

PUBLIC MEETING - ARRANGED BY POTTON TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday 26th March 2019 at the Pavilion, Mill Lane, Pottton which started at 7.00 pm

To discuss anti-social behaviour issues in the town

Present:

Chairman of the meeting Pottton Town Council Chairman Cllr Mr A. Macdonald,
Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Cllr Adam Zerny,
Sergeant Rachael Welch, Bedfordshire Police,
PCSO Ann Jeeves, Bedfordshire Police,
Carol Rooker Head of Housing Operations, CBC,
Carmel Coyle, CBC

Also Present:

Thirty-one members of the public were in attendance.
Town Clerk.

Apologies for absence:

None

1 Welcome, introduction and detail of the format of the evening.

The Chairman welcomed and thanked the public for attending.

The Chairman introduced himself and also representative from CBC Cllr Adam Zerny, Carol Rooker Head of Housing Operations and Carmel Coyle. representatives from Bedfordshire Police Sergeant Rachael Welch and PCSO Ann Jeeves.

The Chairman advised this would be the last public meeting to discuss anti-social behaviour issues in the town and that members of the public are welcome to attend the town council meeting to raise anti-social behaviour issues.

2 Open Forum

The Chairman asked for any questions from the public.

Key: **Q** = Question, **A** = Answer, **S** = Statement, (C) = Chairman, (AZ) = Cllr Adam Zerny, (CR) = Carol Rooker, (CC) = Carmel Coyle, (RW) = Sergeant Rachael Welch and (AJ) = PCSO Ann Jeeves.

Q – Drug dealing in HSPF is it correct that video recording is needed.

A (RW) That isn't correct. Please report incidents.

A (AJ) Please provide lots of information, car indexes etc.

Q – Drug dealing, asking public to pass on information. Residents of Pottton pay £400,000 of council tax to the Police, should be at least one officer in the town. 101 is useless. Response time is about forty minutes in Pottton. £400,000 should be spent on a Police Person for Pottton. Need a Police

presence in Pottton, Sandy and Biggleswade. How can Tesco get a bigger response than residents? Cars speeding 60mph in 20mph limits.

(C) – Policing Operation nothing to with Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). PCC won't attend this meeting. PCC requested that the town council pay £31,200 for a PCSO, after the town council budget was set.

A (RW) The Police assess on a Threat, Harm, Risk for responses.

S – Used to be one Police Officer for every 600 people. Pottton used to have two Police Officers for 2,500 people. Pottton now has no Police Officers.

S (RW) The Police are regularly in Pottton. PCSO AJ is regularly present in the town.

S – Presence of the Police was up for one week, now down again.

(AJ) Response Officers are now out of Biggleswade.

Q What are the response times now?

A (RW) The Police assess on a Threat, Harm, Risk.

Q Why haven't we got CCTV in Pottton?

A (C) Quoted £25,000 for a camera. Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Behaviour happens in various places in the town. Not possible to have cameras everywhere.

S – Need to gather intelligence.

(C) Neighbourhood Watch. Terry Woods is the Co-ordinator.

S – Neighbourhood Watch in Wingfield Drive. Need Street / Area co-ordination. Lots of people NIMBY (Not in my back yard) doesn't affect me.

(AJ) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator in Biggleswade.

S – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator in Biggleswade very helpful.

(C) The town council will contact Neighbourhood Watch in Biggleswade for an article for the town council newsletter.

S – Three or four Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Pottton currently.

(AJ) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for each road or parts of a road needed.

S – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator lives in the road.

(C) The town council can only ask (Neighbourhood Watch in Biggleswade for an article for the town council newsletter.) and then see if we get a response.

S – Sixty-five houses in Wingfield Drive only twelve members in the Neighbourhood Watch in the road.

S – Neighbourhood Watch will only prevent petty crime.

S – Top ten crimes should be placed on the Potton Facebook page.

(C) The We Love Potton facebook page isn't the town councils.

(RW) Bedfordshire Police have a Facebook page. Important not to leave valuables in cars.

(AJ) Beds Alert, subscribe via Bedfordshire Police.

(AJ) Shed break-ins at this time of year increase.

S – Speeding in Horslow Street, sixty to seventy-five miles per hour.

(C) Not safe to do Speedwatch in Horslow Street.

S – Speeding is town wide.

(C) Data gathering is being carried out in various roads.

S – Speeding is getting worse.

(C) Calibrating speed signs are being installed in Gamlingay Road and Bury Hill.

S – Royal Oak Zebra Crossing is ridiculous just on a bend.

(C) CBC advised that the Market Square isn't suitable for a Zebra Crossing.

(AZ) The town council was able to put forward a maximum of two road schemes to CBC. Will gain an impression where these road schemes place with schemes in other towns and parishes.

S – Travellers were on the allotment site, said they were looking for a puppy. Lots of theft from the allotment site.

S – Puppy Farm in Gamlingay, Fullers Hill.

(C) To install 2-metre-tall palisade fencing around the allotment site would cost £37,000.

(RW) A Police Officer is looking into the theft from the allotment site.

(RW) Mobile Police Station on the allotments 16th and 17th April 2019.

S – I will add to Allotment Association facebook page about Mobile Police Station on the allotments 16th and 17th April 2019.

S – Police Officer in Potton would be a deterrent.

(RW) Not possible to be at both ends of the village at the same time.

S – Two coppers would get fifteen arrests after three months. Drug dealers don't want to be seen to close.

(AJ) Residents should just observe and then inform. Every call is recorded.

(RW) Report via Crimestoppers.

S – 101 can be good and bad.

(AJ) Intelligence is sent to the right area.

(AJ) Able to report on facebook.

(AJ) Every call is recorded.

S – Report about people braking a garage four times. A week later garage is emptied out. Police need to regain trust of the public.

(RW) Crime reporting is checked.

S – Four separate incidents or one incident.

S – Reported crime vehicle damage.

S – No CCTV footage so no further action taken.

(RW) Were here now because of increase in crime.

S – More Police presence in Wingfield Drive due to reporting.

S – Whatsapp group has been set up for Wingfield Drive.

S – A14 Cambridge Dash Camera – Upload information onto Police Website eary.

S – CCTV doesn't prevent crime. People get upset by crime and affects people's wellbeing.

(AZ) Using CCTV to predict crime.

(AJ) CCTV does prevent crime.

(RW) Ring door bells are very good.

S – Royston Street, speeding in 20mph zone need rumble strips like in New Road, Sandy.

(C) Before rumble strips are installed. Would need to consider local housing for noise.

S – Rumble strips quite compared to revving.

(C) Raised table to be installed on Sandy Road.

S – Raised tables reduce speed.

(C) Intelligence raised tables that increase in size if people go to fast and reduce if people go the correct speed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.

DRAFT