment

- 1.8.1 All risk assessments are under taken as appropriate.

1.9 Policy Considerations

- 1.9.1 Community Safety

Background papers:

Nil

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