

Runnymede Borough Council

CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

4 July 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

Members of the Committee present: Councillors J Furey (Chairman), T Gracey (Vice-Chairman), M Brierley, J Broadhead, R Edis, L Gillham, J Hulley and I Mullens.

Member of the Committee absent: Councillor S Mackay.

Councillor M Cressey also attended.

115 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Chairman read out the Fire Precautions.

116 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Group mentioned below had notified the Chief Executive of their wish that the change listed below be made to the membership of the Committee. The change was for a fixed period ending on the day after the meeting and thereafter the Councillor removed would be reappointed.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Remove from Membership</b>	<b>Appoint Instead</b>
Conservative	Councillor C Howorth	Councillor J Hulley

The Chief Executive had given effect to this request in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

117 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 April 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

118 RUNNYMEDE POLICING UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update on policing in Runnymede from Inspector Pinkerton, the Borough Inspector.

Runnymede continued to have the lowest number of Total Notifiable Offences (TNO)s of the three northern Surrey policing boroughs (i.e. Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne) and had 28% of the reported crime across those three boroughs. Runnymede had the sixth lowest level of reported crime in Surrey for 2018/19 amongst the eleven Surrey districts. Over the last twelve months 6,948 TNOs had been recorded in Runnymede compared to 7,312 in the preceding financial year (a reduction of 5%).

The police attendance rate for Grade 1 incidents this year had continued to improve with 69.2% attended within 15 minutes. St Peter's Hospital / Abraham Cowley Unit accounted for 481 police attendances over the last twelve months. However this was less than the number of police attendances at that location for the previous twelve months which had been 532. From 1 January 2019 to 1 June 2019 there had been 121 missing person enquiries for Runnymede. Of these, 51 were high risk (42%) and 60 were medium risk (50%). In the previous year there had been 134 incidents of which only 36 were high risk (27%). There had been over 170 child protection incidents, 287 concern for safety, mental

health and vulnerable adult incidents and 18 assaults on police compared to 22 in the same period last year.

From April 2019 to the end of June 2019 there had been 52 burglaries, which placed Runnymede sixth amongst Surrey districts. Runnymede had more domestic burglaries than the other two northern boroughs. This year 57% of all residential burglaries had taken place south of the M3 compared to 60% last year. Addlestone and New Haw were the areas in Runnymede that were currently experiencing most residential burglaries (41% of the total) and most resources had therefore been targeted to those two places. Egham had the most burglaries in the north of the borough. Residential burglary continued to be a Divisional and Borough priority and several local burglars had been arrested and charged over the last two months. There had been a significant reduction in domestic burglaries in Chertsey and a contributory factor might have been that a number of local burglars that operated in Chertsey area had been apprehended.

In 2019, there had been six "Asian Gold" burglaries in Runnymede (where valuable jewellery, gold and cash was stolen from Asian families), four of which had taken place in Addlestone or New Haw. This crime was prominent in the Thames Valley area and had spread to Runnymede although it only accounted for 2% of burglaries so far this year. Social media advice had been given by the police to householders on how they could make it more difficult for burglars. In Asian Gold burglary cases, the items stolen often had sentimental value, as well as being valuable, and could not be replaced.

There had been a significant reduction in theft offences (down 9.5%). Vehicle crime and, in particular, theft from vans had significantly increased by 20% and DNA kits had been given to tradesmen to mark tools. Violence offences had increased slightly (the majority of which were violence without injury, i.e. threats made by social media).

The Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)s for Addlestone Town and Hazel Close, Englefield Green had been effective in reducing crime. Better lighting in Hazel Close had led to improved behaviour in that area. The Committee noted that PSPOs had only been introduced in areas where the level of anti-social behaviour was sufficient to justify such a measure and that for the rest of the borough regular police patrols were sufficient to combat anti-social behaviour. It was noted that if youths in a PSPO area were riding bikes or using skateboards in a threatening way those bikes or skateboards could not be confiscated by the police and instead the police would take action against persistent offenders through the youth justice system.

The Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) had dealt with anti-social behaviour at Church Road, Egham and at Sandgates car park in Guildford Road, Chertsey. The SNT had also arranged for fencing to put up down the side of the M25 bridge at Liberty Rise, Addlestone to prevent youths from throwing items on the motorway, and eighteen people, including nine youths, who had been identified as causing problems within the community had been discussed at multi-agency Community Harm and Risk management meetings where all available options to reduce the harm caused by such people and ways of reducing the negative impact on victims were considered.

The police continued to participate in a number of multi-agency crime prevention forums (e.g. the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Centre where high risk domestic abuse cases were discussed monthly) and take part in joint working (e.g. taxi licencing and standards).

Surrey's Rural Day of Action saw the SNT working with the Environment Agency, Runnymede Borough Council and other agencies to target and disrupt rural crime including fly tipping. Controlled vehicle stops had been made on Chertsey Bridge Road on Monday 20 May to stop vehicles that appeared to have, or might have, loads of controlled waste material, vegetation or scrap which were commonly fly tipped and multiple vehicles had been seized. One particular truck had been fly tipping extensively and as a result huge clear up costs had been necessary. As a result of effective partnership working between

Runnymede Borough Council, the Environment Agency, Thames Valley Police and the Metropolitan Police, this truck had been stopped and seized and the driver had been arrested. An extremely successful Rural Crime Day had also been held at Savill Gardens where police had engaged with the public about rural crime and Inspector Pinkerton expressed his appreciation to the Crown Estate for holding this event.

In May, the SNT had conducted a week of activity against "County Lines" in Runnymede. County Lines was a term used when drug gangs from cities expanded their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. These dealers would use mobile phone lines to take orders from drug users and mass marketing text messages to advertise the supply and availability of drugs.

Modern slavery was a crime involving the criminal exploitation of people often forced to work and live in unacceptable conditions who were at risk of violence and sexual exploitation. The police had carried out a series of operations to nail bars, cafes, car washes and motorway service areas to prevent modern slavery and child trafficking and continued to carry out "cuckooing" safeguarding visits and apply partial and full closure orders to vulnerable premises. "Cuckooing" was a crime where drug dealers took over a vulnerable person's home and used it for drug dealing. The police had raised public awareness of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

The police continued to encourage Pub Watch and worked with licensees to ensure that sale or use of drugs did not get established in licensed premises in Runnymede. Public order at and around licenced premises in Runnymede remained good.

The distribution of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Runnymede was quite stable and matched the areas of densest population. Most reports were for rowdy behaviour (57% of reported incidents). Vehicle nuisance had declined by 11%. The Chertsey Meads and St. Ann's, Addlestone Town and Thorpe and Hythe areas had the most ASB incidents (56%) and the lowest number of ASB incidents were in the New Haw, Woodham and Virginia Water areas.

It was noted that there were hardly any ASB incidents in Thorpe Village. Local motorway incidents were included in the Thorpe ASB statistics. The police had a good relationship with the Thorpe Park Management who took active steps to prevent people bringing in knives and drugs to their facility. The individual who had climbed up one of the Thorpe Park attractions would be imprisoned if he did this again. It was noted that Safer Runnymede were also in dialogue with Thorpe Park with a view to broadening CCTV connectivity at this location.

The Committee thanked Inspector Pinkerton for continuing to keep them informed about policing issues in Runnymede.

#### 119 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SAFER RUNNYMEDE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

The Committee noted the Community Safety and Safer Runnymede Annual Report 2018 – 2019.

The report provided information for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) which was the statutory partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act 1997 and the Crime and Disorder Committee of Runnymede Borough Council which had responsibility for the overview of community safety matters in the borough.

The CSP had a small budget which had been used to purchase purple dipping bells used to keep valuables secure, crime prevention leaflets and signs, domestic abuse awareness posters and leaflets, Junior Citizen transport, items for children's learning bags and

handbooks, power supply for a deployable CCTV unit, volunteer's refreshments, equipment to tackle fly tipping and alcohol awareness leaflets.

Runnymede engaged in the Government's "Prevent" Strategy developed to stop individuals becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. As part of "Prevent", the Channel process was a multi-agency panel which provided a safeguarding programme aimed at supporting individuals identified as vulnerable from being drawn into violent extremism or terrorist related activity. During 2018/19 there had been eleven "Prevent" referrals from Runnymede, with one case being progressed to the Channel multi-agency panel. The Prevent awareness training schedule was in the process of being refreshed and it was anticipated that this would be rolled out in the next few months.

Domestic abuse had been highlighted as a priority for 2018/19 with emphasis on increasing awareness of domestic abuse and support services available to victims along with mitigating further risk of harm to victim and families. High risk cases were discussed monthly at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Centre, where various agencies shared information to increase the safety of victims and agreed a risk management plan. A county wide Domestic Awareness week had taken place in June 2018.

The CSP had highlighted Child Exploitation as one of the key priorities for 2018/19. Surrey County Council's Children's Safeguarding Board was the lead agency for Child Exploitation across Surrey. The CSP supported the weekly risk management meetings.

The multi – agency Community Harm and Risk Management Meetings considered options to reduce harm caused by anti-social individuals and the multi-agency Joint Action Group (JAG) considered action in respect of particular locations where the community was experiencing anti-social behaviour and/or crime. Both locations that contained the PSPOs in the borough had been referred to JAG. The police were the primary PSPO enforcers and the Council had issued warning letters and fixed penalty notices. A JAG initiative had also reduced ASB at Waitrose car park, Egham.

The Junior Citizen annual event had been attended by a number of local schools where children were made aware of dangers and learned potentially lifesaving skills. The Junior Citizen event had been delivered in conjunction with Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, St. John Ambulance, UK Power Networks, South West Trains, British Transport Police, Brooklands College students, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Tesco. Various awareness weeks had been held throughout the year, including Respect the Water on Water Safety, Anti-Social Behaviour and Alcohol Awareness.

The CSP had identified domestic burglary as a priority. 24 hour segment timers and DNA kits for property marking had been issued to residents by Surrey Police. In 2018/19 there had been 230 fewer burglaries, a 42.1% reduction compared to last year. Officers would consult with the Borough police inspector on whether items had been recovered as a result of DNA kits being distributed to residents and would advise the Committee.

Surrey Police and the CSP worked in partnership to address Serious Organised Crime within the borough. Although there were no Organised Crime Groups (OCG)s logged as based in Runnymede, it was affected by OCG activity coming into the borough. The police were working hard to prevent drug gangs exploiting vulnerable people in Runnymede by taking over vulnerable people's properties (cuckooing) and spreading their drugs supply network (County Lines).

A service had been provided with funding from the Surrey Police Crime Commissioner's Office called Alliance Support Coaching which provided help to people experiencing ASB and/or problems with their neighbours. In 2018/19 this service had received thirty three referrals from Runnymede. Runnymede's Environmental Health Team continued to support the county-wide Fly-Tipping Strategy and had issued fixed penalty notices and seized vehicles. The CSP used a mobile CCTV unit to tackle ASB and crime which recorded live

images that were linked into Safer Runnymede. Residents had the opportunity (known as “Community Trigger”) to request a local authority to conduct a review of an ASB case. No request had been received in Runnymede in 2018/19.

The Committee noted the CCTV Operations Section of the Annual Report and in particular the information provided in the table in paragraph 7.10 of the report. This table set out for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018, the numbers for CCTV incidents, the numbers of incidents where evidence had been produced broken down into various categories, and the numbers of complaints, subject access requests, Freedom of Information requests and Privacy Impact Assessments. This information showed the increase in activity since 1998, the first year of Safer Runnymede operation.

(The meeting ended at 8.17 pm.)

Chairman