

**TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL
EXTERNAL COMMITTEE**

Police Forum

Notes of a meeting held at the Town Hall at 7.00pm on 17th December 2018

<i>No</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Present: Cllrs Mrs Curteis, Isworth, Mulholland of TTC, Brad Bradford of ABC. Insp Jason Atkinson (CSU inspector and Community Policing Team) & PCSO Kate Richards of Kent Police. Jo Vos Community Warden. Notes taken by the Town Clerk, Phil Burgess.	
2	Apologies. Cllrs Mike Hill (KCC), John Crawford & Sue Ferguson (TTC), Trevor Ford, Andrew Judd, Lindsay Hammond. (Andrew Judd had sent a report – attached).	
3	Chairman. Cllr Mulholland took the chair.	
4.	Minutes of the Meeting on 27th June. Agreed	
5.	Matters Arising (if not covered in the agenda). Covered by specific agenda items below.	
6	Anti-social behaviour. (Kate Richards PCSO) <u>Kids on bikes</u> This issue needs to be dealt with by education & having regular contact with the kids. Kate is finding that the kids are polite and approachable and part of the issue is aggressive attitudes from some older residents. Things are thrown at the kids. She is not trying to stop kids being kids, but they need to stop putting themselves at risk and to be more considerate towards others. Bike marking sessions at the Youth Café (Highbury Hall) have been very successful and these will continue. Advice is given over visibility and safety as well as theft avoidance. TTC may be asked to contribute to the safety measures used (normally well under £100 per session, contact Dan Smith – youth engagement officer). There is still a shortage of open spaces for the kids to use in the town and this will be assisted greatly when the skate park goes ahead as part of the Recreation Ground re-ordering. The residents’ focus group concerned with this was very much supportive of the skate park. Cycle safety is now only taught in primary school. Jo Vos reported that the Youth Café was experiencing a big new intake and more kids will therefore be reached by the safety message. <u>Other Youth Issues</u> Cllr Bradford said more signposting to youth facilities was needed. TTC will be appointing a youth officer in May 2019 (new council term) to address many of these issues. A recent police clinic at Homewood was well attended by parents. Kate Richards said that anti-social behaviour and vandalism has reduced significantly since the summer. Cllr Isworth enquired about the “only 2 youths” notice in St Michaels Post Office. Kate advised that this was common to many shops.	
7	Neighbourhood Watch A report from Andrew Judd was circulated to members and is attached. The recent event at St Michaels has disappointingly only generated 1 new scheme on Springfield Avenue. 8 completed expression of interest forms	

	were submitted on the night. Andrew Judd will repeat the Costa informal drop-in session on 16 th January next year and the NHW program will continue to be encouraged.	
8	<p>General Update from Police. (From Insp Jason Atkinson) Burglary – there was a pocket of burglaries in recent months for which 2 people have been arrested. The perpetrators had been professional criminals operating over a wide area. The crime rate in the area remains very low. It would be worthwhile for the crime figures from the police web site to be used to conduct a comparison with similar sized towns in the county. The perpetrator of the recent highly-publicised burglary in Tenterden has not been identified from the CCTV despite widespread publicity. PCSOs call on the victims of burglary. There has been a spate of damage to tyres in the area – again good quality CCTV footage exists but the perpetrator has not been identified. New doorbell technology where a video of the caller is transferred to a mobile 'phone has helped apprehend offenders. <u>Pubs</u> No swabbing has been carried out recently. Publicans are keeping in touch with each other and helping to head off trouble. <u>General Advice to public</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention to house lighting, purchase an alarm system or at least a dummy box. • Lock sheds and garages and alarm if possible. • Join a local NHW scheme. • Vehicle security (keyless entry) keep the fob a good distance away from the car. 	
9	<p>Updates from Public Houses. No landlords were present, but the Clerk reported that the tenancy of the Woolpack had been taken over by Hush Heath Winery and they would be reverting to standard pub hours. 12 o'clock is the latest opening in Town.</p>	
10	<p>CCTV Update. Installation had been delayed in Tenterden in order to add a couple of useful extra features. The software and camera units would be able to accommodate facial recognition and ANPR (automatic number plate recognition). These features would be enabled and introduced later. There will be a facility at the monitoring centre to stream video direct to police officers and PCSOs for enforcement. The installation will happen in Tenterden by the end of the financial year at the latest. The clerk would check with Gareth Recht at ABC whether it would be cost-effective to have all our CCTV patched through to the monitoring centre.</p>	
11	<p>AOB. Cllr Isworth suggested that we should invite the KE to print a positive article about achievement in the town including the CCTV and community chest grants to local organisations. <u>Xmas Market Weekend</u> Cllr Isworth praised the performance of the PCSOs at the event which was a great success. There were concerns over the crowd spilling into the road at the switch-on. This would be addressed by a re-scheduling of the events so that the road closure covered the parade and the switch-on, and the service at St Mildred's would follow, allowing the congregation to disperse safely afterwards.</p>	

	<p><u>Electric Bikes</u> Kingsnorth parish council has part-funded electric bikes for PCSOs in collaboration with their ward councillor. These bikes have a range of around 100 miles and cost between £1250 and £1500. The advantage is that they can access areas a car cannot, they are silent and assist in relations with the young. Storage would be needed in Tenterden for 2 bikes.</p> <p><u>Cranbrook Rd Cemetery</u> There have been a number of issues including burglary which have taken place in the Cemetery at night. It is not currently locked. Negotiations are in progress with ABC over responsibility for the Cemetery and this issue will be included. There is the potential for auto-locking gates there.</p>	
12	<p>Recommendations to Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Check cost-effectiveness of linking town CCTV systems with monitoring centre (after main installation). b) Investigate potential for purchase and storage of 2 electric bikes. c) Liaise with PCSO and youth engagement officer regarding TTC funding for bike marking sessions d) PR consultant to publicise safety of Tenterden and do a comparison with other Kent towns. e) Continue to promote NHW scheme 	
13	<p>Date of next meeting. Town Clerk to arrange towards the end of March. Notify well in advance.</p>	