

15/17/NAC Policing & Safer Neighbourhoods

The Committee received a report from Inspector Johnson regarding Policing and Safer Neighbourhood Trends.

The report outlined actions taken since the North Area Committee of the 18th December 2014. The current emerging issues/neighbourhood trends for each ward were also highlighted (see report for full details).

The Committee and members of the public asked the following question regarding the report:

Q1 Councillor O'Reilly asked is action could be taken regarding the number of heavy good vehicles that used Victoria Road as a short cut. Residents had complained that they were unable to sleep due to the noise and vibration.

A. This could be added to the priorities.

Q2 Councillor Sarris asked for mobile CCTV to be deployed around Grumpy's as anti-social behaviour was on the increase in the area.

A. This could be requested as a priority.

Q3 Councillor Sarris asked for more details on drug dealing outlined in the report. What were the quantities involved?

A. Good intelligence had been received to suggest that London dealers were operating in the area. Individuals had been found with enough drugs on them to facilitate dealing over a number of days.

Q4 Councillor Price asked if in the reported increase in theft was linked to specific individuals. He further suggested that burglary could be added to the priorities.

A. Burglary was always seen as a priority and there was little benefit from adding it the area committee priorities. Known offenders were monitored on release from prison.

Q5 Richard Taylor stated that Area Committees needed better information in order to set their priorities. This should include

injury statistics, the cost of crime and speeding statistics. He suggested that vehicle crime should be separated out from anti-social behaviour statistics. Also, information from other sources should such as the Police and Crime Commissioner reports, and local level anti-social behaviour meeting, should also be included.

A. Data produced for different Area Committee needed to be consistent and meaningful. There was very limited support staffing available to break down the data and it would not be the best use of resources to pull staff away from other tasks to complete the analysis.

The Safer Communities Manager stated that issues raised at anti-social behaviour meetings were addressed. She suggested that the Committee invited the Police and Crime Commissioner's Outreach Worker to attend this meeting as she was based locally.

Councillor Manning suggested that better use could be made of 'Open data' and undertook to work with Councillor Todd-Jones on this issue.

Action

Q6 Councillor Austin asked why violent crime appeared to be on the increase.

A. this is most likely to be related to improved ways of recording crimes.

Q7 Kay Harris asked if phone scams could be included in the report.

A. Local figures would not be available as such crimes were classed as fraud and addressed by Action Fraud rather than local teams.

Q8 Councillor Perry asked why the Police were unable to assist cyclist if someone else adds a lock to their bike.

A. Bike thieves employed a number of methods to separate cycles from their rightful owners. Owners needed to take steps to register their bike and to be able supply evidence of ownership. This would help the Police to reunite owners with their cycles. There was evidence that cycles were targeted for resale, often in other areas.

Q10 Mr Whyte stated that action against professional drivers exceeding the 20 mph limit had produced results. However, cyclist

continued to break the rules of the road without fear of consequences.

A. Cyclists could be given fixed penalty notices.

The Committee discussed additional priorities and the following were suggested:

- i. HGV's using Victoria Avenue at night.
- ii. HGV's using Milton Road at night.
- iii. ASB around Grumpy's.
- iv. Seasonal rises in ASB on open spaces.

The Committee:

Resolved unanimously to prioritise the following:

- i. Continue the safeguarding / enforcement work around the supply of Class A Drugs (Op Hexham)
- ii. ASB Scotland Road / Green End Road
- iii. Road enforcement action as follows:
 - To continue with the support of the 20mph speed limit.
 - Road enforcement action in one area/street from each ward to be identified by the Ward Councillors in consultation with the Chair.