

Runnymede Borough Council

CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

6 July 2017 at 7.30.p.m.

Members of the
Committee present : Councillors M J Maddox (Chairman), D A Cotty (Vice-Chairman),
J R Ashmore, Miss E G Bancroft, Mrs L M Gillham,
N M King, B W Pitt, P S Sohi and N Wase-Rogers.

Member of the
Committee absent: None

129 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Chairman read out the Fire Precautions.

130 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Group 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 Mrs C S S Manduca	Councillor M Wase-Rogers
Conservative	Councillor Miss D Khalique	Councillor B W Pitt

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

131 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 April 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

132 RUNNYMEDE POLICING UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update on policing and a detailed look at Domestic Burglary in Runnymede from Sergeant McDowell.

Surrey Police worked closely and effectively with Runnymede Borough Council colleagues on a number of initiatives to improve the quality of life for Runnymede residents. This included action on flytipping, Criminal Behaviour Orders, illegal traveller developments, youths congregating, rubbish and anti-social behaviour. Other joint working included anti-drug initiatives and a Dispersal Order to deal with youth problems in the new Addlestone One multi-storey car park. Surrey Police were also working with Surrey Fire and Rescue to reduce the risk of persons drowning in Virginia Water Lake and the Thames through the "Respect the water" campaign.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary issued their latest report on Surrey Police on 20 April 2017. The report stated that "One of the improvements put in place since last year had been how it uses its resources to deal with demand for service more effectively. It works well with partners and local councils and the health service to improve how it manages demand".

The number of crimes reported to Surrey Police for the year to date was up by 22.6%. Notifiable offences referred to offences for which there was a legal requirement for the Police to inform the Home Office of their occurrence and related only to crimes that could possibly be tried by a jury and excluded less serious (non-notifiable offences) such as parking fines. The growth in reported crimes

had been influenced by two factors. The first was the encouragement to report these crimes, Police had long suspected crimes such as; Hate Crime, "Honour based crimes", Domestic Abuse and Modern Slavery were underreported. Secondly, Surrey Police was improving their recording standards.

There was an obligation on the Police to accept what the victim said unless there was "credible evidence to the contrary". Overall, with 51 offences per 1,000 people, Surrey's crime rate was 34.4% less than the England average, and it remained one of the safest places to live in the country.

The number of reported ASB incidents for 2016/17 had increased by 12.5% when compared to last year's annual total. Reports of litter and rubbish accounted for half of all the complaints. The next largest complaint category was noise at 15%. Surrey Police were responding to ASB by targeting PCSO patrols.

Runnymede was in the middle of Surrey Boroughs for notifiable offences, but it was the lowest in the Northern area. Burglary was a particular priority for the Borough. London had 16 out of the top 20 worst postcode districts for burglary based on insurance claim figures. Levels in Surrey were about half of that of London but burglary levels had been rising since March 2015, although had not returned to the 2011-12 levels. Runnymede had suffered 68 more burglaries to date since 1 January 2017, compared to the same period last year. The areas of highest incident were not static. In the early months of this year the hotspot was New Haw especially houses and bungalows in the KT15 postcode areas. Since then, the incidence of burglaries had become more dispersed. This may be a response to increased Police activity in New Haw. All three Northern Boroughs had been working together to reduce the incidence of domestic burglaries. The rate was being brought down by a combination of intelligence-led proactive patrols and high visibility policing.

The Runnymede Safer Neighbourhood team had increased the number of live engagements with the public under the banner of "Meet the Beat". New venues for "Meet the Beat" included; New Haw, Thorpe and Ottershaw. To supplement this a new web site named "InTheKnow" was being rolled out. Once a member of the public had joined the "InTheKnow" community they would get updates from their local police and neighbourhood watch.

Members raised some concern regarding the visibility of Police Officers within the Borough. The Committee was advised that Officers did not have designated wards. There was, however, a North and South team who provided a Borough response on a day to day basis. This gave Officers the opportunity to focus on areas where they were needed the most. Members noted the benefit of the "Meet the Beat" engagements, however as much advance notice of these events would be appreciated in the future. With regards to the increase in fly tipping the Committee was advised that by joint working with the Council the Police were able to work effectively. It was, however, noted, that without clear evidence it was a difficult crime to detect.

The Committee was keen to ascertain if there had been an increase in offences since the street lights had been dimmed during hours of darkness in some areas of the Borough. Sergeant McDowell advised Members that there had initially been a small spike of notifiable offences, however, notifiable offences now remained constant. The Committee was keen for this to be monitored and therefore

RESOLVED that –

the Committee receive an update from the Borough Inspector at the next meeting on the location of Runnymede Crimes from midnight to 4.00 am and on whether the increase in vehicle crime and criminal damage between those times had continued.

133 SAFER RUNNYMEDE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

The Committee received the Safer Runnymede and Community Safety Annual Report 2016/17. The report provided the Committee with information for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) which was the statutory partnership under The Crime and Disorder Act 1997 and The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee of Runnymede Borough Council which had responsibility for the overview and scrutiny of community safety matters in the Borough.

The CSP funding of £3,104 was used to purchase 24 hour segment timers (targeting domestic burglary), vehicle crime leaflets, Junior Citizen plastic bags, Junior Citizen pencils and volunteer's refreshments. Underspend of £2,333 was carried forward into 2017/18 and would be used as a contribution towards the cost of purchasing a mobile CCTV camera which would assist the Partnership to tackle identified areas of anti-social behaviour (ASB) or crime.

In 2016/17 £3,000 was received from the Local Area Committee for local community safety work. This funding was carried forward and would also be used as a contribution towards the cost of purchasing a mobile CCTV camera. Additional funding of £5,000 was provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner Office (PCCO) for the Junior Citizen handbook provided for all attendees.

The Borough engaged in the Government 'Prevent Strategy' which was developed to stop individuals becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Across Surrey the Community Safety Unit on behalf of Surrey County Council coordinated the Prevent Strategy. Prevent was a CSP priority for 2016/17 where a local strategy, action plan and quarterly updates were monitored at CSP meetings. In 2016/17 the Police Prevent Team stated that there were no significant community tensions reported in the Borough. Engagement with communities had continued in order to provide reassurance and to encourage any hate crime incidents and related community tensions to be reported. It was, however, noted that some community tensions in recent months had been evident.

The Channel process was a safeguarding programme aimed at supporting individuals identified as vulnerable of being drawn into violent extremism or terrorist activity. This was a multi-agency panel currently being chaired by Surrey County Council who invited relevant agencies to attend on an individual case basis. Following assessment by the Police Prevent Team it was deemed that this referral was not suitable for Prevent due to other safeguarding concerns taking primacy.

Runnymede Borough Council staff were all required to complete mandatory e-learning modules covering Safeguarding, Prevent and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Detailed Prevent awareness training sessions were delivered to 94 front line staff to ensure they were aware of what the risk indicators were and who to report their concerns to. Further sessions would be arranged to promote awareness training to Councillors, front line staff and new starters.

Domestic Abuse was highlighted as a priority for 2016/17 focusing on increasing awareness of domestic abuse and support services available to victims along with mitigating further risk of harm to victims and families.

Police had issued 42 Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) in Runnymede to perpetrators of domestic abuse to provide instant protection to victims in the aftermath of a domestic abuse incident. A magistrate granted 41 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) where the order would immediately ban the perpetrator from returning to residence and from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days. This period of time allowed the victim the opportunity to consider their options and get the support they needed.

Domestic Awareness Week took place in October 2016, a County-wide event. Domestic Abuse campaign leaflets were printed and personalised love heart sweets were distributed to residents and colleagues. An awareness table was hosted by Your Sanctuary at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey where approximately 400 domestic abuse leaflets and pens were given to patients, visitors and NHS staff.

The CSP had highlighted CSE as one of their key priorities for 2016/17. Surrey County Council's Children's Safeguarding Board was the lead agency for CSE across the Boroughs. The role of the CSP was to offer a multi-agency response and support the Missing and Exploited Children's Conference (MAECC) / Oversight Group in training professionals, tackling and preventing CSE within Runnymede. CSE would be considered at the Community Harm and Risk Management meetings (CHaRMM) formally known as the Community Incident Action Group (CIAG's) and Joint Action Group (JAG) discussing areas, or people of concern. A CSE case within Runnymede was taken to court in 2016. The case was still ongoing and until concluded remained confidential.

Free training aimed at businesses was delivered by Surrey Police to equip them with the tools to identify potential victims of CSE and help them to understand how to report any concerns. There was representation from 28 businesses from Runnymede.

Annually, Runnymede Borough Council in partnership with Surrey Police invited schools in the Borough to take part in the Junior Citizen Scheme. The event was held in November 2016 at Thorpe

Park in Chertsey, free of charge. More than 780 children attended giving them the opportunity to learn potentially lifesaving skills. It was hoped that this could be extended to more schools in 2017.

In addition to reducing crime across the Borough, the CSP identified Domestic Burglary as a key priority for 2016/17. To assist in deterring burglaries, 260 24 hour segment timers were distributed to hot-spot areas identified by Surrey Police. Crime prevention advice was delivered to Neighbourhood Watch, online and social media channels.

Surrey Police led a SmartWater project, where property would be protectively marked. The initiative was intended to deter burglary and burglars from operating in Runnymede.

In Runnymede there was an online reporting system available for ASB. This facility was available to all local residents and the reports were automatically forwarded to the relevant departments or emergency services to be addressed. This service had been publicised on the Runnymede webpage and to Neighbourhood Watch residents to encourage use of this system of reporting. The number of ASB incidents reported to Runnymede during 2016/17 had increased. The total number of ASB incidents for 2016/17 was 1697. This was an increase of 188 incidents compared to last year. Reports of litter and rubbish contributed to the majority of this increase. Last year saw a 4% increase in the number of incidents reported online. Officers continued to work on promoting this method of reporting.

The local Police in conjunction with Runnymede Borough Council had held three Facebook panels during 2016/17. This approach offered an alternative platform and targeted larger audiences giving all an opportunity to ask questions around Crime and ASB.

Surrey CSP's were now expected to change the way in which incidents of ASB were reported and dealt with, no longer focusing on the behaviour alone, but on the impact it had on the victim, whether it be an individual, household, or the wider community. There had recently also been other legislative and policy changes which had given CSP's a new range of responsibilities including; Prevent, SOC, CSE and Modern Slavery. Therefore, the Surrey Community Safety Team developed Community Harm and Risk Management meetings (CHaRMM) to effectively respond to community concerns.

CHaRMM was managed through SafetyNet, a County wide initiative. It was a secure online based system where only assigned agencies had access. CHaRMM reported quarterly to the CSP. At the end of the year there were six individuals on CHaRMM.

Two Criminal Behaviour Orders, one closure order obtained by Runnymede's Housing Department, one Community Protection Notice (CPN) warning letter and two CPN's were issued in 2016/17.

The CSP identified tackling environmental ASB as one of its priorities for 2016/17. The reported fly-tipping figures for 2016/17 compared to 2015/16 showed a very small increase of four incidents.

Runnymede's Environmental Health Team supported the County wide Fly-Tipping Strategy and used SafetyNet to create an open dialogue with other Boroughs, as often the perpetrators offended across borders. Environmental Health issued four Fixed Penalty Notices in 2016/17 which were successfully paid. In addition to tackling environmental crime, a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was prepared by Environmental Health to challenge dog fouling, dogs off leads and exclusion of dogs within children's play areas. The PSPO's would be enforced by an outsourced company called Kingdom. The Council had agreed that Kingdom would enforce the PSPO's and littering offences across the whole Borough on a 12 month trial basis. The proposed enforcement initiative would be cost-neutral and based on the percentage payment rate of the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). Kingdom would provide the Enforcement Officers and a back office system which provided management, administrative support and access to an area support system for identification checks. No quotes would be set regarding the number of FPNs to be issued and no notices would be issued to persons under the age of 18 or to those suspected of suffering from mental health.

According to the legislation, Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 residents have the opportunity to request a local authority to conduct a review of an ASB case known as the 'Community Trigger' or 'ASB Case Review'. There were no Community Trigger requests within Runnymede in 2016/17.

Members were very supportive of the work undertaken by Safer Runnymede. However, concerns were raised on how to contact them when necessary as there had been incidents when Members had been unable to speak to a member of the Safer Runnymede team. The Committee was assured that the telephones were manned 24/7 in Safer Runnymede. The Community Safety Officer also advised Members that during office hours she could also be contacted with any community safety issues and could pass to the Police directly if appropriate.

Closed circuit television (CCTV) continued to be a powerful tool when used to combat crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly when integrated with other crime reduction methods such as retail 'radio-link' systems and close working partnerships with colleagues from Surrey Police.

Runnymede Borough Council, Safer Runnymede, Surrey Police, Ashford and St. Peter's NHS Trust, Thorpe Park and other local business organisations continued to have the view that where CCTV was either in place, or would subsequently be introduced, there was a tangible benefit to local communities and businesses and a reduction of incidents of crime and public disorder.

The CCTV system was operated strictly in accordance with an agreed and published Code of Practice. This complied with the requirements of the Information Commissioner. This required complaints about misuse of cameras or invasion of privacy to be investigated and reported. There were no complaints in 2016.

Much of what Safer Runnymede dealt with had to remain confidential as it involved Police operations and actions by other enforcement agencies. All partners continued to work together to address local problems and share information in accordance with the agreed countywide multi agency information sharing protocol.

The number of arrests recorded where CCTV had provided vital evidence since the Centre opened has now reached over 3,000. During 2016 the Centre provided Police with evidence recorded on DVD in 500 cases (616 in 2015) and a further 78 (145 in 2015) still photographs were given for identification purposes. Despite this Surrey Police did not contribute to the Centre as they did in other Boroughs and Officers were keen to address this. The Committee was advised that Officers proposed to speak with Surrey Police at a forthcoming meeting on 22 September regarding this and also approach the new PCCO regarding funding.

Safer Runnymede had recently lost income of £112,000 due to both Elmbridge and Epsom and Ewell Borough Councils moving to another provider out of the area. However, the new development at AddlestoneOne would bring new opportunities for the Centre and Officers had already approached Woking and Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Councils regarding monitoring their CCTV. Safer Runnymede continued to be the only 24 hour CCTV operation in Surrey.

It was considered that the purchase of a mobile CCTV camera for fly-tipping would be beneficial in reducing ASB. This was currently being tested in the Nottingham area. This would be used in Runnymede but would also be marketed to other Boroughs as an income generation opportunity.

Safer Runnymede had recently won an award at the Toast of Surrey Business Awards for their Contribution to the Community in Surrey.

Members of the Committee congratulated Officers on their recent award and thanked them for their comprehensive report.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.26 p.m.)