

St Austell Town Council



Anti-Social Behaviour Summit – Tuesday 27th March 2018

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
Brown, Malcolm – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor
Double, Steve - MP
Dymond, Kerry – The House, Young People Cornwall
Gard, Ed – Inspector, Devon & Cornwall Police
Necke, Sarah – Cornwall Council
Cooper, Marc – Brannel School
Flint, Rev Howard – Holy Trinity
French, Tom – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor
Hamley, Jon – Devon & Cornwall Police
Kneller, John – St Austell BID
McCoan, Sara – Licensee representative
Pears, Richard – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor
Walker, Graham – Mayor of St Austell

Present

Bray, Gareth – Street Pastors
Bull, Jackie – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor
Cardigan, Richard – Penrice School
Catherall, Helen – Addaction
Cohen, Anita - St Austell Town Council
Davies, Michelle – Cornwall Council
Double, Anne – Office of MP
Drummond-Smith, Ian (Superintendent) – D&C Police
Frost, Sara - Addaction
Gofton, Zoe – Community Safety Team
Gwilliams, Sara – St Austell Town Council
Hamilton, Vicki – SAHA (Freshstart)
Harrison, Sam – Poltair School

Heath, Kate - Cosgarne
Hernandez, Alison – Police & Crime Commissioner
Heyward, Sandra – Cornwall Councillor/Town Councillor
Hitchens, Malcolm – Liberty Housing (formerly DCH)
Hurst, Richard – White River Place & St Austell BID
King, Gary – St Austell Town Council
Kirchin, Andrew – Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Lewis, Mark – Chamber of Commerce
Liney, Caroline - Addaction
Miller, Annette – St Austell BID
Mould, Simon – Cornwall Council
Nicholson, Helen – Cornwall Council
Niles, Aaron – St Austell Wetherspoons
Oxenham, Nicky – St Austell Town Council
Palmer, Brian – St Austell Town Council (Chairman)
Pearce, Vashti – D&C Police Problem Solver
Pooley, David – St Austell Town Council
Potts, Eve - Addaction
Putko, Malcolm - Cosgarne
Styles, Tim – St Austell Town Council
Taylor, Chris – Cornwall College
Teague, Sue – ABC Residents Association
Toms, Helen – Cornwall Council
Vokes, Yasmin – D&C Police
Williams, Stephen – Ocean Housing

Introductions

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

Notes from the meeting dated 16th November 2017

The notes from the meeting dated 16th November 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

Actions Arising from meeting dated 16th November 2017

HN advised that Cornwall Council's Licensing section require evidence-based intelligence before they can carry out test purchases or review high strength alcohol sales in perceived problem establishments.

DP advised that the agency patrols are ongoing including reactive patrols to areas where ASB evidence has been found.

Town Council update (David Pooley, Town Clerk)

DP provided some background information on the setting up of the St Austell Town Council Summit and outlined some of the successes to date.

CCTV

DP advised that he had recently visited the Newquay CCTV suite with the MP and representatives from the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office. He explained that the CCTV suite in Newquay, which monitors the towns of Newquay and St Austell are manned almost 24 hours a day and that there might be some funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner to help fund some of the planned upgrades. He advised that Newquay and St Austell Town Councils had agreed recently not to join the Tolvadden scheme and that a business plan was being put together to try to encourage other towns to join the Newquay operating system. He praised the team at Newquay who have a good local knowledge of both towns and individuals of interest to the police.

Action: DP to submit a business plan/bid to the PCC for improved CCTV

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 had been quiet with the exception of a couple of notable drug paraphernalia finds. He advised that the Town Council is investing in park upgrades and had recently completed the refurbishment of The Meadows.

Public Conveniences

DP advised that the ASB issues in the toilets had reduced over recent months with any drug use activity confined to the baby changing unit or disabled toilet. He advised that the toilets had recently been painted and that the Police and other agencies carry out regular patrols in the area which appeared to be a good deterrent.

Young People Cornwall

DP advised that Young People Cornwall are Kier's chosen charity for this year and that Kier and their sub-contractors had recently carried out a £50,000 refurbishment of the building to enable Young People Cornwall's Administration Team to re-locate from Truro to St Austell. He advised that he was currently negotiating suitable lease agreements with a view to Young People Cornwall moving in to the premises around May/June time. The Chief Executive of Young People Cornwall is hoping that The House will become a centre of excellence for young people in mid Cornwall and a trail blazer for other such initiatives in the east and west of the county. He added that the Town Council had also committed a £20,000 grant to Young People Cornwall for the next 2 years to help them draw down additional grant funding. Last year's grant funding from the Town Council helped them to attract an £80,000 grant from Children in Need.

Police update

Superintendent Ian Drummond-Smith explained that he is the Police Commander for East Cornwall and is committed to tackling ASB. He advised that he works closely with Cornwall Council's Anti-Social behaviour case officers and asked HT to provide an update on the current situation.

HT advised that she covers 2 Police Sectors tackling both adult and youth disorder and provided the following statistics:

Over 18

7 persons on her watch list for ASB issues, 2 of which are on Acceptable Behavioural Contracts. She advised that there is nobody on a Criminal Behaviour Order in the St Austell sector.

Under 18

17 young people are on her watch list, 5 of which are on Acceptable Behavioural Contracts.

She advised that she works closely with the schools and The House to try to provide young people causing issues with the holistic support that they need before going down the formal sanctions route. She explained that the legal processes for prosecuting young people are very strict and all alternatives have to be explored before the courts will sanction any action.

I D-S explained the powers available under the existing DPPO (Alcohol ban) does not make it illegal to drink in a public place (St Austell town centre). The offence only arises once a Constable asks you to stop drinking and the drinker fails to stop.

I D-S advised that the crime statistic reporting arrangements have changed recently which has resulted in current crime statistics not comparing with other years on a like for like basis. He explained that the St Austell Sector was large area and that there had been a rise in recorded crime of 11 ½%. Some of this is a genuine rise, some of it is due to different recording.

I D-S acknowledged the frustrations of a lack of visible officers in and around the town but re-assured the group that if there was not a more high profile crime issue to deal with at the time, officers would attend ASB issues in the town (drunks/begging etc) and that PC Yasmin Volkes would do her best to patrol the town on a regular basis. He advised that they are fully staffed at St Austell and that there should be no vacancies in the summer. Devon & Cornwall Police are being allocated an additional 115 Police Officers and St Austell's allocation is awaited. He advised that he hopes an additional 1 or 2 officers might arrive but this is to be advised but would be really helpful for the Neighbourhoods Team and help to tackle some youth ASB in St Blazey. He thanked the Town Council for improving the environment across the town and agreed that civic pride does have a positive effect on crime levels.

I D-S highlighted the graffiti in Trinity Street bus shelter and wondered if this could be part of an improvement project.

KH advised that she could arrange for a team from Cosgarne to paint the bus shelter.

GK advised that he could supply some paint.

Action: KH to liaise with St Austell BID about permissions for painting the Trinity Street Bus Shelter.

Arising from the above RH expressed concern about the issues in the town centre during the summer months in recent years and the need to have a Police presence in the town from Easter onwards.

I D-S advised that he would put patrols in the town centre over the Easter period and review the policing arrangements for the summer season.

Action: I D-S to task some resource to the town centre for Easter and review the policing arrangements in St Austell for the summer season.

Concern was expressed about the waiting times on the 101 number.

I D-S acknowledged that there are peaks and troughs with the 101 number and advised that there is a web-chat facility available which goes straight through to a 101 officer which appears to work quite well. It is hoped that a call back system will be introduced shortly. I D-S stressed the need to dial 999 in the event of an emergency if there is a threat to life or an offender(s) is still in the vicinity. The average blue light response time is 20 mins.

The Chairman thanked Superintendent Ian D-S and HT for their informative update.

Safer St Austell update

SM explained Cornwall Council's commitment to Community Safety and the background to resurrecting the Safer St Austell Group and the complex challenges faced to resolve long term issues whilst maintaining ongoing targeted support for individuals. He advised that due to the success of the Safer St Austell, the model had been rolled out to 10 other towns in Cornwall who had similar issues. He thanked the advice and guidance from the St Austell Town Council ASB summit group and referred to the Resident's Survey results on Cornwall Council's website which details the public's perception of crime.

He thanked the Chairman for the invitation to the meeting and confirmed Cornwall Council's commitment to St Austell.

ZG explained some of the activities of the Safer St Austell Group and the delivery plan update. She referred to the recent walkabout around Gover and the agencies involved in handing out leaflets. She advised that the perception of crime appeared to be the issue and that the group are working on providing positive messages via social media and press releases to try to reassure the public. She praised the outreach work in the town, particularly with regard to youth issues and drug litter.

Secondary Schools update

Penrice School

RC advised that there are 2,500 young people across the two schools in St Austell and that they are working together, in conjunction with the Acorn Academy to tackle youth ASB. PC Dornan regularly attends the school assemblies and a recent link up with HT has proved very valuable. Both schools support the "Operation Compass" initiative.

The school runs attendance and behaviour management sessions and a recent "dads and lads" initiative for single parents was so successful that they plan to run it again next year. RC advised that whilst the students are in uniform they are the school's responsibility and referred to a planting scheme carried out by the students at Bucklers Village following complaints about their behaviour walking home from school. He also highlighted anti-bullying and cyber bullying initiatives.

Poltair School

SH advised that they are very proactive in the school in trying to tackle ASB and stressed the importance of early intervention. The school runs curriculum enrichment days to include topics such as On-Line safety, risk taking, relationships, sex education and drug and substance abuse. He advised that they have an increase of staff presence on the school buses where problems have occurred in the past. SH advised parenting classes are also run at Poltair school which have proved invaluable. Poltair School has a close working relationship with other schools in the area and SH thanked HT for her continued help.

Cornwall College

CT advised that the college and schools have been increasingly working together to help tackle youth issues. He highlighted close workings with Young People Cornwall, Outlook SW, CN4C, Careers SW and the Brandon Trust. He explained the opportunities and advice that existed at the college for young people and the need to have parenting engagement classes at post 16 education level. He advised that there are occasional litter issues in the roads surrounding the college which are litter picked by the maintenance team. He also advised that construction students were often looking for work experience opportunities.

Mr Harrison left the meeting

Cornwall Councillor updates

JB thanked Cosgarne for their work in the Community.

She referred to the impending café and toilet at Poltair Park and the need to address the increasing perception that St Austell has a lot of crime which it does not when compared to other similar sized towns.

Action: ZG to organise a suitable Safer Cornwall/Safer St Austell press release.

Action: All to consider opportunities for positive publicity.

SH referred to the recent multi agency walkabout in Gover and the positive effect it had had in the area. She thanked the Town Council for the grass cutting and environmental improvements at Truro Road Park which she felt was starting to feel better and safer.

Addaction

EP advised that Addaction are still working from the premises of their partner agencies (Cornwall Council/Cosgarne/Freshstart). They undertake patrols and respond to the reported needle finds and try where possible to identify the individuals involved. Addaction are represented at the Safer St Austell Meetings and work closely with HT.

BID

AM advised that the St Austell BID would start their second term in April but with reduced funding. She explained they have no budget for security guards this year, except for 2 weeks over the Easter holidays. AM thanked Cosgarne, Addaction and Freshstart for their patrols over recent years which she believed had made a considerable difference in the town and were much appreciated by levy payers.

Cosgarne

KH advised that Cosgarne has run Food Safety, Independent Living and Rights and Responsibilities accredited courses and facilitated various non-accredited activity including needle exchange and podiatry. They have been involved in various community and partnership activities including litter picks and fundraising events.

Freshstart

VH advised that Freshstart are now part of the Salvation Army Housing Association (SAHA) which has involved creating new policies and procedures. A recent Independent Quality Inspectorate assessment had placed the service in the top quartile nationally.

VH advised that they had produced some award winning artwork with the Royal British Legion and were trying to raise their profile.

Housing

Liberty Housing

MH advised that Liberty Housing (formerly Devon & Cornwall Housing) have 700 houses in St Austell. He explained cuckooing to the group and praised the local police for helping them to resolve the instances of cuckooing that they have been dealing with over the past 12 months.

Ocean Housing

SW advised that cuckooing is on the rise and that they had one ongoing case at the moment. Ocean continue to work with other partners on issues such as domestic violence, possession orders and acceptable behaviour contracts. He expressed concern with regard to the court waiting times and the pressures on the courts system. Ocean has a dedicated officer working on the "Together for Families" project which focuses on assisting vulnerable and challenging families.

Licensees

AN advised that pub watch numbers had reduced over the winter months and trade had increased which was pleasing. The music has been removed from Wetherspoons and a planning application has been submitted for a hotel.

ABC Residents Association (Residents Association update)

ST expressed concern about drug dealing in the Chapel Field area of St Austell.

Action: Ian Drummond-Smith/Yasmin Vokes to investigate.

STAK

BP advised that STAK are now part of the shop watch radio scheme which is working well. They have a zero tolerance attitude to anti-social behaviour which includes the banning of clients who persistently engage in anti-social behaviour in and around the premises.

St Austell Bay Chamber of Commerce

ML explained that perception of ASB is still a problem and stressed the need for positive communication.

He expressed concern with regard to the lack of an evening offer in the town and the need to support licensees to reinvigorate the town. He also expressed concern that the BID is no longer able to provide security patrols.

Street Pastors

GB advised that the street pastor patrols had been relatively quiet over recent months, possibly due to the inclement weather. He expressed an interest in liaising with the police and the college about youth issues and about whether there is a need for street pastor support during the day.

Action: GB to speak to Richard Cardigan about street pastor support during the day.

White River Place

RH advised that there had been an increase in shoplifting and that he was working closely with HT regarding the ongoing youth issues in White River Place. He expressed concern about some instances of rough sleeping in the town centre by people who are not homeless but who choose to sleep rough. RH advised that the PCC and Addaction had spent a day in the town centre and invited any other agency to do the same if they wished to promote their services.

Alison Hernandez – Police & Crime Commissioner, Devon and Cornwall Police

AH thanked the group for inviting her to the meeting and praised the partnership working in St Austell which she held up as good practice in other areas. She particularly welcomed the schools input and the recent leaflet drop exercise carried out by Safer St Austell.

AH advised that as well as the 101 number there was now a webchat facility which was proving a speedy way of getting through to the Police. She also highlighted the AskNED service which identified agencies who might be able to offer support.

She acknowledged concern about the increase in ASB during the summer months and advised that she will bear St Austell in mind whilst reviewing the summer policing plans. She also advised that parking, speeding and ASB were her priority issues.

AH confirmed that the PCC had recently awarded £3,000 and £5,000 to St Austell BID and Safer St Austell respectively. She advised that there is also funding available to help upgrade CCTV systems, particularly with regard to improving infrastructure and that an ASB fund was due to be launched shortly.

Action: DP to obtain details and consider options for bidding for funds.

Action: AH to investigate the timing of the next Accommodation Focus Group.

AH advised that she is working with the criminal justice agencies in exploring what help is available when leaving prison.

AH explained that she was about to launch the business crime strategy and welcomed the assistance offered by ML and RH.

Action: ML/RH to feed in to the Business Crime Strategy Review.

The Chairman thanked AH for speaking and attendance at the meeting.

Any other business of relevance to the meeting

I D-S reminded the group that more Police resource could be bought and dedicated to an area and that this had been trialled in other towns.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.