

Joint Action Group – East Northamptonshire - North

Minutes of Teams Meeting: 13th July, 2021

Chairman: Anne Burnett

Admin: Jo Williams

Teams Host: Sarah Rodger

Present:

Committee Representatives: PS Leigh Goodwin (Northamptonshire Police), Sarah Barnwell (NCC Highways)

Parish Representatives:

David Fuller (OTC) Fiona Cowan & Ann Scott (Collyweston), Sarah Rodger (Nassington & Warmington), Jo Williams (Apethorpe), Chris Jackson (Kings Cliffe), Shenagh Hackett (Duddington & Fineshade), Keir Dow (Easton on the Hill), Brian Gretton (Deene & Deenethorpe), Nicky Phillips, Lilford, Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch, David Cashmore (Glaphorn), Neil Repton (Benefield), Rupert Boyle (Laxton),

Apologies;

Annabel De Capell Brooke

Paul Piercey Hughes

1. Review of Actions Outstanding form Q1 & 2

1.1 Data Strip deployment for Collyweston & Kings Cliffe. Covid has delayed progress, both areas are scheduled for action and the backlog is being cleared.

Action: PS Goodwin

1.2 Fineshade parking restrictions are in progress and Highways is aware of the situation. Shenagh Hackett asked for Police assistance as the problems at Fineshade can be acute and cars often obstruct the road. People parking on the road have torn down the no-parking signs and removed the bollards. PS Goodwin informed us that Police do patrol the area and will deal with obstructions where powers allow.

Action: Sarah Barnwell

1.3 Community Speed Van & Speed Watch Programme. PS Goodwin will provide the information for dissemination when it is available.

Action PS Goodwin

1.4 Availability of Data on VAS effectiveness. PS Goodwin does not have information about this but made a good point in explaining how the data from VAS can be used to provide intel to the Police to make their speed patrols more effective. VAS can supply data on traffic flows, speeds and the times at which problems occur. Parishes experiencing problems are encouraged to apply for grants for VAS equipment. Parish councils can apply for funding from £500 to £5000 via the OPFCC for these signs and other road safety initiatives. Use this link:

<https://www.northantspfcc.org.uk/public-funding/grants/road-safety-community-fund/>

2. Police Summary

2.1 Traffic related actions completed:

Parking Patrols in all villages that have schools.

Parking letters sent circa 15. Words of Advice given to 2 people.

Speed Gun – 85 vehicles monitored and 2 warning letters sent.

These actions bring closure to all outstanding speed monitoring priorities.

3 Locally Identified Priorities

3.1 LIPS/Digital Survey

The LIPs are now generated from the output of a Police digital survey, these are accessible via Facebook, Twitter, Neighbourhood Watch/Alert and through Parish awareness promotions. There will be two Priorities for Police focus each quarter. Although the returns for most areas were very low in relation to the size of the populations sampled, 527 people responded from East Northants, the outcome did reflect JAG North's areas of concern, namely: Drug Dealing, Road Safety & Traffic Matters.

Delegates expressed concerns about the effectiveness and reach of the digital survey and questioned how public engagement and response could be improved. PS Goodwin informed the group that our local Police team are planning to provide accessibility opportunities, such as Street Walks on their assigned 'beats'. The meeting strongly agreed with this approach and felt that it would be more effective if it could be pre-planned to enable Parish Councils/Meetings to encourage their parishioners to participate.

3.2 Collaborative Working

A useful discussion followed, led by PS Goodwin, who emphasised that a coalition approach between the Police, Highways, Community Safety Groups, Town and Parish Councils could be strengthened if focussed on collaborative problem solving (really, the original JAG remit). For example: Drug dealing often takes place in public recreational areas where hedging and shrubbery can be used as a screen. Lowering hedge height can improve sight lines. Councils can lower hedge heights improving the visibility for police patrols and deterring the activity.

3.3 Crime and Incident Reporting

PS Goodwin reminded the group that policing was only as effective as the intel it received. Delegates were asked to encourage their parishioners to report suspicious activity. Neil Repton (Benefield) said that there was an increased incidence of theft and that his parishioners had been concerned by instances of strangers who appeared to be 'sizing up' their properties. PS Goodwin stressed the importance of reporting to ensure that such instances are logged. Parishes were again asked to encourage people to inform the Police of suspicious behaviours via 101 or on-line. If the activity is in progress, e.g., a stranger walking around a private garden, there is an option to ring 999.

Chris Jackson (Kings Cliffe) reported that he had 'given up' on 101 as his recent calls had not been answered in a reasonable time frame. This has long been a problematic area and it was

noted that call answering times are not consistent. The set parameters of the on-line reporting system make it difficult to report random, nuisance incidents, which results in many issues being unreported.

3.4 Police Recruitment & future of JAG North

The news of the recruitment of a dedicated PC for our area was very well received. The Parishes also welcomed the idea of local police beats and a named 'Bobby'. There was discussion about the new Police Beats being aligned to Council Voting Wards as this has resulted in a mismatch of the geographic 'territory' covered by the East Northamptonshire JAGs and will need resolution. PS Goodwin stated that the alignment of the new areas and their effect on JAG was a 'work in progress'. Anne Burnett (Chair) expressed her frustration at the lack of co-ordination between the existing Joint Action Groups, the PLR initiative and the new policing territories and asked for the remit of JAG to be clarified.

Action: Mike Greenway

3.5 Police Liaison Representative

Discussion then turned to the Police Liaison Representative role. The initiative was considered potentially brilliant and had got off to a good start but now appears to have hit a 'lull' with little communication to, about or between PLRs. PS Goodwin had little information about the initiative. Jo Williams (Apethorpe) stated that the PLRs needed to be linked to Parish Councils/Meetings to be effective and that JAG North had recommended that the JAG representative should be the PLR. The quarterly JAG meeting is a readymade forum and particularly important if we are to achieve a shared responsibility approach (see 3.2) to deter criminal behaviour.

4.0 Open Parish Discussion

4.1 Ann Scott (Collyweston) requested warning signs to alert drivers to the zebra crossing on the road from Duddington to Collyweston. Traffic is heavy and there are speeding issues on this section of the road; and that the unsigned crossing presents a danger to pedestrians.

Action: Sarah Barnwell to be asked to investigate.

4.2 Ann Scott (Collyweston) also asked for assistance with a footpath which continues to be prone to frequent flooding despite the interventions of Street Doctor.

Action: Sarah Barnwell to be asked to investigate.

4.3 Shenagh Hackett (Duddington & Fineshade) Confirmed that WorldFest was going ahead and that she would keep the Police Team informed.

Action: Shenagh Hackett

4.4 David Fuller (OTC) informed the group that Oundle Town Council were drawing up a traffic management strategy for the area.

The next JAG Meeting is scheduled for 12th October, 2021. Venue TBA. Starting 2:30 pm.