

CAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Council Meeting 6th October 2015

Police Matters

4.1 To receive a report on the current position in Cambourne.

Police report from PCSO David Jackson (copy attached). PCSO Jackson will be on leave and therefore sends his apologies for being unable to attend.

4.2 To receive a report on proposals to tackle parking issues.

Chief Inspector James Sutherland and Sgt Jon Capes will be in attendance for this item.

The attached report was received at the Council Meeting M142 held on 1st September 2015 and an extract from the Minutes has been copied below.

4.4 Email from PC Kevin Murphy – Solutions to Parking Problems

Concern was raised that the meeting to discuss parking issues had been scheduled for a day that clashed with August Parish Council meeting and no response had been received to a request to change the date of the meeting to allow representatives of Cambourne Parish Council to attend.

Nuisance parking is not prioritised by the Police and a solution of purchasing PCSO time dedicated to tackling parking issues would need to be funded by the Parish Council.

Concern was raised that the average band D property pays £180 annually for policing services and that if the Parish Council purchased PCSO time then the tax payers would effectively be paying twice. No revenue collected in fines would go to the Parish Council.

The cost of the PCSO could be split between parishes but this would be more effective in the smaller parishes, it was felt Cambourne had enough parking issues to need dedicated PCSO time and that parking issues were a priority for the residents of Cambourne.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that there is no budget heading this year to fund additional PCSO time.

Cllr Betson confirmed that this issue could be raised at the next Resident's Meeting in order to canvass opinion.

It was felt that further clarification was needed.

It was:

RESOLVED *that the email be received and that a senior Officer would be invited to a future meeting to discuss the issue and provide clarification.*

4.3 Correspondence

To receive correspondence regarding Area Police Panel Meeting.

Cambourne Parish Council
Police Report September 2015
Period 1st September to 1st October

For this period there have been 160 Incidents for the area with 104 in Cambourne. For the same period last year there were a total of 177 incidents reported with 125 in Cambourne, the most frequent calls received were:-

12 x Domestic disputes

11 x Advice messages – updates to previous call for service

6 x Malicious or nuisance communications – scam calls

3 x Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour

There have been 42 crimes reported for the area with 40 being in Cambourne, compared to 42 crimes for the same period last year, with 34 in Cambourne.

The most frequent being: -

12 x Theft

10 x Criminal damage

At the time of writing two of the above has been detected, and two have been ‘non – crimed’ due to insufficient details from the aggrieved.

The Police contact point in Morrison’s supermarket is operating and I will be in attendance on Wednesday 14th October between 5 and 7pm and Friday 30th October between 5 and 7pm.

AGENDA ITEM No. 4.2

Liz Pinchen

From:
Sent:
To:

Subject:

Dear all,

Please find attached a report from Inspector Isley, Safer Neighbourhood Manager for South Cambs district. It follows meetings on the Cambourne, Histon and Sawston areas to discuss the issue of problem parking and the options available to address this.

I have included the contacts for the parish councils which constitute Cambourne area from the lists we hold, or the parish council websites. Apologies if any of these are incorrect – if any need to be amended please advise.

If there is interest from your parish in the Community Parking Fund, please notify the PCSO for your village, myself or Inspector Isley (richard.isley@cambs.pnn.police.uk) as soon as possible.

Many thanks,

PC 1477 Murphy
Cambourne Police Station.

Dear Parish Councillors.

First of all let me begin by thanking you for attending our meetings to discuss the ongoing issues felt by your communities in relation to nuisance or inconsiderate parking. I do know there were a number that would have liked to have come but simply couldn't for a number of reasons.

The purpose of this email was to update those who couldn't attend and to remind those that did of what was said for further discussions in your meetings.

I recall that some of the parishes hadn't been represented at the Spring Policing Panel meetings and were unaware of why it had become necessary to have an additional conversation about parking.

At the panels Chief Inspector Sutherland gave an overview of where the Police felt we were in terms of reduced crimes in our neighbourhoods and the issues the Police faced in maintaining our focus with ever reducing resources. The Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership 12 month priorities of protecting the vulnerable were explained as was how and why it was necessary to risk assess and prioritise how we would conduct our business over the next 12 months.

We took many questions from attendees and it's fair to say that there were several on issues of thoughtless and inconsiderate parking.

The Police position is clear. We cannot do what we have always done any longer. We will not prioritise action against nuisance parking unless there is a clear risk of harm coming to someone. The County and I review all incidents of collisions where there has been a fatality or serious injury to ascertain what can be done to prevent recurrence. There have been no such incidents in South Cambs in the past 12 months where visibility reduced by parked vehicles has been a significant factor.

The panel attendees asked us to consider what options were available to the community to deal with the problem for themselves. We discussed;

1. ***Could the Police provide a form of words on headed notepaper that could be printed and placed on offending vehicles.***

I do not support this;

Volunteers would be acting without support or the sort of protective equipment that PCs and PCSOs wear.

Some people become irrationally violent when they see strangers touching their vehicles.

There was a high likelihood of an ugly confrontation in the street – I would hate for a well-meaning volunteer to be assaulted because of a process that I put in place.

There is the possibility of allegations of criminal damage made against volunteers.

Potential for discord within the community.

One area thought they might still do this albeit they accepted they would need to come up with the format themselves and take appropriate precautions.

2. ***Could the Constabulary create a parking version of Speed Watch whereby we are sent an image of an illegally parked vehicle and we write to the RO.***

We cannot support this option;

We would be overwhelmed by images of vehicles which may not actually be illegally parked (waiting, actually still moving but doesn't appear so, not showing restrictions in images etc etc)

We would be overwhelmed by images of vehicles belonging to neighbours in the middle of neighbour disputes. We might have to employ someone to administrate the checks, the letters and the subsequent complaints and appeals processes.

The use of PNC for this purpose might not be lawful – access to the data on the system is only accessible for a policing purpose and for each check the officer conducting the check is personally liable.

3. ***Could the County take over responsibility of parking as in our major urban areas.***

We approached DC. At this time there are no plans to take this on.

Enquiries with County reveal;

A Parking Enforcement Officer costs about £30k PA when taking into account salary, employment, administration, pension costs etc.

+ Office Costs

+ an appeals and admin process team

+ Vehicle

The County Council estimate a scheme for an area the size of SC would cost £150k PA. Initially this would need to be met by a rise in the precept.

Long term it might self-fund as unlike with Police, ticket revenue does not go direct to the Chancellor and can be used to self-fund the scheme. Long term you would all need to be sure that it could consistently issue 100+ tickets a week or inevitably there would have to be a rise in taxes. Personally I think that would be achievable

initially but I doubt it would beyond six months.

Moving responsibility for parking enforcement to County is a legal process involving ministerial support. It would not be simple to reverse (I'm not sure it's ever been done) and once it's gone across Police/ PCSO cannot continue to issue tickets for offences other than obstruction.

4. **Can Parishes buy a PCSO just to do parking complaints –Could we hire a PCSO on overtime.**

PCSO costs about the same as PEO with on costs too. Additionally they're over-qualified for the role of simply disrupting nuisance parking.

PCSO normally cost about £45 an hour if required for an event – this is partly due to administration costs.

An option may be the offer from the parishes of a conditional grant to a Community Parking Fund. This would allow the Constabulary to consume the administration costs and do its bit to help.

A grant of £1k would allow a PCSO to be deployed for 42 hours outside of their normal duties on voluntary overtime.

Some of the parishes are quite small and perhaps they could join a syndicate with others - we would prefer it not to be more than 4 to a syndicate and remain within the geographic Policing Panel Areas to make it manageable and give value.

We would recommend that the hours are spread over 6 months. This makes finding volunteers easier and also would tend to make the period of enforcement longer to potentially change behaviours.

Areas for attention should be determined by the parishes however ultimately discretion of whether to ticket or educate remains with the PCSO.

Would be managed by their area Policing Team and a breakdown of activity would be given to the parishes.

Revenue generated would not go to the Police or parishes but still go to the Chancellor.

Overtime would include travelling to the parish – the Constabulary would do its best to ensure the PCSO started at the local Police Station.

Should the PCSO be taken away for a major incident that time would not be deducted from the parishes' hours.

Can I ask that you take this information away to your meetings for further discussions. There is of course an unwritten option which is that you choose to do nothing and we stay as we are dealing with issues as we come across them but not prioritising parking as a day to day issue.

Can I ask that if you would like to discuss the Community Parking Fund as an option for your parish that you come back to us as early as you can in September please (I think a few of you have meetings mid-September so as soon as you reasonably can after would be great).

Kind Regards.

Richard.

T/Insp Richard Isley
Safer Neighbourhood Manager
Cambourne Police Station

Sackville Way
Great Cambourne
CB23 6EG
101
07764635537
7110648

To visit Cambridgeshire Constabulary's website please follow this link:

AGENDA ITEM No. 4.3.

Liz Pinchen

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Good morning all,

The next Cambourne Area Police Panel Meeting will take place at 7:30 pm on Thursday 22nd October 2015 at Cambourne Village College, Sheepfold Lane, Cambourne CB23 6FR.

I would appreciate it if you would canvas your parishioners with a view to identifying any policing concerns that they wish tabling at the meeting.

If you, or the resident raising the issue, can let me have any responses, I will research the issues raised and report back to the meeting.

Please send any responses to jon.capes@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Many thanks and hope to see you on the 22nd.

Sgt Jon Capes

Kind regards,

Alex

To visit Cambridgeshire Constabulary's website please follow this link:

<http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/index.asp>

Internet e-mail is not to be treated as a secure means of communication.
Cambridgeshire Constabulary monitors all internet e-mail activity and content.
This communication is confidential and intended for the addressee(s) only.
Please notify the sender if you have received this in error.
Unauthorised use or disclosure of the contents may be unlawful.