

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY FOCUS GROUP held on 6 November 2003 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton

PC R Fisher
Mr J Hallas
Mr C McIlwrick
Mr G Southey
PC P Toplis

1 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS FO INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the former Community Safety Committee held on 7 May 2003 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

3 HOME OFFICE – BUILDING A SAFE, JUST AND TOLERANT SOCIETY
CRIME REDUCTION BASICS: HANDOUTS

The Group received handouts on the following and noted their contents:

- ?? Anti-Social Behaviour Crime figures
- ?? Situational Crime Reduction
- ?? Social Crime Reduction
- ?? Problem Oriented Policing
- ?? Local Organisations and What They Can Offer
- ?? Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)
- ?? Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)
- ?? Discussion Questions
- ?? What You Can Do to Get Involved
- ?? Useful Contacts

The Group **AGREED** that this was a good information package that was mostly common sense and did involve partnership working.

PC Toplis informed the Group of a new “Shop Watch” initiative that could result in a ban from all village shops, not just for the culprit but for his/her parents too. It worked ideally in urban areas but was being tried in rural areas too. It was a similar scheme to “Pub Watch” and evidence collected could form the basis of a future ASBO.

The Group **AGREED** to adopt the Home Office advice set out in the handouts and the “Shop Watch” initiative as its Crime Reduction Strategy for Saughall and Shotwick Park.

4 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR/NUISANCE NEIGHBOURS

The Group received a report from PC Fisher on recent anti-social behaviour incidents which included a boy throwing a stone through a window and others setting fire to the bin at the Woodvale Stores.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that she had visited Meadows Lane recently where there had been problems and been told that currently the situation was a lot better.

It was noted that the situation on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field, a meeting place for local youths, was also quiet at the moment.

Mr C McIlwrick informed of the problems in trying to contact PC Fisher and his colleagues by telephone. When the telephone was eventually answered, after 15 minutes, he was unable to ascertain if PC Fisher was on duty because the information was refused him.

Mc C McIlwrick also briefed the Group on the fires that had been set in the woods The Fire Brigade had been called out at least three times. A resident of Parkway had had eggs thrown at his house and a resident in Fieldway had been the subject of verbal abuse from children in Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School’s uniform. There had also been problems with youths running through people’s gardens.

It was **AGREED** that Mr Choi, Headteacher at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School, would be approached about his children causing a nuisance.

On Monday evening there had been an incident involving youths at the Youth Club jumping over cars in the Vernon Institute car park. This had resulted in a lady being accused, unfairly, of being abusive to the children.

It was **AGREED** that the Youth Club Management Committee would be approached about this incident.

Children had been cycling and jumping across the graves in the All Saints Churchyard.

PC Fisher informed that these incidents had not been reported to the police. The Group considered this to be because residents were unable to get through to the Constabulary by telephone and PC Fisher **AGREED** to take this concern and communications problem back to Headquarters.

PC Fisher and Mr McIlwrick **AGREED** to have regular meetings to keep each other informed on what was happening in the locality.

5 PARISH PLAN

The Group received a report on the progress being made with the Parish Plan from the Chairman.

The next step was to gather views on what should be included in the questionnaire. It was **AGREED** that parental responsibility questions would be included. Also, PC Toplis reported that the Home Office had prepared a list of possible questions on the fear of crime aspect. He **AGREED** to e-mail the Clerk with the necessary website link so she could access them.

Concerns were raised over villagers parking on the pavements. PC Fisher reported that if they were not causing a problem/obstruction he would not intervene, but if they were he would take appropriate action.

There were problems as people in wheelchairs or with prams and pushchairs who could not get passed without stepping onto the road.

PC Fisher **AGREED** to distribute notices to those causing an obstruction and to gauge the extent of the problem in the village, take action as necessary and bring a report to the next meeting of the Group.

It was suggested that posts could be hammered into the grass verge on Long Lane to stop motorists parking there. The Clerk would discuss the possibility of this with the Area Highway Engineer.

It was also **AGREED** that the Council would consider holding a "Wheelchair Awareness Day" next Spring and the Parish Council newsletter would carry a piece telling motorists not to park on pathways or grass verges.

PC Toplis reported on a new approach aimed at reducing the number of cars broken into. The Group was encouraged to take the registration number of any cars seen with valuables on display and send them to him. Letters would then be sent to the car owners advising them not to leave valuables in their cars.

PC Toplis also informed of an inexpensive CCTV system that could be used outside of the City Centre. The cameras could be monitored from 6:00pm-2:00am by a paid employee. He **AGREED** to keep the Group up to date on progress with this project.

It was reported that speed monitoring equipment would be available for Saughall very soon.

6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting of the Group would be held provisionally at 7:30pm on Monday, 9 February 2004 at a venue to be decided upon.