

**TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL
EXTERNAL COMMITTEE**

Police Forum

Notes of a meeting held at the Town Hall at 7.00pm on 27th June 2018

<i>No</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Present: Cllrs Crawford, Mrs Curteis, Mrs Ferguson, Miss Gooch Isworth, Mulholland & Sugden of TTC. Cllr Brad Bradford of ABC. Insp Jason Atkinson (CSU inspector and Community Policing Team) & PCSO Kate Richards of Kent Police. Jo Vos Community Warden, Ray Pratt & Sarah Cleaton (landlords of the Ancient Borough) John Gilfoyle (landlord of William Caxton). Notes taken by the Town Clerk, Phil Burgess.	
2	Apologies. Cllr Mike Hill, Trevor Ford, Andrew Judd, Lindsay Hammond. (Andrew Judd and Trevor Ford had sent reports – attached)	
3	Chairman. Cllr Mulholland was elected as chair and gave background regarding the rationale for forming the forum.	
4	<p>Anti-social behaviour.</p> <p><u>Pub Closing times</u> John Gilfoyle of the William Caxton said there had been no issues later at night – they open until 12 on Friday and Saturday. His experience as a landlord even in “rougher” areas indicated that trouble was caused by a small minority of patrons. Insp Atkinson advised that it was incumbent on the licensee not to serve drunks whilst on their premises. The relationships between the Licensee, Police and local authority are very good which promotes a safer environment for the public. Issues late at night would be dealt with by Police rather than PCSOs. The police advised that incidents late at night may not be directly related to town pub closing hours. The pubs had an informal reporting system amongst themselves despite the lack of uptake in the “Town Net Radio” initiative</p> <p><u>Planned Operations</u> Following the scenes on the recreation ground in 2017 on the last day for Year 11 Homewood pupils, 4 PCSOs plus a regular officer attended the recreation ground. Alcohol was seized and poured away but behaviour was generally good. Liaison between the police and Homewood was very good. A successful operation. Ashford Community Safety Unit can respond to such reports and plan ahead but need the information from residents and the community.</p> <p><u>Identification of Hot Spots</u> Kate Richards advised that this issue had been addressed at the recent “Clean sweep” police and services combined event and the police are aware of the areas to patrol. Areas include the 2 recreation grounds, Coombe Lane Cemetery, the railway etc.</p> <p><u>Prevention schemes</u> Homewood are very pro-active and very good at sharing information with the police. Joe Vos is giving talks to scouts and the youth café. Education programs are underway. The community safety partnership gives every year 6 student an</p>	

	<p>information day. Cllr Bradford felt that everything that could be done at an information//educational level was being done. The Community Safety Partnership does focus on preventative work and the use of commissioned services to assist schools. From the council's perspective, more interaction with the young on the parks would be useful. Jo Vos also runs anti-scam awareness sessions. Practical measures can be taken such as the hedge cutting at St Michaels recreation ground. This was undertaken after consulting PCSO Ollie Welch and community warden Jo Vos.</p>	
5	<p>Drug-Related Issues. <u>In Pubs</u> Very little problem at present (see report from Trevor Ford attached who works with the police licensing officer to swab premises for drugs). The main issue in pubs tends to be cocaine use (although these traces are very low in Tenterden' s pubs) but this drug is expensive and would not normally be used by the young. <u>General</u> Cannabis does not lead to anti-social behaviour (quite the opposite!) and while this drug is illegal, the legal silver canisters are far more dangerous. However, offences will be dealt with proportionately and in line with current legislation. ** Can refuse collectors, gardeners etc. report sightings of these canisters via the Town Council to Ashford CSU? This will better inform PCSO Richards <u>Dealing</u> This should again be reported on 101 or the on-line service. If it is seen more than once report it again. Patterns are important information to the police. Members of the public should utilise Crime Stoppers if nervous about identifying themselves. This can be done anonymously.</p>	
6	<p>Neighbourhood Alert Initiative. Insp Atkinson felt that Kent Police would have assessed this and would have adopted it had there been a value to it.</p>	
7	<p>Designing out Crime. The police are always a statutory consultee in larger planning applications and this process is more applicable to inner city areas.</p>	
8	<p>Neighbourhood Watch This is an area where council involvement can make a big difference. There was an increased uptake after the recent "clean sweep" operation in Tenterden but response is still poor and home burglaries (although still very low) would see an improvement with greater involvement with the scheme. Andrew Judd (NHW co-ordinator) should be invited to the next "meet your councillor" session. Once public confidence has been built the report numbers will rise.</p> <p>Andrew Judd will publicise upcoming NHW events in Costa to which the public are invited</p>	
9	<p>Police Resources The police work to a resource allocation model and police presence relates to the number of reports of crime. For instance, the April figures record that 87 burglaries were committed in Ashford as opposed to none in Tenterden. The annual total last year in Tenterden was 21. The reported crime has seen an increase. This is linked to improved reporting methods and assessments where multiple reports can be generated from a single incident</p>	

	When a crime is reported it is assessed on the threat level and it may be that no response is made. In the case of an urgent response when no local patrols are available, resources will be utilised from other Policing areas or departments. This is known as borderless Policing	
10	<p>Crime Reporting. Residents must report crime direct to the police on 101 or on-line. 999 should be used if there is a crime in action or incident is of a serious nature. The police do not scan social media.</p> <p>The messages are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't moan about it – report it • Report repeat incidences • Policing relies on the assistance of the community • Tenterden has very low crime rates • Increased reporting will inevitably lead to higher <i>recorded</i> crime rates but will give the police the real picture and the information to act. • The police cannot do anything if crimes are not reported 	
11	Unofficial BMX area This area is on Kate Richards' regular patrol. She has visited several times and not found any evidence of drug dealing. The kids are generally polite and will turn music down if requested. She thought it unlikely that the reports of speeding cars were true as the area is so tight driving down there is difficult.	
12	Actions. The council should stress in its publicity that Tenterden is a very safe area to live and we should improve it even more by a pro-active NHW campaign. Richard Harvey (our PR rep) should be put in touch with the NHW co-ordinator Andrew Judd who should also be invited to meet the councillor sessions. The Parish Magazine, TDRA newsletter and Council publicity should be used to drive this. Although crimes against property are still very low, this is the area where most improvement can be made.	RH/AJ
13	Date of next meeting. Town Clerk to arrange towards the end of September.	PB