

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD**

**25 May 2021**

**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 (available up to the end of March) show that during the year there were 6,813 incidents of victim-based crime recorded within Tonbridge and Malling (a reduction of 18.8% when compared to the same period last year). There were also reductions in violent crime (-8.1%), residential burglaries (-16.1%) and vehicle crime (-6.1%). In the same time period, there was also an increase in recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to the police (up from 1,693 to 2,962) and an increase of reports of Domestic Abuse (from 2,883 to 2,929).

1.1.2 It is likely that Covid has made an impact on the crime statistics as there would have been less people around to commit violent crime and vehicle crime but as more people were at home this is what has probably caused the increase in ASB and Domestic Abuse reports. As stated in previous reports, unfortunately domestic abuse cases have increase as have the complexity of cases that professionals are dealing with.

**1.2 Community Alcohol Partnership Award**

1.2.1 Each year the national Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) hold CAP Awards which recognise the work of individual CAPs across the country. There are a number of different criteria that CAPs can apply to and the Snodland Community Alcohol Partnership nominated Salus and Roxanne Frost, Youth Services Manager for the Innovation Award for the work they were able to do in Snodland (and surrounding areas) during the Covid pandemic which meant that young people were able to continue to receive support and a youth provision.

- 1.2.2 We were pleased that at the Award ceremony, held virtually on 31 March, Roxanne was announced as the winner of the Innovation Award and received her 'award' from Matthew Scott.

### **1.3 Operation Heart**

- 1.3.1 Kent Police are developing 'Operation Heart' linked to personal safety. As lockdown eases and the night-time economy opens up, West Kent Police, local councils, charities and the SARC want to promote personal safety on the streets. The aim of the campaign is to reduce sexual and violent offences against vulnerable people, make people feel safe at night-time and increase confidence in local police.
- 1.3.2 They hope to achieve this through community engagements, partnership work with licenced premises and taxi drivers, high visibility patrols and ensuring any reactive investigations meet demand. This will also include promoting the 'Ask for Angela' campaign – where people who feel uncomfortable on a date can ask bar staff or other night time economy workers to help by using the phrase 'Ask for Angela'. This has been used successful in other areas (such as Maidstone) and it is hoped that it can be developed within Tonbridge & Malling.
- 1.3.3 Further details about the campaign will be given as and when available.

### **1.4 Work to address issues at Hilltop, Tonbridge**

- 1.4.1 Following a number of reports from local residents regarding ongoing anti-social behaviour in and around Hilltop in Tonbridge a site meeting was arranged (following social distancing guidelines) which brought together representatives from Kent County Council, Taylor Wimpy, Kent Police and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.
- 1.4.2 The meeting identified a number of issues including overgrown land where young people are 'hiding' and causing intimidation to those walking past and the alleyway where young people are gathering and again causing intimidation.
- 1.4.3 We will be working with Taylor Wimpy (who own the overgrown land) to try and get a resolution to the issue, as well as working with residents to see if they can erect fences to stop people from accessing the alleyway from their gardens/driveways.
- 1.4.4 Issues being reported have already decreased due to a visible presence from the PCSO but we also hope that the additional actions identified will lead to a further decrease in issues.

### **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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