

Extract from minutes of 26th April 2012
Police and Safer Neighbourhoods

The committee received a report from Inspector Poppitt regarding the policing and safer neighbourhoods trends.

The report outlined actions taken since the Committee on 5th January 2012. The current emerging issues/neighbourhood trends for each ward were also highlighted (see report for full details).

Existing Priority: Speed Enforcement in Support of the 20mph limit

Members were in favour of retaining this as a priority with the long-term solution being, a cultural change with consistent limits across the City, improved signage and consistent enforcement. Operation guidelines were discussed as per the report. The absence of an ability to send offenders on speed awareness training for offences involving a 20mph limit was discussed. Cllr Bick suggested that the possibility of introducing a local course could be investigated. This would be income generating.

Hugh Kellett

There would be no difference in a course for 20mph or 30mph offences. The Police have failed to act on a priority set by this committee.

Mr Bowen

The Police could be seen as holding the resolution of this committee in contempt in failing to act on this matter.

Barry Higgs

The wording of the report avoids the issue of poor signage.

Richard Preston confirmed that the current signage is sufficient to allow for prosecution. Speed cameras could be considered but there was no funding for these centrally and the County would only consider funding them where there was a risk of fatalities.

Mr Lawton

No progress on this matter in 18 months and the Police should be upholding the law. Speedwatch is ready to work with the Police on this matter.

Richard Taylor

I would not support local courses but would support introduction on national courses. Non-locals could be forced to travel long distances to attend local courses if introduced. However, does the number of people ignoring the 20 mph limit demonstrate that this speed limit is being pursued when there is not public support for it?

Members discussed the introduction of a city-wide 20mph limit. Councillor Cantrill confirmed that budget allocated had been made for this.

Members expressed their wish to see the police continue to enforce 20mph limits. Inspector Poppitt reminded members that their priorities are recommendations and that the final decisions were made by the Neighbourhood Action Group. This group of senior managers would decide if this priority was an effective use of police resources given the absence of any other supporting solutions.

Councillor Bick responded. Almost all recommendations agreed by this committee had been adopted and it would be regrettable if this situation changed. Councillor Hipkin requested that the committee acknowledge the Police advice when making their decisions.

RESOLVED (by 10 votes to 0 with one abstention) to reject to recommendation to discharge this priority.

Existing Priority: To reduce alcohol and group-related anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the City and Grafton areas.

Councillor Bick thanked the police for their hard work in this area and the success achieved. Some concerns were raised that ASB was seasonal and could return in the warmer months. Fast tracking a S30 order was discussed. Members stated that they would not be in favour of this but would be happy to attend an emergency meeting to discuss this should the need arise.

RESOLVED (by 10 votes to 0 with one abstention) to discharge this priority.

Existing Priority: Address anti-social cycling and reduce the incidence of cycle thefts across the area.

Members agreed that progress had been made on cycle thefts and were content to discharge this priority. The Serious Crime Squad would address large-scale cycle thefts.

Work to address anti-social cycling by improved signage was ongoing and meetings were planned with the EIP team to see what could be achieved.

Councillor Whitebread requested improved signage in the Christ's Piece area. Councillor Cantrill would look into this.

Action: Councillor Cantrill

RESOLVED

Anti-social Cycling: Agreed (by 8 votes to 0 with three abstentions) to retain this as a priority.

Cycle thefts: Agreed (unanimously) to discharge as a priority.

Emerging issues

The emerging problem of thefts of mobile phones from evening venues was discussed and members expressed support for adding this as a priority.

RESOLVED (unanimously) additional priority of mobile phone thefts from City licensed premises.

Priorities agreed:

- I. Speed enforcement in support of the 20mph limit.
- II. Anti-social cycling in the West Central area.
- III. Mobile phone thefts from City licensed premises.