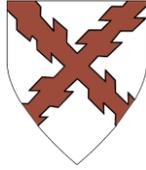


# St Austell Town Council



## **Anti-Social Behaviour Summit – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Council Chamber, St Austell One Stop Shop, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR**

### **Apologies**

Abraham, Pam – Holy Trinity Church  
Bayes, Jez – Cornwall Council, Alcohol Strategy Lead  
Bray, Gareth – Street Pastors  
Brown, Malcolm – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor  
Bull, Jackie – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor  
Cardigan, Richard – Penrice School  
French, Tom – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor  
Gard, Ed – Inspector, Devon & Cornwall Police  
Gibson, Sara – Licensee representative  
Harrison, Sam – Poltair School  
Hurst, Richard – White River Place  
Kneller, John – St Austell BID  
Rowe, Tim – Devon & Cornwall Police  
Teague, Sue – ABC Residents Association  
Warne, Ian – Manager, HSB  
Williams, Stephen – Ocean Housing

### **Present**

Barrett, Chrissie – Cornwall Council  
Catherall, Helen – Addaction  
Cohen, Anita - St Austell Town Council  
Day, Cathy – Holy Trinity Church  
Day, Nigel – Holy Trinity Church  
Double, Anne – Office of MP  
Double, Steve - MP  
Dymond, Kerry – The House, Young People Cornwall  
Frost, Sara - Addaction  
Gofton, Zoe – Community Safety Team  
Gwilliams, Sara – St Austell Town Council  
Hamilton, Vicki – SAHA (Freshstart)  
Hamley, Jon – Devon & Cornwall Police

Heath, Kate - Cosgarne  
Heyward, Sandra – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor  
Lewis, Mark – Chamber of Commerce  
Miller, Annette – St Austell BID  
Necke, Sarah – Cornwall Council  
Nicholson, Helen – Cornwall Council  
Niles, Aaron – St Austell Wetherspoons  
O'Donoghue, Alaina - STAK  
Oxenham, Nicky – St Austell Town Council  
Palmer, Brian – St Austell Town Council  
Pears, Richard – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor  
Pooley, David – St Austell Town Council  
Potts, Eve - Addaction  
Putko, Malcolm - Cosgarne  
Steer, Carol - NHS  
Toms, Helen – Cornwall Council  
Worlman, Luke – The House, Young People Cornwall

### **Introductions**

The Chairman invited the group to introduce themselves.

### **Notes from the meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

The notes from the meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

### **Actions Arising from meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Sgt Hamley advised that following a visit to the Polish Shop with representatives from Licensing, the owners have confirmed that they do not wish to remove high strength alcohol from their shelves. SN advised that Jez Bayes, Cornwall Council's Alcohol Strategy Lead was hoping to visit the shop with a translator to discuss the concerns.

**Action:** Sgt Hamley to monitor the situation.

HT advised that the Sanctuary Housing building in East Hill is now empty and secure.

HN advised that she was still to talk to Cornwall Council's Licensing Team about test purchases and off licence sales in the town.

SG advised that Aaron from Wetherspoons has been invited and was present at the meeting.

## **Police update**

Sgt Hamley tendered Inspector Gard's apologies as he had been called away unexpectedly.

He advised that the Police still have challenging budgets, but that there was good news in that the response team have been brought back up to acceptable levels after having been a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> down in recent months. Unfortunately, the PCSO's have been cut which has resulted in a loss of five officers from the sector. Six PCSO's are now covering the clay country, coastal areas and the town centre.

Sgt Hamley advised that a handful of young people are causing issues in the town, but a lot of work is being done behind the scenes to target/help those individuals, a few of whom have safeguarding concerns. Early morning patrols are being carried out across the town to assess the homelessness situation and lots of work is being done to combat modern slavery and "cuckooing" (criminals targeting vulnerable people). Sgt Hamley added that support had been received from Bodmin Police recently to help with warrants relating to a significant drug find in the town. The crime statistics for robbery and burglary are down in the sector but shoplifting, domestic abuse and violent crime appear to have increased. These statistics are skewed by changes to the method of recording but overall St Austell's statistics are in line with County trends.

## **Steve Double MP**

SD advised that an increase in Police presence in the town had been noticeable over the summer months and thanked the Police for their quick response to ASB issues over recent months.

**Action:** Sgt Hamley to pass a message of thanks on to Inspector Gard and the team.

## **David Pooley, Town Clerk**

DP advised that it is likely that the Police and Crime Commissioner funding to expand the Newquay/St Austell CCTV monitoring system will not come to fruition as there appears to be a preference to target towns that have not got any CCTV and/or a Devon location. Cornwall Council are keen for other Town and Parish Councils to join the Tolvaddon CCTV system, but early comparisons indicate that Newquay and St Austell would probably receive a lesser service if they transferred to Tolvadden with fewer monitoring hours and less local knowledge.

St Austell Town Council are funding additional CCTV monitoring for the four late night shopping events in St Austell during December.

Arising from the above, Sgt Hamley reiterated his support for the CCTV monitoring at Newquay and outlined a case where a life would have been lost if there had been no live CCTV monitoring in place.

DP advised that HT has met with the Town Council's grounds maintenance operatives to explain the ASB reporting arrangements which they found very helpful.

### **Helen Toms, Cornwall Council ASB Caseworker**

HT advised that she is a Cornwall Council ASB caseworker responsible for 6 towns in Cornwall and that due to her caseload in the town, she is currently spending around 50% of her time in St Austell. She advised that the reporting of ASB in the town has increased which has had a knock-on effect on the Police crime figures. She expressed her thanks to the Town Council's grounds maintenance staff for their reporting and intelligence which has led to herself and PC Volkes carrying out some early morning walkabouts in ASB hot spot areas. She advised that the Target Group Meetings, where individual cases are discussed are well supported. She has been trying to address the fear of crime in the town and outlined a recent visit to Chisholm Court to help the residents understand the realities of crime in the area. She reiterated Sgt Hamley's concern about a group of youngsters who are causing crime/ASB issues in the town but reassured the group that the measures/support being put in place to try to eradicate the behaviour are progressing well.

### **Sarah Necke – Community Safety Officer**

Sarah Necke circulated a summary sheet of the work being carried out by Safer St Austell which includes:

- Community walkabouts
- Multi agency patrols
- Environmental improvements
- Communications Plan
- Consideration of a Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ)
- Schemes to reduce the impact of alcohol on individuals and the community
- Reducing drug litter

She advised that there has been a slight increase in homelessness and ASB issues relating to drug use, although drug litter appears to have decreased.

SN advised that it has been agreed at a recent meeting that a Community Impact Zone (CIZ) is not right for St Austell at the present time.

SN took the opportunity to introduce Zoe Gofton, the new Community Safety Officer for mid Cornwall who is taking over from SN after a short handover.

### **Chamber of Commerce**

ML expressed concern about the lack of publicity with regard to the good work that is being carried out around the town and suggested that the press should be kept informed of what is being done.

HT agreed that there is a need to publicise the work but unfortunately due to data protection issues, individual cases cannot always be publicised. She advised that Safer Cornwall, the Fire service and the Police all use Twitter to promote various initiatives and that they are a good source of information.

### **Cornwall Councillor updates**

SH advised that she has a network of people who regularly keep her informed of the ASB issues around the town. She advised that the ASB issues in the town have gone quieter and agreed with other group members that drug issues are more prevalent than alcohol issues at the moment. She stressed the need for reporting all issues and advised that she found the 101 e-mail most helpful and effective.

RP made reference to some begging seen in the town after the Remembrance Day Church Service.

### **Addaction**

EP advised that due to some building issues, their offices in the town centre are closed for the time being. They are however still providing a service and are working out of the Cornwall Council offices, Freshstart and Cosgarne. They are continuing to provide a response service to any ASB issues/needle finds and regularly patrol the town with other agencies. They attend targeted meetings with the police and have recently engaged in some litter picking activities. HC added that they try to publicise their activities through Facebook.

### **BID**

AM advised that the BID have funding for the security patrols until December.

She confirmed that the ASB issues in the town have dropped in recent weeks, although there had been a spate of damage to shop windows. She praised the work of Safer St Austell and urged the continuance of the joint working.

### **Cosgarne**

KH advised that staff and residents had recently received some sprinkler fitting training and attended litter picks and that the town centre walkabouts continue. They also have a needle exchange on site which is open to non-residents.

### **Freshstart**

VH outlined the activity at Freshstart since August 2017. These include:

- Over 30 ASB patrols (twice weekly as a minimum and other times if needed)
- A community litter pick
- Boat trips
- Beach clean
- Art sessions
- Life skills
- Gym sessions

There have been 8 departures since August 2017. The current head count stands at 16. They also have a needle exchange service by way of an interim measure to help Addaction whilst their office is out of use.

With effect from April 2018 Freshstart will be part of the Salvation Army Housing Association (SAHA) not Chapter 1.

### **Holy Trinity Church**

ND advised that lots of people are using the church which is pleasing but asked that the town centre patrols concentrate on the area behind the vestry which is proving fairly troublesome at the present time. ND confirmed that the old church hall premises at Trevarthian Road have been secured and are no longer the subject of ASB.

### **Housing/Homelessness Agencies**

SG read an e-mail from Stephens Williams from Ocean Housing which contained the following information:

- That Ocean are continuing to use enforcement action against perpetrators of ASB;
- They work closely with other agencies eg: Police and Children's Services
- They have recruited a new Together for Families worker

SN outlined the cold weather provision arrangements for Cornwall which would be effective from 18<sup>th</sup> December to the 18<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Licensee**

AN advised that Wetherspoons are members of pub watch and have implemented a zero tolerance policy. He felt that ASB was declining.

### **Probation Service**

SG advised that the Town Council continue to engage with the Probation Service and that their current work with the Council is the clearance of the large bank at Truro Road Park.

### **ABC Residents Association (Residents Association update)**

SG advised on behalf of ST that there appear to be some drug issues in the Bethel area.

### **HSBC (Retailers update)**

SG advised on behalf of IW that there has been some begging again outside of the HSBC premises. IW continues to report the issue via 101.

### **Schools**

SG advised on behalf of SH that the schools in the area would like to take a more pro-active approach to tackling ASB from young people in the community and have asked if representatives from Brannel School, Fowey Academy and Restormel Acorn Academy can attend future meetings.

The group agreed that it would be very useful to have representatives from these schools at future meetings so that they can update the group on how they can help to tackle ASB issues involving young people from their schools.

**Action:** SG to invite Brannel School, Fowey Academy and Restormel Acorn Academy to the next meeting.

## **STAK**

AO advised that STAK actively discourage any ASB by their clients. She is aware of a recent incident outside of the Barbers and the issues at Holy Trinity. She advised that she would speak to their clients to remind them that ASB in the town is not tolerated.

STAK are regularly serving a large number of meals each day as well as providing activities/advice surgeries for their clients such as arts and crafts and debt advice.

## **Street Pastors**

CD advised that she was pleased to report that the work of the street pastors had been incident free over recent months and that they would be out again on Saturday evening and during the Torchlight Carnival procession.

## **The House**

KD advised that they have had issues at The House over recent weeks including fights, threats and criminal damage which has resulted in an increased staff ratio of 3 to 4 staff each session as opposed to 2. The House is open five days a week attracting around 30 or 40 young people each session. As a result of the recent spate of ASB involving young people in the town, an increase in outreach work in the St Austell area has been organised. Some outreach work will also be organised for the late night shopping evenings.

KD thanked HT and her team for their assistance over the last few challenging weeks.

DP advised that the Town Council had secured a further £20,000 funding for The House and that he hoped to make a good news announcement about the future of the building shortly.

## **White River Place**

AM advised in the absence of RH that White River Place continues to have issues with young people which HT and the Police are aware of and are dealing with accordingly.

## **Any other business of relevance to the meeting**

SD thanked the group for all of their work and particularly to those who are trying to address the perception of crime.

He asked the group if it would be helpful for Alison Hernandez to attend the next ASB meeting and visit the Newquay CCTV Monitoring suite.

**Action:** SD to invite Alison Hernandez to the next ASB meeting and a visit to the CCTV Monitoring suite in Newquay.

HN advised that Cornwall Council are experiencing some ASB issues outside of the Penwinnick House site where the buildings have been demolished.

NO suggested that the group should look at the wider St Austell area to include Chapel Field, Tregonissey quadrant, Carclaze Road and Slades Road.

The Town Clerk summarised the Actions arising from the meeting:

- SN to e-mail SG with details on how to report drug litter for onward circulation to the group.
- HN to speak to CC licensing team about carrying out test purchases and reviewing off-licence sales in the town.
- Police/Freshstart/Cosgarne and Addaction Patrols to pay particular attention to the Holy Trinity Church Grounds.
- SD/AD to invite Alison Hernandez to the next meeting and a visit to the Newquay CCTV Suite.
- SG to invite Fowey School, Brannel School, Restormel Acorn Academy and Cornwall College to the next meeting.
- JH to monitor the sale of high strength alcohol across the town

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressed his gratitude for the continued support.