

# St Austell Town Council



## **Anti-Social Behaviour Summit – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

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

### **Apologies**

Bray, Gareth – Street Pastors  
Brown, Malcolm – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor  
Cardigan, Richard – Penrice School  
Catherall, Helen - Addaction  
Flint, Rev Howard – Holy Trinity  
Gard, Ed – Inspector, Devon & Cornwall Police  
Hamilton, Vicki – SAHA Freshstart  
Heath, Kate – Cosgarne Hall  
Oxenham, Nicky – St Austell Town Council  
Putko, Malcolm – Cosgarne Hall  
Styles, Tim – St Austell Town Council  
Ternouth, Charity – Newquay CCTV Manager  
Wonnacott, Zoe – Community Safety Officer

### **Present**

Day, Cathy - Foodbank  
Dowrick, Toni – Keep Britain Tidy  
Gwilliams, Sara – St Austell Town Council  
Heyward, Sandra – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor  
Hobday, Donna – Young People Cornwall  
Hurst, Richard – White River Place & St Austell BID  
King, Gary – St Austell Town Council  
Mellow, Mike – STAK  
Miller, Annette – St Austell BID  
Mustoe, James – Cornwall Councillor  
Nicholson, Helen – Cornwall Council  
Niles, Aaron – St Austell Wetherspoons  
Palmer, Brian – St Austell Town Council (Chairman)  
Pooley, David – St Austell Town Council  
Potts, Eve - Addaction

Styles, Jen – SAHA (Freshstart)  
Toms, Helen – Cornwall Council  
Trevivian, Matt – Devon and Cornwall Police  
Walker, Iain – Holy Trinity Church

### **Apologies**

David Pooley read out the list of apologies.

### **Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and invited the group to introduce themselves.

### **Notes from the meeting dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**

The notes from the meeting dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

### **Actions Arising from meeting dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**

David Pooley updated the meeting on the actions from the previous meeting:

1. No further action. Time expired.
2. CCTV – update later in the meeting.
3. YIAC – update later in the meeting.
4. White River/Addaction reporting - update later in the meeting.

### **Town Council update (David Pooley, Town Clerk)**

#### *CCTV*

DP advised that the Town Council has almost completed a £60,000 upgrade and expansion to the town centre CCTV system which includes the upgrade of the existing analogue cameras to digital cameras and five new cameras. Two of the new cameras are at Poltair Park and Truro Road Park which will monitor the new café and the bandstand respectively. CCTV signage has been erected around the town to comply with surveillance legislation and redeployable/mobile cameras are being tested with Newquay Town Council and Cornwall Council.

#### *Parks and Gardens*

The improvements around the Town Council's parks and open spaces have continued over the winter months with less needles found

except for one large haul at Holy Trinity Church, the perpetrators of which have left St Austell. Known anti-social behaviour "hot spots" at the present time are the piece of land behind the old Post Office, Holy Trinity Church grounds and the old Market Hill toilet site. The grounds maintenance staff have reported new faces in the town and an increase in begging.

The Clerk advised that as a result of a recent homelessness case at the Town Council offices, the security firm employed the Town Council has agreed to report any homeless cases, they either see or move on to the streetlink website. Cornwall Council's ASB caseworker is encouraging Cornwall Council's employed security firms to do the same.

Arising from the above, GK asked if the redundant cameras could be used as decoys around the town.

**Action: DP to speak to the CCTV contractors.**

#### *Public Conveniences*

DP advised that there are still occasional ASB issues in the toilets at Priory Car Park, but drug use has dropped off significantly over recent weeks which coincides with the educational work that the ASB caseworker had been doing with known addicts.

#### **Police update**

The Chairman welcomed Sgt Matt Trevivian to the meeting.

Sgt Trevivian advised that the policing number for the St Austell sector is just about on target with 3 new officers recently recruited to the team. The neighbourhood team have healthy numbers with PCSO's up to strength.

#### *Police activity*

Sgt Trevivian explained that the Police continue to work on a Threat, Risk and Harm basis as well as pro-active work such as county lines issues and traffic related incidents. He advised that more high visible foot patrols were being carried out.

Sgt Trevivian explained that the rise in reporting of crime is good and included the reporting of sexual offences that occurred 20/30 years ago.

The group noted the Cornish Guardian headlines with disappointment and agreed that any future statistics needed to be put in context. During discussion it was agreed that it would be helpful if the statistics could be published per capita which would reflect the crime in relation to population.

**Action: DP to write to Chief Superintendent Jim Pearce to suggest that all future crime statistics either have some contextual information released with them or the statistics are published on per capita basis.**

### **Safer St Austell update**

In the absence of ZW, HT updated the group on the work of the Safer St Austell Partnership.

She advised that Safer St Austell actively encourages the reporting of concerns within the community and works in partnership to address concerns outlined in the delivery plan. So far the group has achieved and supported:

- Community Action Days
- An updated communication plan
- Shoplifting prevention training
- Blue light pilot training
- Highlighted mental health concerns
- Facilitated a county lines briefing

HT advised that there are plans for a specialist youth programme, further community action days, a time credits scheme for young people and a replacement of Public Spaces Protection Order signage.

HT also updated Members on her work to date which includes:

- 3 x Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) issued with 2 pending
- 3 x Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC) issued (all over 18)

#### *Over 18*

4 x Stage 2 warnings issued  
3 x Stage 1 warnings issued

#### *Under 18*

2 x Stage 2 warnings issued  
10 x Stage 1 warnings issued

She advised that overall the behaviour of young people has improved and that 70% of the ASB issues in the town at the present time relate to people over the age of 18.

She advised that she has been targeting begging and is actively moving on offenders where she can. Safer St Austell are funding some donation boxes and encouragement will be given to the public not to give to beggars but instead donate through the properly regulated donation boxes. She referred to a new way of dealing with begging that Bodmin sector are using and took the opportunity of thanking Ocean Housing, Cosgarne, Freshstart and Addaction for their continued support. She also thanked Ocean for continuing to host the monthly ASB target meetings which are well attended.

Referring to previous discussions, HT advised that she has been in contact with the agents for the land at the back of the post office requesting that the access to it is tightened up. She also advised that a recent check of the Market Hill old toilet block site was clear.

Members thanked HT for her update, particularly for her advice regarding begging.

### **Cornwall Councillor updates**

#### *Councillor Mustoe*

Councillor Mustoe asked that he and TD would like to be invited to all future ASB meetings.

He advised that a number of beach and town centre cleans have been carried out with Councillor Pears. He referred to a bin that has been removed recently from a path near Lostwood and a large amount of red bull cans found in the same area. He also referred to a substantial amount of litter, including glass, behind the Registrar's Office at Polkyth. DP advised that both matters should be referred to Cornwall Council.

**Action: JM to talk to Cornwall Council regarding the removal of the bin at Lostwood and the litter at Polkyth.**

Councillor Mustoe asked that it be recorded in the minutes that mis-reported/unhelpful headlines were damaging to St Austell and confidential information should not be divulged outside of the meeting.

## **The House**

DH thanked the Town Council for their support and advised that 47 youth workers and administrative staff were now at The House. She advised that the behaviour in the evening sessions was now much better and that they are continuing to refer vulnerable young people to external agencies as well as their own in house sessions. DH advised that there are occasional issues outside of the building and thanked the Police for their continued support. She referred to a gathering place close to the Mount Charles Band Club and suggested that a CCTV camera might be helpfully located there.

Arising from a question DH advised that The House carry out outreach work but probably not as frequent as weekly at the present time.

It was also suggested that a communication process could be put in place to alert The House when there are young people who could potentially benefit from some outreach work.

**Action: AM to liaise with DH about young people in the town centre who might benefit from some outreach work.**

**Action: HT and DH to carry out some joint patrols during the Easter Holidays.**

## **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. Addaction continue to contribute to Safer St Austell and Safer Cornwall and contribute regularly to their initiatives such as the bobble hat appeal and sleep out event. EP confirmed the decline in needle finds and thanked all partners for their continued help and support.

## **BID**

AM reiterated the increase in begging in the town and the perception of homelessness that some people are giving by sitting in doorways with sleeping bags. She advised that the BID will be paying for additional Police Officer hours in the town centre soon and expressed concern that the radio link to Newquay is not very reliable at the present time.

**Action: DP to speak to Newquay CCTV about the Shopwatch radio connection.**

**Cosgarne**

In the absence of a representative from Cosgarne, SG provided a summary of a note that MP had produced and included:

- 27 residents regularly volunteering with tasks including cooking, cleaning and farm duties;
- 18 residents regularly attending courses;
- 26 residents regularly attending activities;
- 8 residents regularly engaged in community action days;
- A success story regarding a previously alcohol dependent resident;
- New activities including DIY SOS, interview skills and film making;
- STAK continue to provide debt management advice to residents
- A student placement at Cosgarne
- A successful grant from the Tesco bags for help scheme which is funding a Cosgarne in Bloom project
- Continued attendance at ASB meetings and summits as well as Safer St Austell meetings
- Good liaising with all agencies and part of the shopwatch scheme

**SAHA**

JS advised that SAHA continue to work closely with the ASB officer, reporting information and attending monthly meetings as well as being active members of the ASB Summit/Safer St Austell groups.

The patrols in Truro Road park are continuing and they are members of the shopwatch radio scheme which is working well. They work closely with the Probation service and have a "Turnaround Team" working with a number of residents. A time credits scheme has been set up which is encouraging the residents to volunteer and gain new skills. SAHA have weekly "house meetings" and counselling sessions at the premises and are about to set up an expressions group to try and reduce conflict and issues within the house.

JS advised that SAHA are running a "Passport to Independence" AQA Accredited course which is designed to assist the residents towards independent living and sustaining their own tenancy for a positive move on. The residents are working really hard to complete the course which is proving extremely beneficial.

## **Holy Trinity**

IW advised that the church is striving to be open and manned at all times during the day but will continue to be locked up at night. He acknowledged that it could be the subject of anti-social behaviour but they would take all the necessary precautions to prevent this happening by installing CCTV and locking away any valuables. He expressed concern with regard to the continued anti-social behaviour in the churchyard, particularly the aggressive verbal behaviour of some individuals and welcomed any advice for dealing with this. He explained that planning permission has been granted for the removal of the railings which the church hope will create a large open "piazza" type space for the public to enjoy. Following the demolition of the old church hall, the church is exploring with the Brewery the potential to convert the redundant "Hop and Vine" in to offices. He advised that the diocese have earmarked a large amount of money from their "Transforming Mission" which will employ and support people in St Austell and the surrounding villages and hopefully make a positive difference to the community.

Arising from the above, HT advised that Sgt Trevivian and herself would visit the church to chat the ASB issues through.

**Action: HT/Sgt Trevivian to meet with Holy Trinity Church representatives.**

## **Foodbank**

KD advised that the media coverage of the foodbank is a lot more positive than in recent times which is pleasing. A recent Pirate FM "tonne of tins" appeal had a huge response and resulted in 17 tonnes being donated. St Austell Foodbank also provide qualified advice and guidance by people trained by Volunteer Cornwall. A new foodbank has opened at St Stephens to help people who find it hard to get in to St Austell.

## **Licensees**

AN advised that intravenous drug use across the pubwatch sector is down, although the use of cocaine appears to be slightly up. There is a new landlady at The Stag who appears to be taking a very strict line on anti-social behaviour.

## **Retailers/WRP**

RH welcomed the church's intention to open longer and hoped it would attract more visitors, however he raised concern over the



historical ASB issues the church had experienced and the need to manage any ensuing problems associated with the church being open for longer.

He advised that WRP has seen an increase in drug issues in the toilets which on occasions has resulted in damage and money having to be spent to rectify the damage. WRP are fitting another CCTV camera and are now in possession of 3 body cameras. Youth issues in WRP continue to be an issue.

### **STAK**

MM advised that ASB in the vicinity of STAK had gone down with only one needle find in recent months which had been reported to Cosgarne and had been dealt with. He advised that a pot of money from Safer St Austell had helped provide temporary accommodation for a couple who were homeless. STAK continue with free computer access, help with Universal Credits and provide benefit and debt advice.

### **Keep Britain Tidy**

TD advised that she had walked the river bank and various other sites around the town with Councillor Heyward, Councillor King, HT, Cosgarne and Addaction and although there was evidence of drug paraphernalia no sharps were found. She advised that through her various cleaning initiatives she has found 16 needles in total since November, but none since February. She confirmed that she reports all needle finds to ZW as suggested at the last meeting.

### **Others**

GK advised that the Co-op Manager is unable to attend meetings on a Thursday, but that he was happy to advise that the shop watch radio scheme initiative is having a positive impact on the co-op and the recent meeting between the Manager, HT and Cosgarne had been very useful.

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

Due to the low attendance to the meeting, the Clerk asked the group if they still found the meetings useful.

Following a discussion, the group felt that the meetings were very valuable and that they would like to see them continue.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council would monitor attendance and keep the situation under review.

### **Actions**

1. DP to write to the Chief Superintendent Jim Pearce regarding the publishing of crime statistics;
2. DP to liaise with GK about the old CCTV cameras;
3. DP to speak to CCTV suite regarding internet connection/radio connectivity
4. HT/ZW to liaise with Cornwall Council Communications Team regarding a potential press release in respect of beggars/new donation boxes;
5. HT/Sgt Trevivian to meet with Holy Trinity Church representatives;
6. JM – report missing bin/litter at Polkyth to Cornwall Council
7. AM/DH to liaise about young people in the town centre who might benefit from outreach work.