

Runnymede Borough CouncilCRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE1 December 2016 at 7.30.p.m.

Members of the

Committee present: Councillors H A Butterfield (Chairman), P B Tuley (Vice-Chairman), I A Chaudhri, Mrs L M Gillham, Miss D Khalique, M J Maddox, A P Tollett and Mrs G Warner.

Members of the

Committee absent: Councillor D J Knight

Councillors R J Edis and Mrs D V Clarke also attended.

Inspector Nick Pinkerton (Surrey Police) also attended.

381 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Chairman read out the Fire Precautions.

382 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 July 2016 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

383 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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

<u>Group</u>	<u>Remove From Membership</u>	<u>Appoint Instead</u>
Conservative	Councillor J J Wilson	Councillor Mrs G Warner
Runnymede Independent Residents'	Councillor Mrs E Gill	Councillor Mrs L M Gillham

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

384 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D J Knight.

385 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor H A Butterfield declared a non-pecuniary interest in the agenda item concerning Foxhills Club and Resort – Policing Update And Update On Policing In The Borough as he was a Member of the Foxhills Club.

386 FOXHILLS CLUB AND RESORT – POLICING UPDATE AND UPDATE ON POLICING IN THE BOROUGH

The Committee received a written report from the Surrey Police Borough Inspector, Nick

Pinkerton, on policing in respect of Foxhills Club and Resort (Foxhills), a private club and spa resort on Stonehill Road, Ottershaw. This report was an update on the previous report given to the Committee on 7 July 2016. This was the third report that the Committee had received on the policing of Foxhills and it had been requested by the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Butterfield. Inspector Pinkerton was present at the Committee meeting to advise Members.

Foxhills was situated in a rural locality within the Rowtown, Ottershaw and Foxhills police beat area. In that general beat area, between 7 July and 30 October 2016, there had been 326 crime reports, 69 of which were in the Ottershaw area with 4 being in the KT16 0EL postcode. From April 1 2016 to 30 October 2016 in the Rowtown, Ottershaw and Foxhills beat area there had been an 11.4% reduction in Total Notifiable Offences (TNO) compared to the same period last year. TNO was a count of all offences which were statutorily notifiable to the Home Office excluding fraud offences. There had been two more thefts from motor vehicles compared to the same period last year and three fewer burglaries from non-dwellings (such as sheds).

Details of four reports of offences at Foxhills between 7 July and 30 October 2016 were noted as set out in Exempt Appendix '1' to the Agenda which contained exempt information under paragraph 7 of Schedule 12A to Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 – relating to any action taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime. The Committee resolved to consider these reports without the press and public present and a Minute of the Committee's discussions on this matter is set out below.

The police continued to work with Foxhills regarding crime prevention. On 18 August, Police Sergeant Ali Dunlop and Crime Prevention Officer Mr Vic Smith from the Community Safety team had attended a meeting with Mr Jason Adams, the General Manager of Foxhills Club and Resort, and Mr Steve Barrass, Foxhill's site Health and Safety Officer, to discuss crime reduction. Not all of the suggestions from the police had been implemented by the Club on grounds of cost, operational practicalities and Club members' wishes. Other police recommendations had been accepted such as providing external training to staff to deal with any aggressive visitors. Mr Adams had confirmed that all staff were now made aware of any potential issues so that they could go to the affected area to provide support. The 18 August meeting had noted that Mr Adams would be further considering measures to prevent or reduce crime in the Club grounds.

At the 18 August meeting, Mr Adams had stated that there had been as many as eight recent thefts from members' vans. It was apparent that not all incidents had been reported to the Police. Mr Smith had suggested that a short e-mail to the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) would ensure that the police captured such incidents when owners did not report them. Mr Adams had commented that he had not seen a police presence recently, but had accepted that recent critical events in the borough would affect the police's availability to provide this.

The Committee noted that both Area Policing Teams and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO)s included Foxhills as locations for discretionary patrols. The PCSO visits were more regular as they had a greater latitude to plan as their role did not involve immediate response to emergency incidents. The SNT continued to send details of crimes occurring to similar businesses or of relevance in the area by e-mail to Foxhills for dissemination to their security personnel and other staff. Foxhills could contact the police for non-urgent matters through a monitored e-mail address. Inspector Pinkerton had reported that there was no evidence to indicate that Foxhills was suffering currently from a disproportionate level of crime, based on an assessment of threat, risk and harm. The Police Community Safety and Neighbourhood Teams continued to work with Foxhills to reduce crimes.

Inspector Pinkerton reported that no further offences had been recorded at Foxhills since 30 October 2016. He agreed to supply the Committee with information on a recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary report on Surrey Police's Efficiency and a summary of the main features of Surrey Police's new policing model called Policing In Your Neighbourhood. He also verbally provided latest information on the statistics for crime in Runnymede and agreed to circulate those details to the Committee along with a comparison of crime statistics relating to other north Surrey district Council areas (i.e. Elmbridge and Spelthorne) as those areas were more similar to Runnymede than local authority areas in the south of the County (e.g. Guildford, Tandridge or Waverley).

The Committee asked Inspector Pinkerton about various policing issues in the borough. The police had no reason to suppose that three recent violent crime incidents in the borough were connected. One knife crime incident in a barbers in Chertsey involved two people who had no connection with the area. Police CID were pursuing this and were hopeful of prosecutions resulting. In another incident at Thorpe, a knife had been used by an individual at a party. A third incident had occurred at a Salvation Army shop in Addlestone in which an individual had suffered injuries to the head from another person wielding a pitchfork. These three incidents were all spontaneous outbreaks of violence. Throughout the country as a whole, knife crime was increasing. The Government was introducing legislation to make possession of a knife a more serious offence. The Committee agreed to receive an update from the Borough Inspector at its next meeting on action taken in respect of these three recent violent crime incidents in the borough.

A Member asked about investigation into recent burglaries in Gordon Drive and Hillcrest Avenue in Chertsey and suggested that an organised gang might be involved. Inspector Pinkerton reported that domestic burglary incidents were 17% down in Runnymede compared to last year. However, there was always a rise in the number of burglaries in the period leading up to Christmas as the limited number of daylight hours provided more opportunities for theft. There was no reason to suppose that a burglary gang was operating in Runnymede. The recent burglaries in the borough had been opportunistic. The police had a 2 weekly review meeting on burglary to discuss ways in which burglary could be prevented as this crime caused the public a great deal of distress. Residents should keep doors and windows secure and locked and should keep their lights on if they were going out from their home after dark.

The Committee was pleased to note that the police had recently arrested an individual who they considered was likely to be responsible for a number of burglaries in the borough. A Member reported that a person had been reported masquerading as a policeman and Inspector Pinkerton advised that this was a rare occurrence. A more common form of crime was distraction burglary. The police devoted a considerable amount of resources to combatting distraction burglary where older people were deceived into letting criminals into their home, thinking those criminals were acting bona fide. Furthermore, older people could be less capable at describing perpetrators of crime for the purposes of identification because older people sometimes had less good memories and sight than younger people.

It was noted that the enforcement of parking restrictions outside schools was undertaken by Runnymede's Civil Enforcement Officers. If Members knew of any school that they considered should be given particular attention they were invited to email the Council's Corporate Head of Planning and Environmental Services or the Council's Parking Manager. The Committee noted that Police Community Support Officer Mike James had been seriously ill but had received recently a good prognosis and the Committee passed on its best wishes to him.

While the police reached a large number of people by social media, they did recognise that some people preferred to communicate in person face to face. Therefore they were introducing "meet the beat" pop up clinics throughout the borough at various locations at which police Officers would be present to discuss policing with the public. The police would

advise Ward Councillors of the dates and Ward Councillors were welcome to attend these clinics. The Chairman commented that the police use of social media was helpful and a facebook message issued by the police on counterfeit money had been particularly useful to the public. It was noted that the new plastic bank notes issued by the Bank of England were designed to reduce counterfeit money fraud.

The Committee agreed to receive an item from the Borough Inspector at each meeting on the latest statistics for crime in Runnymede in comparison with other north Surrey district Council areas, including tables of key data. The Committee thanked Inspector Pinkerton for the information that he had provided.

387 FUTURE ITEMS FOR THE COMMITTEE

The Committee was invited to indicate any issues that it wished to discuss at future meetings. The Committee noted a report summarising its functions. The Committee agreed that it was content to receive items of business as referred to in the Minute above on Foxhills Club and Resort – Policing Update And Update On Policing In The Borough. A Member suggested that, if the Committee acted in a scrutiny capacity, forensic skills were useful and advised that the University of Birmingham provided this kind of training. The Chairman invited Members to contact him if they had any suggestions for training and he would discuss any suggestions received with the Chief Executive.

388 FOXHILLS CLUB AND RESORT – POLICING UPDATE AND UPDATE ON POLICING IN THE BOROUGH – PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of this matter under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the discussion would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 7 of Schedule 12A to Part 1 of the Act.

The Committee discussed the detail of four reports of offences at Foxhills between 7 July and 30 October 2016. The Committee noted that while the police could provide crime prevention advice they could not provide security services for organisations. It was agreed that a suggestion be made on behalf of the Committee to Foxhills Club and Resort that, in order to spread the cost over a longer period, the Club consider implementing on a phased basis the further crime prevention measures as advised to the Club by the Police.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.22.p.m.)