

St Austell Town Council



Anti-Social Behaviour Summit – Thursday 22nd November 2018

Council Chamber, St Austell Information Service (formerly One Stop Shop), 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR

Apologies

Abraham, Pam – Holy Trinity Church
Bray, Gareth – Street Pastors
Brown, Malcolm – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor
Cardigan, Richard – Penrice School
Day, Nigel – Foodbank
Day, Kathy - Foodbank
Double, Steve - MP
Flint, Rev Howard – Holy Trinity
French, Tom – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor
Harrison, Sam – Poltair School
King, Gary – St Austell Town Council
Liney, Caroline - Addaction
Miller, Annette – St Austell BID
Teague, Sue – ABC Residents Association
Warne, Ian - HSBC
Williams, Stephen – Ocean Housing

Present

Bull, Jackie – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor
Catherall, Helen – Addaction
Cohen, Anita - St Austell Town Council
Dowrick, Toni – Keep Britain Tidy
Dymond, Kerry – The House, Young People Cornwall
Gard, Ed – Inspector, Devon & Cornwall Police
Gwilliams, Sara – St Austell Town Council
Hamilton, Vicki – SAHA (Freshstart)
Heath, Kate - Cosgarne
Heyward, Sandra – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor
Hurst, Richard – White River Place & St Austell BID

Ings, Sarah – Devon and Cornwall Police
Mustoe, James – Cornwall Councillor
Nicholson, Helen – Cornwall Council
Niles, Aaron – St Austell Wetherspoons
Oxenham, Nicky – St Austell Town Council
Palmer, Brian – St Austell Town Council (Chairman)
Pooley, David – St Austell Town Council
Potts, Eve - Addaction
Putko, Malcolm - Cosgarne
Styles, Jen – SAHA (Freshstart)
Styles, Tim – St Austell Town Council
Toms, Helen – Cornwall Council
Trump, Nicki – Devon and Cornwall Police
Wheildon, Gary – Cornwall College
Wonnacott, Zoe – Community Safety Team

Apologies

David Pooley read out the list of apologies and added that Councillor Brown wished the group to be advised that his absence was due to a Cornwall Council commitment in Camborne.

Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and invited the group to introduce themselves. He also explained the background to the summit meetings by way of a summary for the new members of the group.

Notes from the meeting dated 27th March 2018

The notes from the meeting dated 27th March 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

Actions Arising from meeting dated 27th March 2018

David Pooley to chase Alison Hernandez with regard to the business crime strategy and advise Richard Hurst accordingly.

County Lines Briefing – Detective Sergeant Sarah Ings

The Chairman welcomed Detective Sergeant Sarah Ings (SI) to the meeting.

SI advised that the County Lines drug dealing operation is now everywhere, including Cornwall and is generally managed by people based in London, Liverpool and Midlands. She advised that it is a

very fluid, clever and well managed operation that preys on the vulnerable to carry out drug dealing in local areas. Vulnerable people are "parachuted" in to a town, provided with a telephone and an address to operate from with money offered as an incentive to do the dealing. Violence or the threat of violence is often used when the vulnerable person wants to quit dealing. The dealing is done by telephone and local runners/dealers are employed to distribute the drugs. The runners/dealers then seek out more vulnerable people to get involved in the operation, often taking over ("cuckooing") their properties to run further drug dealing from. Young people (15/16 year olds) are often used and have been known to be missing from home for 2 weeks at a time to carry out dealing in another part of the country.

SI advised that there have been some successes recently and referenced a County Lines operation that had been closed down in Bodmin recently. She stressed the importance of CCTV by way of a surveillance tool.

SI urged everybody to be vigilant and to particularly look out for the following signs:

- Lots of visitors to a particular address
- A vulnerable person who has suddenly got an increased disposable income or who has started wearing expensive clothes
- A vulnerable person who has got two phones
- A vulnerable person who appears to have lapsed in to a depression or seems very agitated a lot of the time

She stressed that the only way of stopping a county lines operation is for the Police to be provided with information that can be followed up and encouraged everyone to contact the police if they have any suspicions.

Arising from questions SI advised that:

- local hostels should double check the background of a referral who does not appear to have a local connection;
- drug dealing is a cash only operation and can be linked to shop lifting;
- If the Police are given intelligence that a property/person may be involved in county lines, they will visit the property to check that the person is ok. If they are not in, leaflets will be left at the property explaining that they have had a visit from the Police.

The Chairman thanked Detective Sergeant Ings for her very interesting and informative briefing.

Town Council update (David Pooley, Town Clerk)

CCTV

David Pooley (DP) advised that the Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee have recommended to full Council that the Town Council:

- Replace 10 analogue cameras with digital cameras
- Add 5 additional cameras to the town
- Improve radio links

He further advised that the funding required to carry out the improvements can be found from the underspend on this year's budget.

He advised that St Austell Town Council provided CCTV in St Austell town centre in partnership with Newquay Town Council and that a business plan was currently being put together to encourage other Town Councils to join in to help with the costs. Due to the difference in size and need between the two towns, Newquay Town Council pays 2/3rds of the cost and St Austell Town Council 1/3rd of the cost.

Parks and Gardens

DP explained that the Town Council are working very hard to bring the parks and gardens and grass verges in and around the town up to a high standard in the hope that people will be proud of their town and respect it more. He advised that on the whole, incidents of ASB on Town Council property has been quiet with the exception of a spate of arson attacks and some anti-social behaviour in Linear Park and Sandy Hill Park.

Public Conveniences

DP advised that there are still ASB issues in the toilets at Priory Car Park. Regular patrols are carried out in the area by the Police and other agencies. The Town Council are due to consider shortly whether or not to install a radar key facility on the disabled toilets. Safer St Austell are also keen for a needle bin to be installed on the outside of the toilets which will be discussed with Councillors in due course once further research has been carried out with other Town and Parish Councils.

The House

DP advised that the new roof has been completed and that he is due to inspect the works with the Chief Executive of Young People Cornwall next week. The leases are currently being finalised and all being well, Young People Cornwall will be moving in to the premises early next year bringing 30-40 jobs to the town. It is hoped that The House will become a centre of excellence for young people in central Cornwall.

Police update

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Gard to the meeting.

Inspector Gard advised that there has been a 66% increase in serious crime in the sector linked to drugs offences. Officers are proactively dealing with drug dealing activities as a priority including county lines which is affecting the whole of Cornwall. The team have identified 6 persons at risk of being cuckooed and the neighbourhood team are knocking on doors and leaving leaflets as described by Detective Sargent Ings to help the vulnerable.

Key Statistics

11% increase in recorded/reported crime
6% increase in domestic abuse

There has been a reduction in burglaries and shop lifting but a 17.5% increase in vehicle crime which is concerning. This increase reflects a national increase. Inspector Gard explained that sexual offences that occurred 20/30 years ago are now being recorded.

Arising from a question, Inspector Gard advised that he was aware of the young people with noisy cars in the B&Q area of the town and that his road policing colleagues are investigating.

Resourcing

Inspector Gard advised that the St Austell Sector is just about on target for Police officer numbers and that a change in the neighbourhood team policing arrangements has resulted in the whole team now being based in St Austell.

Police activity

Inspector Gard advised that the new neighbourhood policing arrangements has allowed the Police to be more visible and given the

resource to deal with any anti-social behaviour such as street drinking and begging more quickly.

Inspector Gard welcomed the proposed improvements to the CCTV in the town centre and stressed its importance in helping to combat crime. Inspector Gard particularly welcomed a proposal for a CCTV camera in the Poltair Park area.

He advised that the reporting of crime in St Austell is vastly improved and thanked everybody in the room for their help.

Safer St Austell update

Helen Toms (HT) advised that at the present time she has 8 people under the age of 18 on a warning with 4 on her watch list and 13 people over the age of 18 on a warning with 4 on her watch list. She advised that this is a change from the position in March when there were more concerns with the behaviour of young people.

She advised that recently an individual with a CBO in the area has had his order expanded to cover a wider area and a prolific shop lifter has been issued with a CBO. Bi-monthly early morning walkabouts to known homeless areas with Helen Catherall and Ian from St Petros have proved very successful. HT is working closely with pub watch following a slight increase in licenced premises disorders and is in regular contact with the secondary schools carrying out youth referral work.

Zoe Wonnacott (ZW) updated the group on the work of Safer St Austell which includes:

- Walkabout in St Blazey
- The production of an improved communication plan
- A Shop lifting prevention briefing in conjunction with Devon and Cornwall Police
- Blue light pilot training
- Beach clean at Par beach

Secondary Schools update

Cornwall College

Gary Whieldon (GW) advised that Cornwall College has 2,500 learners enrolled and good relationships have been fostered with Helen Toms and Kerry Dymond at The House. There have been no major incidents to note although he was pleased to advise that when assistance is needed, a good response is received from the police via

101. GW advised that there are 9 entrances to the site plus a public right of way which the college do their best to monitor.

Cornwall Councillor updates

Councillor Bull advised that speeding and parking appear to be the two biggest issues in Poltair. There are currently 2 abandoned cars in the area and a litter bin has had to be removed from outside Poltair School due to persistent vandalism. Councillor Bull thanked Cosgarne and Cornwall College for their regular litter picks.

Councillor Bull read out a statement from Councillor Brown who apologised for not being able to attend the meeting because of a Cornwall Council commitment in Camborne.

Councillor Brown advised that there have been some ASB incidents at Sandy Hill Academy and Bethel Church in recent months, both of which involved young people. He also advised that both Linear Park and Sandy Hill Park are currently suffering from ASB by young people generally after dark. He acknowledged the limited resources of the Police and the need to concentrate on the town centre but respectfully asked that the outlying areas are not forgotten. He also referred to concerns by the ABC residents association with regard to possible drug dealing at Chapel Field.

Councillor Brown made reference to the withdrawal of licence of a take away establishment in Newquay and the resolution at Cornwall Council to oppose the merger of the Devon and Cornwall and Dorset Police Forces.

HT advised that the young people connected with the Sandy Hill Academy and Bethel Chapel issues had been identified and have received a warning.

Addaction

Eve Potts (EP) advised that Addaction continue to have a base in both Cosgarne and SAHA as well as carrying out targeted outreach work in the community. A needle exchange service is provided at Cosgarne and Day Lewis. A responsive service of getting the equipment to clients within 24 hours is provided if they are not able to access Cosgarne or Day Lewis. They work in partnership with the Police and provide a service at the custody suite in Camborne. Addaction continue to contribute to Safer St Austell and Safer Cornwall and thanked all partners for their continued help and support.

BID

Richard Hurst (RH) spoke on behalf of St Austell BID and White River Place. He thanked Inspector Gard and his team for all their hard work in the town centre, much of which is carried out behind the scenes. The BID has continued to fund additional security patrols and the Shop Watch scheme is still working well with a couple of radios out on a trial basis. There is some minor graffiti in the town and some shoplifting, mainly carried out by a small number of prolific offenders. Phone shops have been targeted recently in St Austell, by it is believed two different gangs, who carried out a spate of raids across the county.

Cosgarne

Kate Heath (KH) advised that since the last meeting Cosgarne have helped to re-vamp the Trinity Street bus shelter and carried out a number of litter picks. Cosgarne is currently very busy due to an increase in referrals. The Mayor attended their re-cycling event which fits well with the plastic free St Austell initiative. The patrols are ongoing which cover the Cosgarne, Truro Road and Co-op area. Cosgarne have opened up a Homelessness History Project which was very well received by Old Cornwall Society who had visited that day. KH advised that they are working with Time Credits and have met with the Co-op recently along with the Police, HT and Freshstart who have concerns about ASB in the area. KH advised that they would be helping with the Safer St Austell stall during the late night shopping event. She concluded that tenancy engagement events including IT, music and photography are regularly held and that Spotlight are doing an article on Cosgarne tomorrow evening.

SAHA

Vicki Hamilton (VH) referred to the recent co-op meeting which had been very positive. An individual who was sofa surfing has been taken in and housed and work is ongoing with Wetherspoons and other retailers to help them identify individuals that are causing trouble. Eighteen residents are currently on the books, 70% of which are in training. An open day is scheduled for the 7th December at 11am and more beach cleans are being planned.

Housing

Ocean Housing

Sara Gwilliams read out a note from Stephen Williams advising that Ocean continue to take enforcement action in relation to ASB across

the county wide stock and have been successful working with Newquay Police and the ASB team to obtain a closure order on one their properties in Newquay which had been involved in county lines. Ocean continue to work in partnership with other agencies to protect their more vulnerable tenants and a member of staff from Ocean regularly attends the inter-agency ASB target group meeting which is held once a month. The civil court process can sometimes take a long time but Ocean remain committed to taking enforcement action where they have to and make appropriate referrals where vulnerable individuals need ongoing support.

Keep Britain Tidy

Toni Dowrick (TD) thanked SG for accommodating her attendance at the meeting. She advised that she is a Keep Britain Tidy ambassador and that she has concerns about the drugs paraphernalia found whilst undertaking beach litter picks. It is mostly found at the mouth of the river in one particular area and asked for some help to identify where they might be coming from. She advised that Rob McGregor from Addaction had met with her and had been very helpful.

Arising from the above, the group discussed the type of needles found and some ideas of where they could be coming from.

Addaction reiterated their policy of educating users at the point of exchange about the need to dispose of needles responsibly.

Licensees

Aaron Niles advised that there was not much to report other than Sue Edwards, Police Licensing Officer is trying to broaden Pubwatch out to Charlestown. Helen Toms has joined the Pubwatch team and the communication within the group is good. It was noted that there are now only 6 pubs in St Austell town centre.

STAK

BP advised that STAK are signed up to the Time Credit scheme and that regular computer, craft and singing classes are held for their clients. Volunteers are desperately needed.

Young People Cornwall

Kerry Dymond (KD) advised that they have around 130 young people attending The House at the present time and that pleasingly on the whole there has been an improvement in behaviour. Good Police support is received when needed.

It is hoped that a youth hub will be created at The House which will provide a drop in service for 11 – 15 year olds 12pm to 6pm each day. KD advised that 40 plus staff will be moving to The House from Truro in the New Year.

Any other business of relevance to the meeting

None

Actions

1. DP to chase Alison Hernandez re two outstanding actions in previous set of minutes.
2. DP to progress the improvement of CCTV in the town.
3. DP/KD to progress the creation of the YIAC at The House
4. All to liaise with TD regarding the source of issues along the White River.
5. TD/JM to report confidentially any issues found to Addaction.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.