

**MINUTES  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Monday 23 January 2017**

Councillor Meredith Lawrence (Chair)

Councillor Paul Feeney	Councillor Marje Paling
Councillor Bruce Andrews	Councillor Stephen Poole
Councillor Sandra Barnes	Councillor Alex Scroggie
Councillor Kevin Doyle	Councillor John Truscott
Councillor Roxanne Ellis	Councillor Emily Bailey Jay
Councillor Helen Greensmith	

Apologies for absence: Councillor Tammy Bisset and Councillor Barbara Miller

Officers in Attendance: A Callingham, H Lee and D Wakelin

Guests in Attendance P Tipping, Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner and D Ellis, Portfolio Holder Public Protection.

**143 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.**

Councillor Miller. Councillor Bailey Jay attended as substitute.

**144 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2016.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

**145 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None.

**146 FRONT-LINE POLICING IN ARNOLD AND CARLTON**

Paddy Tipping, Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner attended the meeting to discuss front line policing in Arnold and Carlton. He informed Members that:

Partnership work with Gedling Borough Council was very constructive

The new Chief Constable Craig Guildford would be taking up his post in March and they would be meeting soon.

The budget for the force was just about to be finalised.

70% of funding comes from government grant, only 30% is raised locally through Council tax revenue. There has been a 20% reduction in grant in the last 5 years. Some counties are less affected by this cut as they are able to raise more from council tax revenue. 70% of the budget is used for staffing. Nationally there has been a reduction of 20,000 police officers, 3,250 in the past year and in the current financial year there will be a similar number. In Nottinghamshire there has been a £54 million reduction in the past 5 years, there will be a 12% reduction this current year and a further 5.5% next year. The situation is easing and this has enabled recruitment of police officers and PCSOs. Even with the recruitment of officers retirements mean there will be a net loss of approximately 40 officers this year, with a total of 100 officers lost in the past 5 years.

Other areas where savings can be made have been considered including rationalisation of the estate. This has included the closure of Carlton Police Station and relocation to the ambulance station. The site in Arnold has been sold and the Neighbourhood Team will be relocating in Jubilee House, no date has been confirmed for this. There will also be access to the police through the front desk at the Civic Centre.

Policing in Gedling is divided into two teams. Gedling North which is made up of a Sergeant, three Police Constables and six point six PCSOs, and Gedling South, which consists of a Sergeant, two Police Constables and five PCSOs. In addition there are response cars. Cars based at St Ann's cover the Carlton area; those based at Hucknall cover Ravenshead, and those based at Oxclose Lane Arnold. The cars are on the road all the time and the car nearest an incident will respond. There are a range of other services which are mainly organised on a regional level. Currently there are ongoing discussions with Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Police for closer cooperation which should yield savings in the future.

Crime statistics are ambiguous as it is virtually impossible to compare statistics year on year as the way, and the type, of incidents recorded has altered. Reported crime has increased by 11% but at the same time the number of incidents has fallen. For the first time fraud has been included in the statistics.

The nature and types of crime have changed, the heightened threat posed by the increase and nature of terrorism is now much greater and requires an additional increase in resources. Additional armed police are being deployed to combat this; the Metropolitan Police Force is getting 600 extra officers, Nottinghamshire is getting some but not enough. There has been a big increase in cybercrime and abuse on

line; this can be investigated by civilian officers. The resources required to address sexual offences has increased; this includes both historic sexual abuse cases and the increase in reported sexual crimes. With diminishing budgets tough choices have to be made. The public want a visible police presence, in reality Gedling has very low levels of crime when compared to other areas in Nottinghamshire. The deployment of resources is entirely a matter for the Chief Constable. There has to be discussion around prioritising the resources available to meet the changing demands on the force.

Following questions and comments from Members the following points were addressed:

Mr Tipping recognised the frustration felt by Members with the length of time the community hubs in Arnold and Carlton had taken to be identified but explained it is now clear where front counter services and the Neighbourhood Teams would be located. Carlton Police station will close in May and the Neighbourhood Team for Arnold will move into Jubilee House in September. It is not clear yet what will happen to the Carlton Police Station and that it will probably be looked at in the context of the regeneration of Carlton Square. It is currently not on the market.

Community Speedwatch teams are funded by the Camera Partnership, Mr Tipping said he would contact the Community Road Safety partnership to find out if support were still available.

Parking issues are not a police responsibility but are enforced by the Nottinghamshire Parking Partnership; there will shortly be greater powers for enforcement officers and volunteers to tackle parking problems.

The budget used for payment of police informers provides value for money; they are only paid if information is received.

The Prevent scheme to combat terrorism is something that could be undertaken by civilian officers.

Prosecutions for drug offences have gone down, the attitudes of young people to the excessive use of alcohol and drugs has changed.

The Threat, Risk Harm Strategy is used to help make decisions about priorities for resources. Currently addressing issues around burglary and drugs, this could, however, be refocused by the new Chief Constable when he takes up his post.

Members were pleased to note that sexual harassment is now classified as a hate crime. The police view is that tackling this at lower level results in behaviour changes and reduces issues escalating to a more serious level.

It was recognised that police officers do not have to be deployed to tackle cybercrime; civilian officers are able to do this.

Members applauded the work of the DARE programme and thought that it should be more widely available. They were informed that work in schools was declining but early interventions were very effective, however, tough budget choices have to be made.

Several Police Forces are in discussions with the fire services to co-work Notts. may in the future look to do this in the meantime joint working to save costs for example in communications and estates was being considered.

Members requested additional information regarding operational policing in the borough and requested that Inspector Steve O'Neil be invited to a future meeting, it was also agreed that this be open to all members.

**RESOLVED TO:**

- Thank Mr Tipping for his very interesting and informative discussion
- Request information regarding the Community Safety partnership and the Speed watch scheme
- Invite Inspector O'Neil to a future meeting.

**147**

**PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE**

**2016/17      PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE**

Councillor David Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection attended the meeting to discuss a range of issues. He explained that many of the issues he would discuss were similar to the earlier discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner as much work is undertaken in partnership with the police.

Areas which fall within the Public Protection Portfolio include

- Crime Reduction and Community Safety, this also includes licensing and taxi licensing
- Emergency planning
- Safeguarding
- Environmental Health

Councillor Ellis explained the range of responsibilities that fall within his Portfolio.

He then discussed the current crime statistics for the whole of the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety area and Gedling.

Community Safety issues and concerns mirror those previously discussed, cybercrime and terrorism have been previously highlighted but modern-day slavery is also becoming a problem.

Netherfield for a number of years showed a decrease in crime but this is now rising particularly in the areas of shoplifting and violence against a person. Burglary other which includes attempted or actual from sheds garages etc. is also increasing. Anti-Social behaviour is the most common community crime this includes fly tipping, neighbour disputes, criminal damage and noise nuisance. The authority are very active partners in tackling these issues and along with the Antisocial Behaviour Officer and CCTV has some success.

Speeding is seen as a low priority for the police, the Community Road Safety Partnership has the lead on this although the Police will assist at specific locations.

Licensing includes a raft of responsibilities including, alcohol, and gambling and sex establishment regulation. Taxi licensing improvements have included an improved fleet, the use of the knowledge test and safeguarding training. There are now fewer Gedling badged vehicles but those that remain are of a higher standard. Possible future improvements include operators undertaking Disclosure and Barring Checks, changes to medical conditions for licenses and an enforcement protocol with other licencing authorities.

The emergency planning remit within the Portfolio includes Gedling as a level 1 responder supporting initiatives to meet a range of incidents and emergencies, providing business continuity and support to the community.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The Gedling Antisocial Behaviour /Vulnerable Persons Panel is chaired by the Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager. There is a referral process for vulnerable persons including those affected by hate crime and repeat victimisation, with an Anti-Social behaviour multiagency response for, individuals groups or locations. There has been a refocusing of this work to include closer work with the Family Service to support troubled/complex families.

The Environmental Health function includes food safety, 89% of the premises in Gedling score 4 or 5 on the food hygiene rating scheme, Private sector land lord issues, filthy and verminous premises and visual amenity is also included.

A number of enforcement cases have been successful including those relating to noise, littering, smoking and fly tipping.

Work takes place to support food businesses, supporting the Best Bar None scheme, advising private sector tenants.

Future developments will include producing hate crime analysis, although this is not a big problem in Gedling, closer working with the County Council to support troubled families, integrating fly tipping and abandoned vehicles, expansion of food hygiene training and closer working with the Police when co-located at Jubilee House.

Member asked about how locations for covert cameras to catch fly tipping were decided and suggested cameras are located on the Oxtun Road near Calverton.

It was explained that there are two aspects to fly tipping the first being clearing up and the second involved tracing the offender and taking prosecutions. Members considered that householder should be made aware of their responsibility of ensuring that items are disposed of properly and that they can be fined if fly tipped by a third party. It was agreed that consideration should be given to an article in the next Contact magazine explaining this.

#### **FUTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE**

Members were updated on two issues in the Health, Housing and Wellbeing Portfolio as requested at the last meeting.

Members considered the service areas they would like to discuss at the next committee. These included:

- The regeneration of Carlton Square
- The former Carlton Brass headquarters
- Arnold market
- The empty homes policy, both public and privately owned properties and if there has been any significant change now that empty properties pay Council Tax

Members will be contacted nearer next committee to identify further areas for examination.

#### **REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The additional information relating to the cost of bed and breakfast accommodation and debt advice was noted.

#### **RESOLVED to:**

- Thank Councillor Ellis for a very informative presentation
- Explore the inclusion of an article about fly tipping in the next edition of the Contacts magazine
- Request Councillor Hollingsworth to discuss the areas identified

- Note the additional information.

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## **SCRUTINY OF THE SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP.**

Dave Wakelin, Director of Health and Community Wellbeing explained the makeup and remit of the Safer Nottinghamshire (Community Safety) Board. The Board coordinates community safety issues in the boroughs of Rushcliffe, Broxtowe and Gedling working together to reduce crime and improve the quality of life. The Safer Nottinghamshire Board meets four monthly and is attended by a range of officers from responsible authorities and leading on the overall strategy for the partnership.

The strategic themes for the board are

- Domestic violence
- Hate crime
- Modern slavery
- Vulnerable people in emerging communities, this includes migration and the organised crime that can accompany it
- Substance misuse.

The Strategic Group is chaired by Ruth Hyde and makes strategic level decisions relating to themes of the partnership and the Delivery Group, chaired by Dave Wakelin, makes decisions relating to tactical and operational needs to determine how to make the them work locally.

Performance Priorities for the Partnership currently are

- Violence against the person – with or without injury, domestic violence
- Serious acquisitive crime – the high volume of shop theft
- Burglary from dwellings.

The South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is still ranked first when benchmarked against similar sized CSPs and the best performing one in the county.

There are a number of key issues that are currently being addressed, these include:

- Weak analytical support – the dedicated analyst previously employed has not been replaced and this causes a weakness when making decisions about how to allocate resources
- Lack of clarity regarding serious organised crime arrangement between the City and the County
- International organised migration plans and delivery
- How offenders are managed in society, ensuring support mechanisms are available
- Lack of Gedling specific data
- Strengthening the response to antisocial behaviour
- Lack of mental health services/ resources in the community for both the victim and the offender.

Locality working includes fortnightly operational meetings held between the police, the Community Safety Coordinator, the Antisocial Coordinator and the Senior Neighbourhood Warden to discuss local problems. These are informal meetings and enables data sharing, local updates and tasking. Specific task and finish groups can be established to address specific crime types, geographical issues or anti-social behaviour concerns.

Members raised a number of issues and the following points were addressed:

There are very few 'halfway houses' for released prisoners as the Probation service deal with the challenging problem of community rehabilitation. The majority of prisoners are released in the Gedling area are on license and get support in the community.

'Legal Highs' are not legal and are now longer available in shops, they are available through other channels for example the internet.

The police are dealing with the consequences of a reduction in mental health services, which is a real concern. A triage car is available with a mental health nurse to assist in incidents where mental health issues are a factor and police cells are very really used detain people with suspected mental health concerns. A high percentage of homeless people have mental health issues however services are not available to support them. Members were concerned about the support available for people with mental health issues and the link that this may have to crime and antisocial behaviour and asked that more information regarding this at the next meeting.

Shoplifting incidents increased in December mainly food, alcohol and clothing. Work is being done with the retail industry to make them more active in combatting this rise.

Modern day slavery is on the increase; John Robinson is the County strategic lead for this.



## **RESOLVED TO:**

1. Note the information and thank Councillor Ellis for attending; and
2. Receive written information about the link between crime and antisocial behaviour and mental health.

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## **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

### **COMPLETED SCRUTINY REVIEWS**

#### **The Bonington Theatre**

Additional information regarding the variety of films and increase in the number of people attending the cinema screenings and theatre was circulated. Members were pleased to note the increase in the number of the people using the facility and the progress that has been made to implement the recommendations made by the working group.

### **SCRUTINY IN WORKING GROUPS**

#### **Issues of an ageing population Income Generation**

There was a brief update about these reviews and Councillor Andrews asked to be included in the work of the Income Generation working group.

#### **Gedling Councillor Standard**

Members were asked to participate in a 'task and finish' group to develop the Gedling Councillor Standard. Councillors Paling and Scoggie volunteered, and it was agreed that additional members should be nominated by the business managers, and that membership of this group should be open to all non-executive Members.

### **SCRUTINY IN COMMITTEE**

The attendance of portfolio holders at the March and May committees was agreed.

### **INFORMATION UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **Members were updated on information regarding**

- Recording of meetings
- Arnold Market
- The Accredited Learning Centre
- East Midlands Ambulance Service.

**RESOLVED to:**

1. Note the Bonington Theatre six month progress report
2. Request additional members for the Gedling Councillor Standard task and finish group
3. Note the information regarding the
  - current working groups
  - the scrutiny work programme
  - and information updates from previous committees
  - thank Mike Calladine for the update on the Accredited Learning Centre.

**150        REPORTS AND NOTICES RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR OF  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AS REQUIRED UNDER  
THE CONSTITUTION OR LAW.**

**RESOLVED to;**

1. Note the report.

**151        ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.**

None.

The meeting finished at 7.45 pm

Signed by Chair:  
Date: