

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD
VIRTUALLY ON TUESDAY 18TH MAY 2021 AT 7:30PM.**

PRESENT: Mr B Forbes (Chairman) Mrs S Hughesdon (Vice Chairman) Dr I Gibson Mrs C Jarvis Mr A Palin Mrs C Steggles and 0 members of the public

GUEST SPEAKERS: PCSO Sophie Norman and Craig Harvey

Apologies Mrs T Mugridge Mr O O'Grady - absent

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and for PCSO Sophie Norman and Craig Harvey agreeing to answer the Council's questions. The Chairman asked the Councillors and Clerk to introduce themselves.

Sophie started by introducing herself and explained that the PCSO's cover all areas in Sussex up to the Surrey borders at one end of the County and Devil's Dyke at the other end. Sophie and Roxie cover Turners Hill, Crawley Down and Copthorne and Craig covers adjoining Villages.

The following questions were asked and the answers are below:

- What does your work entail and does it differ in any way to being a Police Officer?
They have the same work and powers as a Police Officer except they cannot make an arrest.
- What is the correct way of reporting problems especially drug taking? As you know, we are currently experiencing drug problems in the recreation ground close to The Ark.
*If members of the public see someone committing an offence such as drug taking dial 999, however if they see someone acting suspiciously they should dial 101 or the quickest route is through the official Sussex Police website where there is an online form and the matter will be taken up. They advised that the more reports they receive, the more time and resources can be devoted to it.
They said that any problem in the Village must be reported and that due to a lack of reporting, the Police believe there are no problems, they therefore stressed, report it.*
- Speeding is an issue in the Village and the surrounding Villages, how do the Police monitor this problem?
*They support the Speed Watch Teams and are going to carry out joint patrolling with them. They are also going to be carrying out an operation called Mid Sussex Slow Down regarding speeding in Villages and they will be e-mailing the Speed Watch Teams with the details.
They also said that if there are other areas that would like to start up a Speed Watch Team that we should let them know.*

They advised that the Speed Watch teams have free reign of the locations they choose to check and it was suggested by a Member of the Council that they should vary the locations and times of the speed checks because drivers get to know where and when they will be in place.

Antisocial driving can also be reported on Operation Crackdown.

- Does having a Speed Watch Team make a difference?
They believe it does and The Crawley Down Speed Watch Team are high performing and are in the Top 5 in the District.
- What is the protocol with regard to inconsiderate parking?
They advised that there are road traffic orders in place outside the school, the Fire Station and Withypitts. MSDC should be asked to provide fair coverage with their Parking Enforcement Officers coming out to all Villages. Otherwise it can be reported on Operation Crackdown. Sophie also advised that she has asked the school to add a to the school newsletter on inconsiderate parking.
- How often do you encounter stolen pets; escaped animals; cyber-crime; catalyst theft; graffiti; vandalism; environmental damage; burglary; ASB?
The Council was informed that crime was relatively low in Turners Hill and that a lot of the problems occurring appeared to be anti-social, vehicle and road traffic problems. However, they do have a Rural Crime Team who will help with any crimes committed in rural areas.

On a final note, the Police have a charity that can provide funding for any youth clubs that are starting up, they can also provide signs for CCTV which are key in preventing crime and they will also have a stall at The Fete and Sophie, Roxie and Craig aim to be on the stall.

The Chair thanked PCSO Sophie Norman and Craig Norman for attending.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm

SignedChairperson

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