

Willingham Community Plan

25th September 2018

Sergeant 964 Emma Hilson

South Cambridgeshire Neighbourhoods Team

#safercambs



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Sgt Emma Hilson from the local Police team.

I have created this document following feedback received through the parish council, local councillors, a local police surgery and direct engagement with the public during PCSO patrols. This document has been created following a Community meeting on 20th September 2018.

During the meeting a number of issues and concerns were raised, from which 5 key priorities were set. This document outlines the background, highlighted public concerns and the 5 key priorities that the village has requested that the police focus upon over the next month.

About us

Your local team can be contacted on Southcambscops@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Sgt Emma Hilson – Local Sergeant for the South Cambridgeshire area, part of the South Neighbourhood Divisional Neighbourhoods Team. I am responsible for crime prevention across the 106 Parishes that make up South Cambridgeshire. I am supported by Sgt Jon Capes whose primary focus is on the Cambourne Sector of South Cambridgeshire and Sgt Phil Priestley, the support sergeant for South Cambridgeshire Neighbourhoods Team.

PCSO Tom Baugh – Tom is the link between the Police and the community. He works in your village to building links, reassure residents and ensure the Police have the information and support we need from the community to reduce crime and keep people safe. Tom is supported by 8 other Police community Support Officers across the South Cambridgeshire Neighbourhoods Team: Bujar Mani, Tony Martin, Joe Haylock, James Lynch, John Coppard, Julie Hajredini, Chris Wiseman and we look forward to welcoming Lindsay Gardiner back to the team in the Autumn. If you see them out in the village please stop and say hello.

The Community Action Team – This team is made up of 1 Detective Sergeant and 8 warranted police officers. They are the front line Problem solving professionals. The Team hold a portfolio of tasked problems; centred around:

- People – Higher harm, higher risk, high demand individuals.
- Places – Action plans to tackle crime types, ASB, disorder or confidence.
- Projects – Dedicated to improving our neighbourhoods.

They offer a brigaded response, dealing with issues as a team “en mass” by leading problem solving from the front line to ensure that we are making best use of ‘multi-agency working’

Paul Rogerson – Inspector Partnership team. Mr Rogerson has overall responsibility for delivering Neighbourhood Policing, our work with partnership agencies, communities and volunteer groups across Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire, East and South Cambridgeshire

Your local response and investigations teams – These teams deliver 24/7 emergency response and investigation at any one time we have an Operations Inspector, Sergeants and a pool of response Constables.

Our concerns

The police, alongside the parish council, asked for a public meeting because together we were concerned that with a number of high profile crimes having recently taken place in the village that the public may have concerns they wished to discuss. We felt the community would benefit in having an opportunity to speak with us directly about it, together.

We wanted to provide you with more information, give you a way to influence how we approach this problem together with your local councils (parish and district) and other statutory agencies present. We also want to look for opportunities to work with volunteer or local community groups who may already be working to solve the problem, or are seeking to address the cause of the problem.

The statistics

Over the past 12 months to date * in Willingham there have been

- 70 ASB related incidents compared to 65 previous year
- 95 crime related incidents compared to 116 previous year
- 53 domestic violence related incidents compared to 57 previous year
- 240 other public safety related incidents compared to 277 previous year

Over the past 3 months in Willingham ** there have been

June	July	August	Sept
6 ASB related 8 Crime related 1 Domestic related 16 Public safety related 10 Vehicle related	5 ASB related 6 crime related 6 Domestic related 17 Public safety related 6 Vehicle related	10 ASB related 21 Crime related 9 Domestic related 31 Public safety related 7 Vehicle related	5 ASB related 8 Crime 6 Domestic related 26 Public safety related 8 Vehicle related

*Figures correct as at 1200hrs 20/9/18. Taken from internal force system searches on incident disposal codes within Willingham.

**Figures correct as at 0000hrs 24/9/18. Taken from internal force system searches on incident disposal codes within Willingham.

Most calls have been received during the evening between 1700-0000hrs

These figures do not indicate a significant increase in incidents within Willingham over the past 12 months however they do show they do show an increase in incidents in August.

Although I have relayed a number of figures to you, this document is not about statistics, it is about working together to resolve the issues that Willingham residents currently face. I firmly believe that figures and quantitative data like the information above play very little part in highlighting a problem when looked at in isolation. Without the context behind those figures we cannot ever fully understand what is happening within a community. The police surgery and meeting has helped us to fill the gaps that the statistics can't reach.

Your concerns

The context

The meeting on 20th was not a police meeting, it was a community meeting, chaired by the parish council and sought to involve our partner agencies and council as much as possible to ensure we are addressing matters from all angles. There were matters that you raised whereby we, the police, take primacy. However there were also matters raised whereby another agency will be best placed to lead on the issue.

I am aware that many of you responded to a leaflet entitled "Are you concerned about policing in Willingham?". Some would look upon the fact that 182 people came to the school last Thursday because they were concerned about policing in Willingham as a negative. I don't view it like that. I see it as 182 people that want crime and ASB in the village to reduce and 182 people that are willing to make the effort to come and talk to us. As PS Priestley alluded to at the meeting, we have been to villages with similar advertising campaigns and received very little public response, which is, for us, is really disheartening because we rely on communities to talk to us, and to continue talking to us, in order for changes to occur. It is really pleasing to see the number of people that have highlighted on the contact details form that they are interested in Neighbourhood Watch, Speedwatch and joining the Special Constabulary. Please see the final page of this booklet on how you can become involved.

I would also like to personally thank those members of the community that took the brave step to stand up in front of such a large crowd and relay their personal experiences. Thank you, that takes courage, a number of those stories hit home for me and no doubt your neighbours too.

The concerns listed below are taken from the notes made at the meeting. Where possible we have endeavoured to use your own terms

The concerns that you raised centred around:

- Criminal damage in church street
- Antisocial behaviour in church street and elsewhere in the village
- Residential burglaries
- Shed burglaries
- Disappointment that offenders had not been apprehended for the ram raid / criminal damage.
- Disappointment that victims are told there is not enough evidence to prosecute
- Vehicle collisions and dangerous driving through the village
- Feeling that Police only use social media in one direction and don't act on intelligence
- Lack of direct communication with the public
- Negative experience of police interactions with 101
- Speeding in the village
- Fly grazing
- Ram raids at the One stop
- Drug dealing on the high street
- Disappointment at speed of police response to 999 reports
- Disappointment at quality of police response to 999 reports
- Public feel they provide information but it is not acted upon/ used
- Intimidation within the village by one particular resident
- Lack of direct response by police on local Facebook sites
- Concerns over policing the increased local population resulting from Northstowe
- Police.uk website information is limited

The fact that the community, fairly unanimously, wanted to talk predominantly about the criminal damage / ASB matters as opposed to the ram raids and the stabbing was really quite telling for PS Priestley and I. The term 'low level' was used and in fact the term 'volume crime' is more appropriate. 'low level' infers that it has minimal impact, however as was clearly evident last night, this is having a significant impact on your daily lives.

Looking ahead

The suggestions you made to address these concerns include:

- Increased police presence in Willingham
- More information on “what is best evidence?”
- Better use of social media to engage with the public
- Ability to report via facebook
- Consistent responses from 101 call takers
- Village bobby back on the beat
- Better collation of intelligence to build a picture of who is committing crime within Willingham
- Intimidating male within the village dealt with
- Regular use of the parish newsletter
- More information on ASB on Ecops
- More information on crime that has been solved in Willingham
- Speed reduction measures introduced
- Plans to show that policing Northstowe has been considered
- PCSOs in the local shop
- More faith in the police
- Better communication and feedback to villagers
- Use of unmarked police cars within the village
- Direct contact with PCC
- Direct contact with Lucy Frazer MP
- Another meeting in approximately 1 months time (subject to availability of the PCC and Lucy Frazer’s office) with updates on what has happened in response to the concerns

5 Key priorities

A large number of concerns and suggestions were highlighted throughout the meeting and previous discussions. It was evident that some of these matters are short term issues, some medium term and others are more long term. Some of the issues and concerns that you raised in the meeting will take time to address, some of the suggestions, although valid, are difficult to commit to in the current climate. Nevertheless we have the agreed 5 key points that we, the police, the Parish council and partner agencies can realistically seek to address and improve upon within 1 month in the coming weeks ahead of the next community meeting.

These priorities were:

- **To deal with the issues and allegations surrounding a prominent local nominal**
- **To improve the quality and direction of response to reports of ASB within the village**
- **To improve feedback to people offering information to the police, and to provide better care for victims and witnesses.**
- **To show demonstrable outcome against ASB in the village**
- **To arrange another follow up meeting to evidence the above with elected local officials in attendance**

Approach

The Police and Parish Council will own this prevention plan together. The Parish Council will co-ordinate the community lead work and Police will work with the other statutory agencies, specifically the South Cambridgeshire community safety partnership to ensure effective measures are put in place to support this plan.

The Police will work from the basic principles of:

Access – Open out the local police team and their work to the public.

Information – Provide up to date and relevant information to the public so they can help protect themselves and feel confident and safe in their community.

Intervention – We want to allow the public to have a genuine say in how their community is policed.

Answers – We will let the public know how we have taken action and share success and failure with them so they can understand what has been done to reduce crime and disorder.

A date has yet to be set for the next meeting. We will keep you updated as soon as this has been arranged.

In the meantime I will be sending out a generic survey by email for residents across South Cambridgeshire to complete. It is an anonymous survey. It forms part of our new quarterly reports. The reason we are sending it out in this manner is to ensure that we reach people that may not be able to attend meetings and/ or are not necessarily confident in speaking up in meetings or speaking direct to the police. We are keen to hear from everyone.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document.

How to contact us

We rely on continued information

My team and I are always willing to hear from members of the public regarding their concerns. To ensure that these concerns are responded to promptly please email direct to southcambscops@cambs.pnn.police.uk with the word WILLINGHAM in the title bar and the crime / incident reference number you were provided with when you reported the matter. The email account is checked regularly by my team and following this procedure allows us to filter, manage and prioritise our correspondence. Please do not use this as an alternative to reporting crimes / incidents / intelligence to us.

In order to identify trends and patterns of behaviour we require information to be passed to us via one of the three forms below:

Telephone call 101

Online at www.cambs.police.uk/report

Textphone 18001 101

We know that a large number of concerns within Willingham are deeply entrenched in the community and there are understandably issues around your confidence in reporting matters to us. I would like to address this by ensuring you know how to report anonymously.

For anonymous reporting please contact 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 that information at all. I really would like to know what is happening in the village so any information that you can provide to us through the above reporting channels is appreciated.

How can I help my community?

Speedwatch

Volunteers are trained to use speed indicator devices which display vehicle speeds. The registered owner of any vehicle seen exceeding the speed limit is sent an advisory letter by the Constabulary, explaining that speeding is unacceptable to the local community and asking them to be more considerate.

We currently have spaces on the next two training courses

6th October 2018 and 10th November 2018

1000hrs At Cambourne Police station.

To book your place please email direct to speedwatch@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood watch

PCSO Tom Baugh will be running a workshop on the 28th of November 2018 in Longstanton Village Hall. The workshop will start at 19:00hrs and should last for approximately 2 hours.

The purpose of this NHW workshop is to:

- Improve police/community cohesion - promote effective communication and the importance of reporting suspicious activity
- Encourage networking among neighbouring NHW schemes
- Look at current crime trends and discuss relevant crime prevention advice
- Offer a selection of crime prevention advice and products (products will be charged at cost price).
- Information on what Speed Watch is and how it can help your village. Training may be available on the evening depending on size of group (if you are interested in the training please email prior to this event).
- A guest speaker who will be discussing their success with NHW and how it has helped their village.
- Hot drinks and biscuits.
- An opportunity to meet your local neighbourhood policing team.

We hope to see you all at the event.

To book your place on the workshop please email southcambscops@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Police Support Volunteers

Police support volunteer (PSV) roles are unpaid positions, undertaken by those willing to give up their free, valuable, time. Volunteers assist us with improving the connection between the police and our communities and aim to improve the quality of life for all.

We will be seeking to recruit Police support volunteers within the Willingham community. Applicants will be interviewed in conjunction with the parish council. We will keep you informed when applications open.

Special Constabulary

We are also currently recruiting for the Special Constabulary. For more information please visit our website

www.cambs.police.uk/apply/Jobs/Specials



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