

DACORUM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



MINUTES

**7.30 pm Monday 18 May 2015
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead**

Present:

Cllr Neil Harden (Chairman)	DBC
Dr Amie Birkhamshaw	PCC
Tony Coley	Former Chair, HHCPP
Mr Frank	Member of the public
Mr Linton	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
Jo Hudson	HMP The Mount
Nicola Bond	Probation Service
George Holland	Herts Police
Doug Black	Herts Police
Mike Wallis	Deputy Chair Street Pastors
Ian Markwell	Herts Fire and Rescue Service
Andy Hopcraft	Herts Fire and Rescue Service
Julie Still	Group Manager Resident Services
Kim Ashworth	ASB Officer
Lee Jevon	PCSO
Rob Reimann	Herts County Council
Mike Moore	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
Michelle Anderson	DBC Employee
Dave Moore	DBC – Community Safety Coordinator
Trina Lawson	Minutes

1. Introductions and Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe and Catherine Appleby, no other apologies were received

2. Minutes of previous meeting 22 October 2014 (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting on 22 October 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Performance Update

• Community Safety Partnership (inc. Funding Update)

D Moore gave a presentation to the group highlighting the following points:

- Given the change in how crime is recorded we cannot compare the year end figures to the figures produced for 2013/14.

- A more meaningful measure of performance can be taken from looking at the position of Dacorum in relation to the other 9 districts in the County.
- With the exception of vehicle crime, Dacorum is well placed in all other categories.
- With regards to funding, D Moore advised that the funding for the current year is £29,000 with £4,000 being carried over.
- Therefore a total of £33,000 is allocated to 16 projects
- 9 of these projects specifically relate to keeping vulnerable people safe.
- Clarified that 'vulnerable' related to **ANY** risk factor including, age, capacity, etc.,
- Advised that bids for funding of under £1500 go to Joint Action Group and bids over this amount go to Responsible Authorities Officers Group.

Questions and Answers

T Linton asked, in relation to the table distributed showing Dacorum's position in the County, what the positions meant

D Moore confirmed that 1st position was the highest / best in the County.

T Linton went on to ask about fly-tipping as this is a particular problem in Adeyfield and enquired as to what the procedure was for getting this sorted.

D Moore advised that it can be reported through DBC or the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, he went on to advise that covert cameras are generally only used on private properties, as warning signs would have to be displayed should cameras be installed in public spaces.

T Coley went on to advise that they had had similar issues in Leverstock Green, the last incident involving 17 bags in Brickfield Avenue and St Michaels Avenue, which was reported to DBC, who went through the bags and traced it back to an address in St Albans; he went on to suggest that there has been an increase in these incidents since the closure of the dump, two days a week

Councillor Harden advised that the household waste site is the responsibility of County and not Borough and suggested that we need to be more pro-active in pursuing those responsible for fly-tipping and that we are pro-active in enforcing action against incidents of fly-tipping.

T Coley asked if his concerns in the correlation could be fed back to County

Councillor Harden advised they would be

D Moore advised that there had been a couple of prosecutions recently

D Moore went on to present the issues for the year ahead as taken from the Strategic Assessment and highlighted the following points :

- Threat of terrorism – being aware of what is happening locally.
- Child Sexual Exploitation – Work has already begun with taxi licensing enforcement, with 2 people from our Licensing department having spotted the signs within the taxi trade, and as a result of this training is now being put in place for other departments on how to recognise the signs of child sexual exploitation, and the procedures that then need to be followed.
- Although not part of the Strategic Assessment, advised that road safety is a key area of interest and that the Police & Crime Commissioners Office run a scheme called Neighbourhood Drive Safe, which involves relying on volunteers and some investment in speed monitors. However it was felt that rather than relying on volunteers and the availability of others, why not have a more permanent structure with it attached to a pole so it is there all the time. These are part funded by DCSP and part funded by the local parish council / Ward Councillors budget, and reported that they do appear to be having an impact.

Mr Frank asked if there had been any known incidents of child exploitation in Dacorum.

D Moore confirmed there have been.

- **POLICE**

Chief Inspector Doug Black gave an update to the group, highlighting the following points:

- Putting D Moore's figures into a national context Hertfordshire was 4th out of 40+ forces nationally
- Advised that this year's figures will be treated as the base line figures
- Advised that as well as Terrorism and Child Sexual Exploitation, Cyber Crime is increasing.
- Established a cyber crime unit, which looks at all aspects of crime committed over the internet
- This area is likely to increase quite dramatically so they are looking at ways of being able to finance and resource that to ensure they stay ahead of the game.
- Including increased complaints regarding social media, which draws on resources
- Human Trafficking – Organised crime units trying to bring people into this country, which is another relatively new and increasing crime, which we are looking at how we can better detect and respond to
- Terrorism has impact on resources, trying to ensure the safety of vulnerable people
- This involves a lot of work behind the scenes
- Vehicle crime has seen a significant improvement, from having been 10th nationally last year to 8th this year
- We have suffered spree offenders where one individual will commit a series of the same types of offences such as fuel tanks being drilled and syphoned - this individual has been caught
- Theft from vehicles in Tring – individual has been arrested
- Dwelling burglaries – tracked criminal down to Luton who was concerned with several burglaries in the area
- Criminal damage appears to have gone up, however one person recently has been charged with 22 offences and another individual has been charged with 28 offences of graffiti
- So its small numbers committing multiple crimes, which should offer reassurance

Questions and Answers

M Moore commented that although we are unable to compare the figures, changes indicate increases, could this be an increase in recording of crime or is crime on the increase

D Black advised that recording standards have changed, so now as a result of Home Office rules, crimes which previously wouldn't have been recorded now have to be

A Birkhamshaw advised that roughly two thirds of the increase is due to the changes in recording

Councillor Harden advised he had received feedback from residents regarding spates of crime in Ashridge, in particular regarding the monument area and damage to cars

D Black commented that he was aware of thefts from vehicles, in particular dog walkers, but that again it was a matter of resources, cameras had been discussed, but had to wait for other issues in the County to be resolved. He went on to say that it was

a matter of prioritising, but that there was something in place
Frank enquired as to whether the change of standards and not being able to compare figures was a political matter
D Black advised that the change was due to transparency and the fact that Hertfordshire Constabulary had not been recording properly and needed to get into line with what was happening nationally.
Frank commented that the system appears to change every couple of years and when something doesn't work we appear to go back to what we used to do and suggested that this was either due to incompetence or an ulterior motive
D Black concluded that they have to do as the Home Office advised.
Frank then went on to ask about Court results and commented that there does not appear to be much feedback from the Courts, other than the odd one or two that are reported on each week
D Black advised that the larger cases get much more significant air time, however agreed that if it is pertinent to local residents, they should be aware
G Holland advised that the local papers did use to produce this information and suggested they could look at putting them on OWL
D Moore commented that local press have also been affected by cuts and therefore do not have the resources to send people to the Courts.
G Holland advised that he would try and get this information put onto the OWL service as it is something that would be good to share
D Moore suggested that a balance needed to be drawn between pillaring and fair reporting and stated that some cases are not in the public interest
D Black advised that he would speak to their corporate Comms department to see about getting more reported on OWL.

Councillor Harden enquired regarding the shutting down of ASB properties, and commented that he had not heard of any more of these enforcements having been used recently

J Still advised that the legislation can only be used in certain circumstances and has worked really well, however the partnership working with the Police also work really well and will be used in the first instance which has been tried and tested and is now being carried out county wide.

Frank raised the issue of the closure of the Police station and enquired as to where officers will be based

D Black advised that there was currently talk of a 'super station' being based in Maylands for the extended Police units, but that the Safer Neighbourhoods Team will be based in the new Civic Centre.

A Birkhamshaw advised that this has happened in other boroughs in the County and that there is a focus on keeping local Police in local areas.

- **Fire Service Update**

I Markwell gave an update on the service, highlighting the following points :

- Arson has reduced by 9% in Dacorum on last year's figure against a County average of a 13% increase
- There have been **zero** fire deaths
- There have been only 3 fire injuries (smoke inhalation & minor burns) out of a population of 148,000
- No other Borough or district in the County has recorded fewer fire injuries
- Primary fires in Dacorum are down 15% against a County average of 3%
- Five years ago we were the second worst in the County with regards to primary

- fires per 10,00 of population, now we are second best
- Deliberate fires per 10,000 of population, five years ago we were the third worst performing borough in the County and we are now the best in the County – with just over a 60% reduction
 - We are the only Borough in the County that has reduced arson, year on year for the last five years
 - The only Borough to achieve a reduction in primary fires year on year over the last five years
 - This has been achieved through a huge amount of Community Safety activity
 - Currently a group of Duke of Edinburgh students at the station dressed up in their fire fighting outfits that were kindly provided by the Community Safety Partnership undertaking a 10 week course, one night a week
 - There have been more community safety activities recorded in this district than in any other, which is why we have the figures we have
 - Think Safe Project, aimed at vulnerable adults, adults with Learning Difficulties, a joint programme with the Police and Social Services to give out some important safety messages
 - ASDAN Project, similar to the Duke of Edinburgh project, but aimed at some of the less gifted or talented students at schools
 - Life courses, aimed at those young people that have recently been through or who are about to enter the criminal justice system or who are suffering some sort of bullying / harassment at school – a week long course, where they try to instil some value into the young people on the course
 - Fire-proof letterboxes are being installed to make people safe in their own homes – requests are made via Policing colleagues or Community Safety colleagues and the requests have increased dramatically in the last 12 months, with 50 fitted in Dacorum alone
 - Silver Streets, which involves older people
 - Home Fire Safety visits, averaging 3 day every day across the district
 - Proud of what has been achieved and wishes his successor, Andy Hopcraft all the very best

Questions and Answers

Frank enquired as to what was being done to present these figures to the press
I Markwell advised that he hoped that the figures will be published in the next couple of weeks but stated that it can be difficult to get the press to publish a positive story

T Linton enquires as to how he goes about getting a fire proof letterbox
I Markwell advised that you needed to have a need; for example domestic violence, prison release, previous arson related ASB incidents, so as a referral from other agencies

I Markwell advised there has been a new piece of legislation this year that requires all rental properties to be fitted with carbon monoxide monitors and they had had a small amount of funding from Government for this and that a pilot scheme is currently in progress and that there would be more in stock later in the year.

T Coley commented that he hoped that this would be extended to the elderly
I Markwell agreed and acknowledged that there was a need

M Moore commenting on the 9% reduction in arson, enquired as to how that reduction had been achieved

I Markwell advised that it had been through their work with youth engagement and close work with the ASB team. Most arson is committed by young people, so by building those relationships we prevent that. He advised that there is also a very good volunteer cohort that go out and perform arson patrols and report areas of flytipping

and report that back to the Council who ensure that that is removed, hence removing the risk.

D Moore confirmed that the value of what has been suggested in terms of preventing arson from happening, is that the young people involved come from a wide range of backgrounds and it changes their perspective and viewpoint. Also that the engagement works really well.

Councillor Harden offered his personal thanks to Ian Markwell for his involvement and enthusiasm in the Community Partnership and RAG and wished him well in his retirement.

4. SILVER STREET MEETS

Lee Jevon and Kim Ashworth introduced the initiative, highlighting the following points:

- New initiative in the last 6 months
- Aimed at protecting older people
- As a background, PCSO's are responsible for protecting and reducing crime and disorder
- Identified a lot of older people were leaving themselves vulnerable to distraction burglaries, phone scams and pick pockets
- Previous work had been carried out in sheltered schemes but wanted a more professional / holistic approach
- Initiative was being done within East Herts so some benchmarking was done and the initiative identified as something that could make a difference in Dacorum
- Looking to educate people and reinforce the safety message and give people the knowledge and products to make them safer
- Aim is to reach as many vulnerable and elderly people as possible
- Began with the sheltered housing schemes, not yet all completed, and other various church / lunch groups
- Various agencies come together at a coffee morning
- Sometimes only 6 people attend and other times up to 25, but the message is being spread
- Kim Talks about ASB and leaves details as a point of contact at the Council
- Trading Standards attend and discuss call/ post and cyber scams
- Jack Daw discusses fire safety
- Age UK advise on their services
- Police discuss crime prevention such as the risk of allowing people into schemes on the 'Trade' button and keeping yourself safe in the street at cash machines and from pick pockets
- Applied for funding from JAG for products to hand out, such as purse bells; lanyards for bags/ purses; torches; secret pockets
- Feedback has been positive
- Also attend on an individual basis for those unable to attend a communal event

Questions and Answers

T Coley remarked that this was a brilliant idea and enquired as to whether there were any plans to go to day centres, for example, Half Moon Yard

K Ashworth responded that this was an excellent idea, but that they relied on contacts and arranged to receive these at the end of the meeting.

5. RESTORATIVE YOUTH JUSTICE (UNPAID WORK PROVISION)

R Reimann gave a presentation to the group, highlighting the following points:

- Restorative justice offers victims the opportunity to meet with the offender
- Involves Police, CPS, Local Authority and Counsellors
- Driven by central Government
- There are 2 special victim liaison colleagues, obtaining restorative justice for 100% victims of crime. These are the only 2 people who have access to the victims details
- Direct Reparation – for example if a young person has knocked someone's fence down, they would then be expected to go to that persons house and mow the lawn, weeding, paint a fence – anything to make the victims life a little bit easier
- Indirect Reparation – they work on projects across the County, where they may go and make wheelbarrows which are then sold in charity shops
- Reparation – Unpaid work within the community, working on projects that benefit the whole community
- Aim to ensure that the young people gain a skill and build confidence
- Victims are referred to other agencies such as victim support
- Although not counted as restorative justice – we do get the perpetrators to write a letter of apology / explanation to their victim
- This will only be sent if a) the victim wants one and b) if there is genuine remorse
- Makes the young person think about what they have done and its impact and they don't know if it will be sent or not

Questions and Answers

G Holland enquired as to how many people have been through the system in the past 12 months

R Reimann advised that every young person has to do some aspect of restorative justice but the numbers that actually engage with victims is very small, but that is the same nationally. He went on to say that up until last year 16 & 17 year olds were managed by the Probation Service, but that it was decided that this didn't help.

Frank commented that there is some good work being done within the confines of the Court Order and enquired as to how many people have been 'rescued'

R Reimann advised that re-offending rates are in the low 30's but that it is difficult to gauge as the young people move into the adult system. However he added that there did appear to be a core of young people who keep reappearing, but that they also had associated issues

Frank enquired as to whether people ever return to say thank you

R Reimann confirmed that they do and that some actually return to work within the scheme as they want to give something back

Frank asked how the scheme was publicised

R Reimann advised that they would be attending the County Show, occasional articles in the press, however there is a need to be careful due to the age of the offenders. R Reimann also thanked the DCSP for a grant that the project has received of just under £4000, which allowed them to purchase better quality tools and equipment for the Scheme

M Moore noted that some offenders return to volunteer their services, but enquired as to whether there was any involvement with the voluntary sector

R Reimann advised that they are currently looking at who they can help and what can be achieved. Advised they are keen to expand but that the young people need supervising, which restricts what we can do with resources

6. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE

A Birkhamshaw gave a presentation to the group, highlighting the following points:

- PCC are refreshing the Police & Crime Plan, with the refreshed version reflecting continuity and change
- Change in landscape with partners and types of criminality
- As of 1st April this year, PCC were given money from the Ministry of Justice, to support victims of crime.
- Our PCC received £1.2 million to provide victim services
- Police & Crime Panel to receive refreshed plan on 11 June 2015
- Subject to any further amendments from them, it will be published on 16th June
- PCC Annual Lecture 'The Future of Policing', taking place at the University of Hertfordshire on 16 June, free to attend but do need to register for tickets.
- 'Beacon' – a new victims hub. A multi-agency hub, which is co-located with various specialist workers and provide a one stop shop for all victims of crime.

Questions and Answers

J Still enquired as to whether victims of ASB, even if not at a criminal level, could be referred

A Birkhamshaw advised any victims regardless of any reports to the Police

M Moore enquired as to where in Hertfordshire the hub would be located

A Birkhamshaw advised that it was on the same site as Police HQ in Welwyn Garden City

8. AOB

N Harden advised the Committee that following comments at the previous meeting regarding the publicising of the DCSP meetings, that a poster had been created and distributed to all Community Centres and Sheltered schemes, a press release was released and that we ensured it was on the OWL system, and hoped that people would feel encourage that comments are listened to and acted upon.

Frank suggested that what is being produced is quite dry and suggested that it needed a little bit of personality and suggested we create it and send it to the press

N Harden advised that people are generally more engaged when they are feeling disturbed by something and that it was a positive that people obviously feel comfortable and therefore do not feel the need to attend these meetings.

N Harden advised that a report from HMP will be added to the minutes.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm.

Next meeting will be 21st October 2015

Issued by Trina Lawson

Corporate Support Team Leader - Democracy, Dacorum Borough Council

01442 228209

catriona.lawson@dacorum.gov.uk