

**TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL  
EXTERNAL COMMITTEE**

**Police Forum**

Notes of a meeting held at the Town Hall at 7.00pm on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar 19

<i>No</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	<b>Present:</b> Cllrs Mrs Curteis & Mrs Ferguson of TTC, Insp Jason Atkinson (CSU inspector and Community Policing Team), Andy Brittenden (District Commander), Insp Dave Smith (Engagement officer for Rural Policing) & PCSO Luke Jones of Kent Police. Jo Vos, Community Warden, Cllr Mike Hill KCC. Notes taken by the Town Clerk, Phil Burgess.	
2	<b>Apologies.</b> Cllrs Roy Isworth, Pam Smith, Ken Mulholland & John Crawford (TTC), Trevor Ford, Andrew Judd (NHW), Kate Richards (PCSO).	
3	<b>Chairman.</b> Cllr Mrs Curteis took the chair.	
4.	<b>Minutes of the Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December.</b> Agreed	
5.	<b>Matters Arising (if not covered in the agenda).</b> <u>Cranbrook Rd cemetery</u> Residents had reported suspicious vehicle activity on a number of occasions in the past and PCSO Kate Richards had asked whether the cemetery could be locked at night. The clerk reported that the responsibility for the cemetery had been transferred back to ABC with effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> April but it was ABC's intention to undertake manual opening and closure of the cemetery in the future. <u>Electric Cycles for PCSOs</u> This scheme is on hold (from the Police perspective) for the moment whilst issues are resolved over providing equipment through third parties. TTC had offered storage and charging facilities for the bike and would include it in their insurance against theft whilst on the premises. Whilst in use the police insurance would need to cover it. The PCSOs were very keen on the idea as they cover a large area including 20 parishes and need to carry a lot of equipment. Cllr Hill asked Jo Vos whether it would, be useful for her duties but she thought not.	
6	<u>Anti-Social behaviour and PCSO Report from Luke Jones.</u> He and Kate are centred around Tenterden but in all 20 parishes are covered. He usually works the opposite shift to Kate to ensure greater cover. ASB issues had been very low this month. The problems surrounding the shelter at Waitrose have died down following regular police visits. The bike marking schemes and the knife awareness scheme all help to keep police and PCSO in regular contact with the young and reduce incidence of ASB. A designated youth engagement officer (Dan Smith) is involved in these issues. Inspector Atkinson thanked the town council for their financial assistance with bike marking kits. <u>Knife crime</u> – although this is well under control in the county, Kent police are taking part in the national initiative "Op Eminent" to nip potential knife crime in the bud and a poster campaign is running alongside this to encourage retailers not to sell knives to	

	<p>the under 18s. A reformed gang member takes an active role in the anti-knife initiative.</p> <p><u>Shrubcote Containers</u> – there are open containers open near Shrubcote that used to be used by the youth teams. Because they are open they are presenting an ASB problem and there were reports of a rough sleeper there. Luke is arranging for them to be locked.</p> <p><u>Parish PCSO meeting.</u> This was held at the Town Hall last Friday - 15 councillors attended from 6 parishes. Feedback had been requested from non-attendees for the reasons for absence. Luke would like to get more parishes involved. A very positive meeting and it was likely to be run on a quarterly basis.</p>	
7	<p><b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> Andrew Judd was not able to attend. Take-up of the scheme was still poor despite regular drop in sessions. Cllr Ferguson suggested targeted flyers for specific streets.</p>	
8	<p><b>General Update from Police.</b></p> <p><u>Vehicle issues</u> There had been a recent spate of stolen number plates. Often plates are used for a single crime in a different area. They must be reported as ANPR may pick up associated vehicles.</p> <p>Jo Vos reported (to both police and DVLA) a vehicle some time ago which has no tax or insurance which often parks in the same place. No action taken as yet. Luke would look into this.</p> <p>Vehicles are sometimes stolen to order, this offence is associated with organised crime networks.</p> <p><u>Crime prevention initiatives</u></p> <p><u>Country Eye App</u> Takes a picture of fly-tipping, suspicious behaviour etc and reports your location automatically.</p> <p><u>Rural Matters.</u> A printed quarterly update magazine specifically aimed at rural areas. Advice and contacts given as well as highlighting of risks. Kent Police Rural Liaison Team Report (circulated by email) keeps everyone up to date between the printed quarterly magazines (the latest version will be circulated when received).</p> <p><u>Farm Watch – WhatsApp trial</u> Information sharing service for farmers and rural areas. (Details attached)</p> <p><u>Crime reporting</u></p> <p>Levels of reporting, particularly for low-level crime are still low. Crimes must be reported as they are used as a guide to resourcing and clearly no action can be taken if the crime goes unreported. The Police accept that confidence is the key to a good reporting rate.</p> <p>Cllr Ferguson said that reporting was often not reflected in the figures. Inspector Atkinson responded that the web site had recently changed and there are inaccuracies at the moment.</p> <p><u>New Resources</u></p> <p>An increase in the Police precept for more officers will take effect shortly, 18 more officers have been allocated to Ashford and Shepway. Increasing numbers will be working out of Ashford station with the manning level back to 2011 figures (prior to the cuts). Ashford Police station will be staying with a new patrol</p>	

	<p>base in situ. Custody facilities remain in Folkestone as at present. Specific teams are targeted at "County Lines" issues and local policing will receive a boost.</p> <p>Crime nationally has increased by 30% with the Ashford area increasing by 32%</p> <p><u>Police Cadets</u> Many new cadets have been attracted to the force to promote youth involvement. Training is offered, and Many will become youth ambassadors and assist with initiatives. This is not designed as a recruitment issue as the upper age is 15, however, some may later follow the PCSO route. Cllr Ferguson commented that the cadets she had met were well-mannered and articulate.</p>	
9	<p><b>Updates from Public Houses.</b> No landlords were present. Inspector Atkinson reported that had been no licensing issues in the town.</p>	
10	<p><b>CCTV Update.</b> The clerk reported that all the cameras were ready to be installed. ABC expected to be able to issue a project plan for installation very shortly but there had been issues with the BT work.</p>	
11	<p><b>AOB.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Virtual policeman scheme has been dropped. Faversham trialled it but it has not continued.</li> <li>• Cllr Ferguson requested more feedback to the public and more advertising of initiatives. The response was that reporting traffic reduced when more information is displayed as it has a desensitising effect.</li> <li>• Inspector Smith was keen to promote the distribution of the Rural Matters magazine for residents and businesses in rural areas. This publication details how active Kent Police are in areas such as Tenterden.</li> <li>• Shoplifting was heavily under-reported as shops are not comfortable with reporting thefts. Police stress it is still important to report these.</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>Date of next meeting.</b> 24<sup>th</sup> June to tie in with Tenterden Annual Town meeting. A further meeting of the Forum will be arranged for September.</p>	