

Runnymede Borough CouncilCRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE6 April 2017 at 7.30.p.m.

Members of the

Committee present : Councillors M J Maddox (Chairman for the meeting), I A Chaudhri, R J Edis, Mrs E Gill, Miss D Khalique, D J Knight, A P Tollett and J J Wilson.

Councillors Mrs G M Kingerley, Mrs C S S Manduca, P S Sohi and N J Wase-Rogers also attended.

653 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

Former Councillor H A Butterfield, who had been appointed as the Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/17, was unable to Chair the meeting as he had resigned subsequently as a Councillor. In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, Councillor P B Tuley, the Committee appointed Councillor M J Maddox as Chairman for the meeting.

654 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Chairman for the meeting read out the Fire Precautions.

655 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.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Remove From Membership</u>	<u>Appoint Instead</u>
Conservative	Councillor P B Tuley (Vice-Chairman)	Councillor R J Edis

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

656 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 February 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

657 RUNNYMEDE POLICING UPDATE

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

Surrey Police now had two new senior leaders for Northern Division (i.e. the area covered by the Runnymede, Elmbridge and Spelthorne local authorities) who were working from Staines Police Station, Chief Inspector Graham Barnett and Superintendent Chris Raymer.

Chief Inspector Barnett was the superior officer for the Borough Inspectors and was previously the Borough Inspector at Guildford.

For 2016/17, a budget of £210.5m was delegated to the Surrey Chief Constable to fund the delivery of operational policing. Band D Council Tax properties in Surrey paid £220.19 for policing in 2016/17, or 60p per day per household. Surrey Police believed that the best way to keep people safe was by preventing crime and disorder, but when an incident occurred they would assess the type of police response required using THRIVE (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigative, Vulnerability, Engagement) principles and allocate resources to where they were most needed.

A report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) conducted in November 2016, covering effectiveness rated Surrey Police overall as good at keeping people safe and reducing crime. Surrey Police was one of 28 forces in England and Wales to receive a 'good' rating. It was noted that the only rating category above 'good' was 'outstanding' and only County Durham police force had achieved that rating. Previous HMIC inspections in the summer and autumn of 2015 had found Surrey Police to be 'inadequate' in relation to vulnerability and 'requiring improvement' in relation to effectiveness. The Force and HMIC had jointly identified areas that needed more focus which were improving the standard of investigations into 'less serious' crime, working specifically on targeting perpetrators of domestic abuse, ensuring all frontline staff had the skills and expertise to investigate all crime types and understanding and addressing reasons why victim satisfaction had dropped from 86% (12 months to March 2015) to 81% in the 12 months to 31 March 2016.

HMIC on 9 February 2017 had published their findings on Surrey Police's progress in providing a better service to protect vulnerable children. The report, which was based on an inspection conducted in August 2016, recognised an improvement in understanding and identifying potential risk to children early on to ensure they were protected. The latest HMIC report released in March 2017 stated that Surrey Police were tackling chronic long term anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime well, ensuring that Surrey was below the national average for anti-social behaviour per 1,000 population for the 12 months to 31 March 2016.

Runnymede had the lowest levels of ASB of the three Surrey Police Northern Division Boroughs (i.e. Runnymede, Elmbridge and Spelthorne). Reports of ASB were 27% lower for the year to date than last year. Nuisance was the largest individual type. 54% of anti-social behaviour reported to police in Runnymede was classified as rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour. Almost half (46%) of ASB reported in Runnymede took place in Chertsey Meads, Chertsey St Ann's, Thorpe, Egham Hythe and Egham Town wards while the wards with the lowest level of ASB in Runnymede were Addlestone North, Addlestone Bourneside and Virginia Water which between them accounted for only 9% of the Borough ASB. The police were combatting ASB through effective partnership work and the new tools such as Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) and Closure of Premises Notices.

The latest Community Safety Survey 2017 results were similar to the results for 2016. The main problems highlighted were rubbish and litter, burglary, theft, fly tipping, drug taking and dog fouling. Kingdom Environmental Protection Services had been engaged by Runnymede Borough Council for a 12 month trial period to undertake active enforcement of litter and dog control legislation within Runnymede.

Egham Precinct was currently a Joint Action Group (JAG) agenda item. JAG was a multi-agency group which considered action in respect of problem locations or crime types. Problems at Egham Precinct including youths causing a nuisance at the rear of the building. Criminal damage, fly-tipping and excess overflowing rubbish also continued to be issues. Regular police patrols had been carried out. Photographs had been sent to Runnymede Environmental Health regarding the amount of rubbish left in the area. Fires had been started in the rubbish. Surrey Fire and Rescue Egham Crew would continue to make regular patrols (day and night) to monitor the position. Egham Crew had spoken to shop

owners in the past and had been informed that the Precinct alleyway was the only place they could put their bins. It appeared that most of the excess fly tipped waste sacks and the continual stream of household detritus in this location were produced by tenants in the vicinity and the managing agent had indicated they were prepared to raise the matter with the tenants if Surrey Police provided them with the evidence. Runnymede DSO would carry out twice weekly collections of the overflowing rubbish until the matter had been fully resolved in an attempt to minimise further arson risk. Digi locks were installed in December 2016 to better secure the rear area and bin store corridor and Safer Runnymede were investigating whether it was practicable to install a CCTV camera to provide evidence.

Hazel Close, Englefield Green was also currently a JAG agenda item. ASB was mainly occurring in the alleyway between Hazel Close and Blays Lane and the car park area. This appeared to be a meeting place for children, youths and adults. They often kicked balls around which directly affected some of the residents and their cars. As yet there were no reports of criminal damage to the cars, but some residents were afraid to leave their homes and walk past the group of youths as they found them intimidating. Partnership work was ongoing with Thames Valley Housing, Surrey County Council Highways and Runnymede Borough Council (RBC). The police were dealing robustly with ASB of certain tenants in Hazel Close and had already issued one closure order on a house. Lighting in the area had been improved. There had been a joint letter to all residents, re-deployable CCTV for the area, improved fencing and consideration of re-landscaping of Swallowfield steps. A "No Ball Games" sign had been put up on the garages by RBC and a bin which was regularly set on fire had been removed.

A chronic on-going dispute between four residents in School Lane, Egham had led to one successful prosecution for harassment. The police were working closely with RBC Housing and had a court hearing next week to seek possession from one of the residents who was causing ongoing problems. By working with Runnymede's ASB Team, the police had collected sufficient evidence for an application for an ASB closure of a property in Rickman Court, Addlestone.

St Peter's Hospital/Abraham Cowley Unit (ACU) was the single location of highest demand for Surrey Police in the County. St Peter's also represented the highest level of call to service of any Surrey Hospital. The police were currently working with St Peter's and the ACU to reduce unnecessary demand. On 23 December 2016, Surrey Police had to deploy officers and 30 Surrey Search and Rescue volunteers in the grounds of the hospital to locate a missing patient. However, a 23.5% reduction from 1,274 incidents to 974 incidents had been achieved over the last 12 months.

"Meet the beat" events where the public could talk with members of the Runnymede Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) were being rolled out across the Borough. There were regular Meet the beat events in Addlestone, Englefield Green, Virginia Water and now in Thorpe Village Hall. It had only been possible to confirm Thorpe Village Hall as a venue recently and Thorpe Ward Members would be advised of planned meet the beat events at this location. Inspector Pinkerton had also spoken at a Neighbourhood Watch public meeting in New Haw Library with special reference to burglaries. Runnymede SNT continued to conduct Facebook panels which attracted several hundred people, as well as regularly putting out Twitter and Facebook updates to raise awareness of crimes and crime prevention.

The Committee noted the latest crime statistics tabled by Inspector Pinkerton in which crime across the three Surrey Northern Division boroughs was compared. Runnymede had the sixth highest total of Total Notifiable Offences out of eleven Surrey districts and the lowest Total Notifiable Offences total of the three Northern Division Boroughs. Total Notifiable Offences were 8% up on last year in all three Northern Division Boroughs. In Runnymede, serious sexual assaults were down by 14.7% and criminal damage was down by 8.9% but violence with injury had grown by 9.4%, violence without injury had grown by 29.5% and

domestic burglary was up by 27.7%. The majority of the violence offences were not linked to any specific place or occasion. The largest individual component was violence without injury in which a threat of violence might reasonably be implied or construed. This was a varied crime category, and in numerical terms was responsible for 2.5 times more reports to police than violence with injury. A significant component in this were on line offences committed by sending various types of threatening and/or malicious e-mails and social media messages including photographs. Year on year this type of offence had grown by 29% across the UK.

“Operation Makesafe” was a new Surrey Police campaign seeking to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation (CSE) within the business community including those working in hotels, taxi companies and licensed premises. The campaign aimed to educate and equip those working in these industries with the tools to identify potential victims of CSE which was often a hidden crime and it was essential therefore that the police worked with businesses to help identify any suspicious behaviour.

Over the last few months the Police Casualty Reduction Team had been dealing with a number of issues, including reports of speeding vehicles and parking complaints. There had also been an increase in the number of reports about concerns of elderly drivers being unsafe on roads. The police had successfully managed to persuade a number of elderly drivers to make the decision to surrender their driving licence. Since the penalty for using a hand held mobile phone had increased there had been a reduction in the amount of drivers using their phones whilst driving. The police had carried out a number of campaigns using unmarked police cars and had seen very few drivers committing mobile phone offences.

Speeding continued to be an issue but there had been a reduction in the number of drivers found speeding on some priority roads. In St Peter's Way Chertsey, a large number of people were still travelling in great excess of the 50mph speed limit. Drivers had been caught travelling at nearly 100mph in that location and a third of drivers caught speeding were travelling between 70mph and 80mph which was very dangerous for such a short stretch of road. The Casualty Reduction Team were implementing measures to ensure drivers observed the speed limit. It was noted that, unless there were quite extraordinary extenuating circumstances, a court would cancel the driving licence of anyone who had been proven to be driving at a speed of 100 mph.

In January 2017, the national crime statistics for England and Wales had been released and whilst they were always about six months behind the current picture showed Surrey to be one of the safest counties in the country. Increases across Surrey were found in violent crime (up 21%) and public order offences (up 65%), following the national trend with the volume increases largely driven by changes in the recording processes and the inclusion of additional harassment offences within the series. The trend across Surrey continued for crime to be changing with decreases in drugs (down 28%), theft (down 3%) and shop lifting (down 4%) offences. There were 0.04 crimes per person per year in Surrey compared to 0.06 which was the national average.

Of the three Northern Division Boroughs, Runnymede had the fewest crimes. There had, however, been an increased level of burglary especially from December 2016. Over a 30 day period to the 21st December 2016, there were fifteen dwelling burglaries in the New Haw and Woodham area, and further hotspots developed in Addlestone, Chertsey and Egham. There were 34 domestic burglaries in January 2017, up 10 on the same month last year, 44 domestic burglaries in February 2017, up 23 on the same month last year and 27 domestic burglaries in March 2017, up 8 on the same month last year. There had been 4 domestic burglaries to date in April 2017, down 1 on the same month last year. In response to this sudden increase of dwelling burglaries in Runnymede, the Police had instigated a plan to deter and apprehend burglars. The majority of the burglars arrested appeared to be local. A 27 year old man from Addlestone was currently on remand in prison awaiting trial, a 33 year old man from Chertsey had been taken back to court on 30 January 2017 for non-

compliance with his prison release order and had been sent back to prison – this individual was a prolific dwelling burglar. A 26 year old man from Egham had been charged with several dwelling burglaries in the local area and wider Surrey areas – he had been remanded in prison awaiting trial. A 23 year old man from Ashford had been charged with several dwelling burglary offences and conspiracy to burgle - his trial was listed for March 2017. On 31 March 2017 a car had been stopped by police in Egham and five people had been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit burglary. The police were in the process of putting together a forensics marking campaign across Northern Division. Packs would be purchased to be provided to residents in hotspots to cocoon an area with forensics marking as a deterrent to burglars and street signs would advise the public of the protective marking.

The Committee noted that the size of the SNT available to Inspector Pinkerton was a reduction on that provided to Borough Inspectors in previous years. This meant that the SNT had to concentrate on areas where there were particular ongoing policing issues (e.g. Egham Precinct as referred to above) and were able to allocate fewer resources to regular liaison with the public in areas of the borough where there were no particular ongoing policing issues that needed to be addressed currently.

The Committee thanked Inspector Pinkerton for the information that he had provided.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.00. p.m.)