

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD

21 October 2014

Report of the Director of Central Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

An update on some of the recent work of the Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership/Community Safety Unit

1.1 Community Safety Unit (CSU) update

1.1.1 Community Safety Partners now meet on a weekly basis (every Tuesday morning) to discuss key issues of concern, including high risk victims, domestic abuse victims and offender management. This meeting is going well with attendance from partners high.

1.1.2 We have also recently introduced a 'daily document' which gives a summary of key issues which have been reported to the police the previous day or overnight. Partners are then requested to provide updates on any actions which are relevant to them. The feedback from this document is that it is useful and allows information to be exchanged on a regular basis.

1.2 Safer Towns Partnership

1.2.1 The Tonbridge Town Centre Safer Towns Partnership is continuing to grow from strength to strength. There are now 46 businesses signed up and 16 people have been banned. The Safer Towns Partnership is now using a website which all the businesses signed up to the scheme can access. This gives them information about offenders (including photographs), details of offences and crimes which have been committed and any events which are coming up which may be of interest.

1.2.2 The Partnership is now looking at running a 'reduced' scheme which would offer businesses outside of CCTV monitored areas (e.g. Kings Hill or Quarry Wood Retail Park) a chance to have access to the Safer Towns website (giving them access to information about offenders, crimes etc.) and hire of a radio which would link them to other businesses in their area. This would be at a reduced cost but would still generate additional income for the Scheme. This is something that Mandy Smith, the Safer Towns Co-ordinator is progressing currently.

1.3 Snodland Community Alcohol Partnership

- 1.3.1 The Snodland Community Alcohol Partnership is continuing to meet on a quarterly basis. We have recently developed a new Action Plan focusing on key issues within Snodland (e.g. reducing proxy purchasing, providing diversionary activities). We are looking to work with a company called Amelix to develop 'Status' (youth discos) within Snodland and if we can identify an appropriate venue we would be looking to run these 5 times per year (starting next year). We would need to identify some funding but I am hoping to apply to the PCC funding for this.

1.4 East Malling

- 1.4.1 There has recently been a small increase in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in East Malling. The CSP is working to address this and a number of young people have been identified who are causing this anti-social behaviour. The Borough Council's ASB Officer, along with the Police and Circle Russet officers have been visiting these young people and their parents to warn them about their behaviour and there have been a number of referrals to the 'Family Focus' programme. The Community Policing Team is now patrolling the area to provide extra presence/reassurance to the public and we are working with KCC to provide extra youth provision in the area. It is hoped that all of this partnership working will lead to a decrease in the anti-social behaviour.

1.5 Trench

- 1.5.1 A lot of work has been undertaken in Trench as part of 'Operation Clove'. This has been led by Russet Homes, the Borough Council's ASB Officer and the PCSO for the Ward, Linda Baker. Work has included the three officers mentioned above undertaking foot patrols, visiting a number of properties to issue warnings, providing intelligence to the Police about suspected drug dealing and meeting with residents. The work in Trench will continue, although Operation Clove will finish on 17 October.

1.6 Oakdene Café – Op Horizon

- 1.6.1 Over the summer motorbikes have continued to meet at the Oakdene Café in Wrotham Heath, mainly on a Wednesday evening. To prevent the nuisance behaviour that has occurred in recent years, the Community Safety Unit put an operation into place (Op Horizon). This has involved members of the CSU attending every Wednesday evening to ensure that no nuisance behaviour occurred. Partners attending included the Police, Community Wardens, Kent Fire & Rescue Service and VOSA. The Police and Council were also able to get a Dispersal Order for 6 months, which ended on 8 October. The Dispersal Order gave the Police powers to disperse anyone causing a nuisance and although these powers were not required it did give residents the reassurance that we were working to try to reduce the issues that had been occurring.

1.6.2 Attendance by partner agencies will also cease from 8 October but we will of course monitor the situation. We will need to start planning for next year, early in 2015 but a new strategy may be required as it may not be possible to provide the same resources as this year.

1.7 Halloween/Bonfire Night

1.7.1 The CSP has recently considered, as part of the Weekly meeting process how it will tackle any ASB around Halloween/Bonfire night. The Police will be undertaking additional patrols in known hot spot areas and they will also be linking in with Kent Fire & Rescue Service and the Community Wardens to provide extra staff on the ground.

1.8 Events

1.8.1 We have recently attended a number of events over the past month or so. These include an Older Persons event in Tonbridge on 2 October, an event in Tonbridge linked to World Mental Health Day on 10 October and an Older Persons event in Snodland on 14 October. At all of these events representatives from the Community Safety Unit were able to hand out free crime prevention items and talk to the attendees about community safety issues

1.9 Legal Implications

1.9.1 None

1.10 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

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

1.11 Risk Assessment

1.11.1 All risk assessments are under taken as appropriate.

1.12 Equality Impact Assessment

1.12.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

Background papers:

contact: Alison Finch

Nil

Adrian Stanfield
Central Services Director

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	The work of the Community Safety Partnership will promote equality and will work to address the needs of vulnerable people.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.