

Notes from Heathfield CSAG meeting

Weds 20th January 2021, 10am

Attendees: John Abbott (Heathfield Chamber of Commerce)

Cllr. Bill Bentley (ESCC) (Chair)

Tora Bowdler (Wealden Works)

Lisa Crozier (Wealden Works)

Cllr. Lynne Fraser (Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council)

Inspector Jon Gross (Wealden Police)

Helen Johnson (Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council)

Cllr. Graham Knight (Horam Parish Council)

Oliver Leighton (ESFRS)

Malcolm Ramsden (East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council)

Janna Todd (Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council)

Cllr. Rupert Simmons (ESCC)

1. Apologies and introductions

Cllr Bentley gave some background information and an introduction to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from the Wadhurst Clerk.

2. Current and Emerging Issues

2.1 Crime data summary

Inspector Gross went through the crime data that had been provided to attendees. They are about to relaunch the domestic abuse campaign. Inquisitive crime is still a focus for the police. Reporting of COVID breaches is encouraged and doesn't overwhelm neighbourhood policing. A discussion was held on crime at rural stores and garages and it was suggested that the CSAG and police work with those being impacted.

Inspector Gross will speak to Chris Neilson about what can be offered to rural service stations to prevent crime.

JG

It was confirmed that theft relates to people or businesses, the rural crime team are mainly investigating what would be classed as a burglary.

Inspector Gross will look at the alcohol and licensing position in relation to public order crimes.

JG

2.2 COVID-19 – Community tensions

Inspector Gross is looking to re-invoke the monthly catch-up calls with representatives from the area. The police continue to assess community tensions within Wealden.

3. Review of CSAG Priorities and Action Log – Progress Update

3.1 Priority 1 Speeding and Anti-Social driving

Inspector Gross advised that they have supported speedwatch groups, undertaken arrests and issued tickets. They have probably exceeded expectations and will undertake further dates on this.

3.2 Priority 2 Drugs harm and ASB

Inspector Gross advised that due to lockdown it has been difficult to move forward with this. Concern was expressed that a young person wasn't involved in the CSAG.

Inspector Gross to see if something similar to what has been undertaken in

Uckfield can be done in Heathfield.

JG

Cllr Knight to see if the young person they employ would be able to join the CSAG meetings and if Horam Parish Council would allow this.

GK

All to consider if they have a suitable young person who could join the meeting

ALL

3.3 Priority 3 Scoping community groups

The police need an updated directory of groups in the district, they can then keep them updated. C/F to be finalised for the next meeting.

3.4 Priority 4 Scope rural businesses

The police want to make contact with rural businesses and have drafted a letter to them asking if they want to be part of the CSAG and inviting them to sign up to DISC, a crime prevention app.

All to add <https://discagainstcrime.com> to their noticeboards and newsletters

ALL

4. Actions identified and priority setting

It was felt that we should keep to the current 4 priorities.

5. Updates on forthcoming events or activities

Cllr Simmons advised that it is planned for Le Marche to go ahead in 2021.

Inspector Gross advised that information is going out about the 'Ask for Annie' campaign and the police will have stands at supermarkets for the 'You are not alone' campaign. There will be road police activity in February and March and they will be looking at dirt bike driving and speeding. If people are aware of problem areas they are requested to advise Inspector Gross.

Inspector Gross to arrange for information regarding local PCSOs to be sent to the Wadhurst clerk and to check why information is not available on the Wealden police website regarding this area.

JG

6. Ongoing engagement and feedback to Wealden JAG

Inspector Gross requested he be advised if the police aren't engaging with people.

7. Any other business

Attendees were invited to add anything that hadn't been covered. The following items were raised:

Parking – due to be discussed at Police and Crime Commissioner Panel. John Abbott will look at approaching relevant shopowner in Heathfield who is causing an issue for car drivers.

Janna Todd confirmed that she has data from their speed recording equipment that she could pass onto the police.

Concern was expressed over crime in Horam especially in Horebeech Lane.

Graham Knight and the Clerk at Horam will send details to Inspector Gross

GK

Inspector Gross confirmed that if there are concerns in particular areas to let him know. *Helen Johnson will send Inspector Gross details of the speedwatch groups in her area.*

HJ

Cllr Simmons thanked Inspector Gross for all his work and wished him well in his retirement.

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 19th May 10am

The meeting closed at 11:56pm