

DACORUM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



MINUTES

**7.30 pm Tuesday 23 April 2013
Auditorium, South Hill Centre**

Present:

Catherine Appleby	DBC Representative
Tony Coley	Former Chair, HHCPP
Jack Daw	Herts Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr Terry Douris	DBC
Cllr Neil Harden (Chairman)	DBC
Inspector George Holland	Herts Police
Ian Markwell	Herts Fire and Rescue Service
Dave Moore	DBC – Community Safety Coordinator
Dr John Porteous	
Julie Still	DBC – Group Manager (Resident Services)
Pat Duff	Minutes

ACTION

1. Introductions and Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Fiona Guest	DBC
Anne Gloag	
Maria Kraithman	Mediation Herts
Lynda Roe	Apsley Community Centre
Douglas Walker	Former Chair, DCSP

2. Minutes of previous meeting 3 October 2012 (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting on 3 October 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising:

- Page 3 – Dave Moore said £32k had been allocated to the CSP (90% compared to last year).
- Crime figures regarding part lighting – Councillor Douris said the Chief Constable had made a statement saying it had not had an impact on crime. The figures were down but did not detail crime committed between midnight and 6.00 am.

Inspector Holland said evidence shows that in many areas where lights were

on, more crime still took place. There was no evidence showing that where the street lights are turned off there has been an increase in crime (including criminal damage to motor vehicles), mostly the reverse. Most crimes were carried out in daylight around 4.00 pm and lighting has no impact. People needed to get the message to secure their property during daylight hours.

There was a lot of evidence that showed anti-social behaviour increased when street lights were left on. Youths liked to gather in the light.

There was no reduction in accidents but there was a 49% reduction in serious accidents.

- D Moore said crime in Berkhamsted had risen. If that continued questions would be asked as to whether part lighting could be part of the cause. Monitoring would take place.

3. Performance Update

Dave Moore gave the following update:

- **Community Safety Partnership**

With the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Olympic Torch Relay and Paralympic Torch Relay 2012-13 was an eventful year, both for Dacorum and the Community Safety Partnership. The Local Authority, Emergency Services Town and Parish Councils were all involved, along with volunteers. Partner Agencies were involved in all of this and the CSP was directly involved in the operational planning of the events.

All three events were hugely successful in terms of public participation – that didn't happen by chance – thorough planning and a will to succeed made this happen and the processes which we developed around operational planning and risk assessment will be adopted in any future large scale events.

Because the Community Safety Partnership cannot deal with every issue which arises, its work has to be prioritised and it is a legal responsibility for the partnership to identify its priorities through the creation of a Strategic Assessment.

The priorities identified through this strategy for 2013-14 are:

Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage
Dwelling Burglary
Vehicle Crime
Alcohol Misuse
Drug Misuse
Managing Offenders/ Reducing Re Offending

Young people have been included as a theme within each of these priorities.

In the report on performance each of the priorities would be covered.

The CSP has a statutory responsibility to work together in Partnership to reduce the problems caused by Crime and disorder, the misuse of alcohol and drugs and antisocial behaviour.

Crime

The Borough wide figure for reduction of all crime is an excellent 12.5% - this is an improvement on last year's reduction figure of 11% - and means that there were 951 fewer victims of crime than last year; combine that with the previous year and what we can draw from that is that at the end of March 2013, there were 1895 fewer victims of crime than there were in the year up to the end of March 2011.

The table on the screen showed that, whilst the overall figure for crime is green across the borough, there are three areas of red, two in Berkhamsted and one in Tring.

Burglary Dwelling

This shows a reduction of 3.4% compared to last year across the borough but within that there is an increase shown in Berkhamsted of 83%, a rise of 25 crimes compared to the previous year which is significant.

Vehicle Crime

There had been a good reduction across the borough of 19.2% and the only part of the borough showing an increase is in Tring (showing an increase of 1.8% or 2 more crimes than last year). That is not statistically significant but it does alert us to monitor closely.

Alcohol Misuse and Drug Misuse

The figures for these categories in terms of people in treatment will not be available until May but our work on this area focuses on the areas of education, treatment and enforcement. Glen may wish to speak about enforcement activity in his report.

Education

The partnership supports Druglink, who provide educational input into all secondary schools in Dacorum around substance misuse.

Jack Daw said the Safe Driving events were held over a month at the 9 secondary schools. Various scenarios were shown and in the afternoon a reconstruction of an accident took place. There has been a 49% reduction in serious accidents that the Fire Service attended. Throughout the county Dacorum was the only district with a decrease. The Safe Driving event would take place again in July.

Dave Moore continued with his report:

Treatment

We support the Drug and Alcohol Referral Service who are based in Wolsey Road in Hemel Hempstead who have set up a programme called Changing Lanes. They put offenders coming out prison on an 8 week programme teaching skills to help them get into employment.

Managing Offenders

When prolific and priority offenders (PPOs) leave prison it is the responsibility of the partnership to manage them. A project is being run in partnership with Hemel Stags to give PPOs jobs such as decorating (monitored by the Police). The partnership works closely with other services to keep areas safe and green. Drug abuse affected crime and detections affected crime.

There had been a funding reduction, £63k to £34k and £32K for year 2013-14.

Fourteen separate initiatives had been supported throughout the year in support of the priorities identified in the Strategic Assessment.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The partnership works with the Police and the DBC Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Anti-social behaviour had fallen across the borough from 3,000 per month to 400 per month. The ASB figures are down 29% from last year and this was due to partnership working.

Other information:

- The Fire Service kept a store of letter box guards.
- Community Pay Back – funding had been given.
- Billy's Wish – they were producing a DVD for use in schools about knife and gun culture.
- Swan Project – funding for lighting in Berkhamsted skate park.
- Adventure Playgrounds – funding for new equipment. There was a partnership with Youth Connexions who were sharing use of the facilities.
- Hemel Stags – funding had been given.
- A Policy Constable had requested funding for community theft purse lanyards.
- 20 mobile telephones had been bought for Police to give out to victims of hate crime for emergency use.
- Youth Support Team had been given £500 to help young people coming out from youth offender institutions.
- Longdean School had a project called 'Go for It' to keep children off the streets.

Crime Figures

- Dacorum had climbed up 2 places and aimed to be in 4th place.
- Dacorum has the biggest population and therefore the biggest crime levels and was in 5th place for violent crime.
- Violent crime figures for Hemel Town Centre were down by 23%.
- 7th place for criminal damage.
- 5th in the county for ASB.

Questions and Answers

In response to Councillor Douris, Dave Moore said Three Rivers were top but their population was 94k. It was not compared on a like for like basis.

Councillor Douris asked if the relationship between Youth Connexions and the youth clubs was working.

Julie Still said this was being worked on. The DBC-run youth clubs were getting 150 – 160 young people weekly. Youth Connexions were taking longer as they were not being consistent. There was concern this was impacting on Dacorum's reputation. There was now double the offer to young people but it was harder when DBC did not have control.

Councillor Harden said Youth Connexions provided no activity at adventure playgrounds. DBC launched the twilight sessions which are a great success and Youth Connexions want to be involved. The adventure playgrounds can be hired out privately.

Julie Still said there had been an increase in attendance at adventure playgrounds in addition to 5,000 attendances at the youth club sessions last year. This impacted on ASB in the area. From July the twilight sessions would be funded by the Council as part of the core service. There was a Youth Council at each adventure playground who decided what the 50p charge per session would be spent on. They were involved in all the youth democracy events.

- **POLICE**

George Holland gave the following update:

- The Police play a key part in crime reduction and catch those who commit crime. Last year was the best detection rate for Dacorum (over 38% of overall crime).
- A strategic priority is to reduce crime by 2% which falls in line with DCSP key targets. That target is going to be challenging for all concerned as crime is falling year on year.
- Burglaries were a concern, particular in Berkhamsted, taking place during the morning, afternoon and early hours of the morning. Offenders have been using high powered motor vehicles. Over the last month a number of police resources have been targeted at that area.
- Markyate was being targeted by criminals from Luton and Bedford who had been arrested and charged.
- The individual responsible for a number of burglaries in Boxmoor had been arrested and charged.
- The burglaries that have taken place have been committed by criminals from outside the county. The Police are working with Bedfordshire and Thames Valley to target these individuals.
- PPOs – Dacorum has the largest number of these in the county. This was under review to ensure the resources targeted to those individuals were being used efficiently.
- On 1 April there was a change to the way neighbourhood policing is run. Neighbourhood teams were now led by Sergeants. There were 4 teams in Dacorum (Berkhamsted and Tring; Hemel Hempstead North, Rural, West and Central; Hemel Hempstead East; Kings Langley and Hemel Hempstead South East). The Dacorum Neighbourhood Team was increasing numbers (23 PCs borough wide. PCSOs have increased by 0.5. Dacorum is now one of the highest Neighbourhood Teams in the county. They were working with partners by targeting shop lifters etc.
- Over the past month St Albans has had more crime than Dacorum.
- Under the Policing Commissioners plan there are 3 key priorities:

Catching criminals, keeping people safe and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour

- The role of the PCSO was to provide reassurance, gather intelligence, reduce ASB, being a contact, working with others (the Council, Probation Service etc.) and visiting sports clubs etc.
- The Police Officer role is to use their warranted powers.
- Another concern is criminal damage. It is not easy to catch individuals as nobody sees them and the damage is normally done by drunks. Looking to get funding to address some of those issues. Over the past few months, ASB has reduced.

Questions and Answers

In response to a question from Councillor Harden, George Holland said that Apsley and Corner Hall came under Kings Langley and Hemel Hempstead South East. The reason for the split is the distribution of staff and work.

Councillor Harden said the Police Commissioner is discussing targets with the Chief Constable. As the representative on the Police and Crime Panel, any local issues could be flagged up to see if they were issues anywhere else in the county. One issue being looked at was mental health and how mental health criminals were treated.

Councillor Harden asked what percentage of crime committed in Dacorum was home grown.

George Holland said in relation to the priority crimes, 70% of burglaries were committed by people from outside the area (Essex, Kent, Sussex and Bedfordshire).

- **Fire Service**

Ian Markwell gave the following update.

- Arson had been reduced by 39% over the past year, 193 down to 118. Regarding the fire setting at the back of Marlowes shops, JAG organised a clean and sweep initiative, spoke to shop owners and the problem went away immediately.
- Primary fires are 16% down. Operation Sponge Pudding is a joint initiative with Police and Fire Officers going out to people in receipt of meals on wheels to give security and fire safety advice and check the premises. Free fire detectors are fitted.

Ian Markwell to give a breakdown on the 170 primary fires.

Action: IM

- A Duke of Edinburgh Scheme is run with senior schools.
- Safe Driving Events had shown a 49% reduction of serious accidents.
- Environment Action Days – the Fire Service do home safety visits.
- Home fire safety visits – check in homes, provide fire detectors that save people's lives. In answer to a question about CO2 detectors, Ian Markwell said some are fitted in the most vulnerable people's homes but were not generally fitted because of cost.

Julie Still said they were fitted in all Council properties and checked annually. The letter box covers could be installed at very short notice and made people feel safer in their homes.

Tony Coley said there were so many people in private properties who do not have CO2 detectors and this is a worry.

Jack Daw said the Fire Service had never refused to fit letter box covers and were normally fitted within 24 hours of a Police request.

Catherine Appleby asked if local plumbers could be asked to check if people required CO2 detectors and to let people know it was a silent killer.

Jack Daw said CO2 detectors were reserved for very vulnerable people as they cost four times as much as a smoke detector.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Police and Crime Commissioner Plan for the Coming Year

Cllr Neil Harden asked for names of anybody who would like to be supplied with this plan.

Action:

The plan to be supplied to:

Councillor Terry Douris

Mrs C Appleby

Tony Coley, 104 Tile Kiln Lane, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8NW

Dr John Porteous, 28 Betjeman Way, Hemel Hempstead HP1 3HH

4.2 Attendance of the DCSP

Tony Coley expressed concern at the small attendance at the current meetings compared with 3 – 4 years ago and suggested it might be time to relaunch this fantastic forum.

Dave Moore suggested the meetings could be rotated around the borough.

Councillor Neil Harden said there were 51 ward councillors who should be interested in this. The Gazette had been invited but did not come.

Dave Moore said all County, Borough and Town/Parish Councillors were invited.

Councillor Terry Douris suggested that, as the meeting was held twice annually, people may not feel it is a very important meeting. If meetings were held, say quarterly, attendance may rise. Councillor Douris suggested a press release may be a good idea.

Councillor Harden agreed some publicity could be good, especially that there were 2,000 less victims of crime this year.

Dave Moore said it would be interesting to see why councillors were not attending. Councillors were elected to represent their area and crime and anti-social behaviour was key to every councillor and to the electorate.

Tony Coley said if there was a major crisis, everyone would be attending.

Inspector George Holland said if crime was a major issue in Dacorum, attendance would be high. Because crime and anti-social behaviour was low, nobody attends.

Mrs Appleby said people did not realise that, compared to other areas in Hertfordshire, Dacorum was a very safe area.

Councillor Neil Harden said the Police and Crime Commissioner was looking at the perception and fear of crime versus the reality. The message of how

safe we are in Herts and how this message gets out was very important.

Councillor Terry Douris said he would be interested to know if the statistics for the fear of crime had reduced in proportion to the actual crime.

Dr John Porteous said the perception of crime was always higher and depended upon what was in the press or on TV.

Dave Moore said it was crucial that Councillors should attend as they were the conduit for local information.

Julie Still said, in Neighbourhood Action areas, councillors received details of what was happening in the local area. People wanted to know what was happening in their areas.

5. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 2 October 2013.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm.

Issued by Pat Duff
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