

To: Great Shelford Parish Council

From: The Highways Committee

Date: 16 September 2020

Police Liaison and Reporting

1.0 Introduction

Following a number of conversations between Barrie Ashurst and Emma Hilson, Partnership and Prevention Sergeant, South Cambridgeshire Neighbourhoods Team, Barrie arranged a Zoom meeting to introduce Ifthi and Lyn to Emma (as new Councillors) and to discuss priorities and reporting issues.

2.0 Key Issues

Emma had prepared a Powerpoint which was extremely enlightening. The key issues were 1) lack of police resource and 2) the encouragement of local communities to do all they can to use that resource well.

There are only 9 officers for the area and the force has to have clear priorities, which currently are:

- Emergency Response
- Child Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Serious Sexual offences
- Domestic Abuse
- Dwelling burglary
- Counter terrorism

Emma showed us the live incident list and the open 57 crimes in the last 24 hour period and it quickly became clear that the crimes we are normally reporting could not be treated as force priorities.

57 crimes in 24 hours in South Cambs 24-25/8/2020

Classification	Classification	Classification
Adult Protection Investigation	Crime Investigation - Action fraud:- Call f...	Other criminal damage, other (Under E5...
Adult Protection Investigation	Domestic Abuse Investigation	Owner or person in charge allowing dog L...
Adult Protection Investigation	Domestic Abuse Investigation	Possession of a controlled drug with inten...
Affray	Domestic Abuse Investigation	Racially or religiously aggravated haraas...
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (A...	Harassment - Pursue course of conduct L...	Sec: 4 POA Fear or provocation of violence...
Assault or assault by beating of an emerg...	Harassment - without violence (course of...	Sec: 4 POA Fear or provocation of violence...
Assault without Injury - Common assault ...	Harming or threatening to harm a witness...	Sec: 4a POA Causing intentional harassme...
Assault without Injury - Common assault ...	Making off without payment	Sec: 4a POA Causing intentional harassme...
Assault without Injury - Common assault ...	Making off without payment	Sending letters etc with intent to cause di...
Assault without Injury - Common assault ...	Making off without payment	Sending letters etc with intent to cause di...
Assault without Injury - Common assault ...	Non crime Investigation - Threat, Harm a...	SUMMARY IMPRISONABLE
Attempted - Theft if not classified elsewh...	Non crime Investigation - Threat, Harm a...	Theft from a motor vehicle
Burglary - Business And Community	Non crime Investigation - Threat, Harm a...	Theft from a motor vehicle
Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	Non crime Investigation - Threat, Harm a...	Theft from a motor vehicle
Burglary - Residential - Non-Dwelling	Other criminal damage, other (Under E5...	Theft if not classified elsewhere
Causing death by careless or inconsiderat...	Other criminal damage, other (Under E5...	Theft if not classified elsewhere
Child Protection Investigation	Other criminal damage, other (Under E5...	Theft if not classified elsewhere
Child Protection Investigation	Other criminal damage, other (Under E5...	Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Pedal ...
Child Protection Investigation	Other criminal damage, other (Under E5...	Threats to destroy or damage property
Crime Investigation - Action fraud:- Call f...	Owner or person in charge allowing dog L...	Threats to kill
	Possession of a controlled drug with inten...	Wounding with intent to do grievous bodi...

One of the key challenges in our area is high level of organised crime drug dealing – a multi-agency response is actively working in our area to help combat the network of crime that this produces.

County lines drug dealing – Organised crime groups

- Targeting organised crime groups is a priority.
- The county lines modus operandi has been specifically harmful to our communities targeting the vulnerable and exploiting young males.
- This involves the occupation of a home to create a distribution hub. Tenants are often drugs users or vulnerable in other ways.
- Our approach involves multiple agencies using a combination of criminal and civil laws.
- One of the most regular partner activities is to close down properties being used as locations to deal from.
- Our target remains taking out the “lines” into the County



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We talked about the obvious priority that has to be given to “serious” crime and also the social and community impact of low level crime and ASB in a community like ours. and how each community did hope to have a police response that met their need. What we learnt is that we may not always see the serious crime, but it is going on in our location, and it is hard to argue than an officer should attend a small crowd of youths causing a bit of disturbance as a priority over a child abuse report.

However this doesn’t mean that we need to passively accept low-level crime in our area – and there are local examples of communities using social media and community initiatives to help record incidents and build up evidence and patterns that can then enable the police to investigate and prosecute successfully.

Emma was very candid and pragmatic – the resource is as it is, and they just have to do the very best they can within it.

3.0 Potential Actions

To increase “useful” reporting (where there is a crime that can be proven and prosecuted) we could:

- encourage our community to share information on a village forum i.e. a Facebook page (see <https://www.facebook.com/WillinghamVillage/> where both positive community and police issues are posted as a norm). <https://www.facebook.com/GreatShelfordParishCouncil/> could be developed further and promoted or a more generic page created?
- Work with Emma and Chris Wiseman (our PCSO) to produce a monthly update, helping people understand what the Police had actually been working on (see leaflet attached).
- Explore initiatives to increase community engagement and self-support and build “community”
- Promote “reporting” of observations, concerns and actual crimes via 101 and review with Chris Wiseman
- Revitalise <http://www.greatshelford.info/home/parish-council> to make it more accessible

4.0 Conclusion

The general outcome of the meeting was that we can best help our community by getting them to work together effectively to report, provide evidence and build up community spirit – and appreciate that the Police can't actually do what some of community feel is their role.

Our neighbourhood watch schemes, combined with the promotion of 101 and e-cops, supported by a more engaging social media presence may be the best way forward.

Whilst this may sound a little disappointing to some, it is the reality and having had a thorough and helpful presentation from Emma, we appreciated that she is not minimising the impact of low level crime in our area – but is just practically unable to prioritise some activities over others.

We rely on continued information

Dear Resident

I write to introduce myself as the local Police Sergeant for the South Cambridgeshire District.

Firstly, I would like to reassure you that South Cambridgeshire is a safe place in the country to live and work and we would like to keep it that way.

I also write to ask for your help. You know your communities best:

You know the drivers that get in their cars after one too many;
You know the family that regularly have violent outbursts with one another;
You know the child in that house that tragically witnesses it all;
You know the vulnerable person that lives next door
You know the people visiting him aren't there for his welfare.
You know the youngsters that are out until late smoking weed / being anti social.
You know the parents of those children whom might think "It's ok"
...

We would like to know what you know so that we can keep South Cambridgeshire Safe.

If it doesn't feel right please talk to us:

Telephone call 101
Online at www.cambs.police.uk/report
Textphone 18001 101

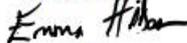
We recognise that a large number of concerns within local communities are often deeply entrenched and this may affect your confidence in reporting matters to us. If you don't feel comfortable providing your details you can **report anonymously** via

Crime stoppers:
Telephone 0800 555 111
Online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information>

Whilst anonymous reporting often provides difficulties for us when it comes to evidencing matters for court, **we would rather have information anonymously than not have access to it at all.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely



Emma Hilson
Police Sergeant 0964
South Cambridgeshire Neighbourhoods Team



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