

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

held at

The Council Chamber

Symington Building, Adam & Eve Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AG

on 30th June 2022

Commencing at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: Bilbie, Hollick, Johnson, Nunn (Chairman), Mrs Page (ex officio),
Robinson and Simpson

Apologies: Councillor Mrs Ackerley

Officers: T. Day – Service Manager Community Partnerships, J. Evans –
Director, Communities (remote), N. Kwasa – Senior Democratic Officer, C.
Mason – Director of Finance and S151 Officer, S. Pickering - Community
Safety Manager

Also Present: Councillor Whelband – Portfolio Holder for Communities,
Sergeant Coleman and Inspector Purdie – Leicestershire Police

1. Election of the Chairman for the Year 2022/23

The Scrutiny Commissioner opened the meeting. She noted that the first item on the agenda was to Elect a Chairman of the Communities Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2022/2023. She nominated Councillor Amanda Nunn and this was seconded by Councillor Hollick. There being no other nominations, Councillor Nunn was duly elected.

Councillor Nunn assumed the Chair.

2. Appointment of the Vice Chairman for the Year 2022/23

The Chairman nominated Councillor Bilbie as Vice-Chairman of the Communities Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2022/23. This was seconded by Councillor Hollick and, there being no other nominations, Councillor Hollick was duly appointed. The Chairman then welcomed everyone to the meeting and the officers present.

3. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Ackerley.

4. Declarations of Members' Interests

There were none.

5. To approve as a true record the Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Chairman updated the Panel on the actions from the previous meeting as follows;

Question / Comment	Response
P.3 - <u>Organisations by Ward Table</u> : Could information be provided covering groups by Ward?	Yes, information can be provided on groups registered by Ward. ACTION
P.4 - <u>Distribution of services across the District</u> : it would be helpful to know how service provision etc for the various charities was spread across the District.	This information will be provided to the Panel ACTION.

The Service Manager Community Partnerships confirmed that he would provide this information to the next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Panel on 28th July 2022.

Question / Comment	Response
p.5 - <u>KPI's, challenges and general outcomes</u> : these seem to be missing from the report, and how will these be addressed to achieve the outcomes?	The report provided an overview and the comments have been noted. A final report will be sent to Public Health for the year end. ACTION to send the Panel a copy of the Public Health report.

The Service Manager Community Partnerships confirmed that he would chase this action up to ensure the report is circulated to the Panel.

Question / Comment	Response
<u>Cycling and pedestrianisation</u> : it is understood that substantial funding is allocated for this activity and would be available via the Market Harborough	Officers will investigate the availability of funds from this source over the coming months. ACTION

<p>Strategic Development Area at a particular trigger point. What is the amount of money and what is the trigger point? Cycle paths are not properly policed, and some are used as residential parking.</p>	
---	--

The Chairman read out the following response provided by the Economy & Business Service Manager;

Officers will investigate the availability of funds from this source over the coming months.

Question / Comment	Response
<p>p.6 - <u>Population figures of Market Harborough</u>: the report uses 2011 figures and an update following the census would be useful.</p>	<p>Updated figures to be obtained. ACTION</p>

The Chairman read out the following response provided by the Economy & Business Service Manager;

The final Masterplan, (which was approved by Council on 20 June 2022), was updated with the 2020 estimated population for Market Harborough, of 25,143. Unfortunately, the 2021 census results were not available in time for this.

Following the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Panel held on 24th March 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

6. Community Safety Partnership – Annual Review

The Community Safety Partnership Manager introduced the report, the purpose of which was to discuss the performance of the Community Safety Partnership in reducing crime and disorder in 2021/22. The Chairman invited questions and comments from those present and the following were recorded:

Question / Comment	Response
--------------------	----------

<p>Why is vehicle crime down? Is there a reason it is dropping, or a trend as in some of the villages it still seems quite high?</p>	<p>During the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a change in trends in relation to crime, but the police have been doing a lot of work around preventing crimes such as theft of number plates of catalytic converters.</p>
<p>Farm theft still seems to be on the rise, if you could please pick up on this.</p>	<p>The Rural Crime Team is growing, and the police now have a dedicated Rural Crime Officer based in Market Harborough so they can be more visible, offer more advice. The links into the rural community are growing and there has been a lot of engagement with the communities.</p>
<p>The increase in the crime statistics that would potentially be most frightening to the public relate to violence, verbal or physical are there any underlying reasons why?</p>	<p>We record more than we used to in a finer level of detail and the figures are based on the Covid period and these have increased now the public are out more in the public domain. Crime recording has become more robust so we accurately understand the challenges we are facing and can put resource in the right places.</p>
<p>How many extra police officers have there been for the last year in this area?</p>	<p>Not aware of the exact numbers but are up to the numbers required for Sergeants, PCs (Beat and Response Officers) and Police Community Support Officers are slightly under at the moment as there have been those joining the force as police officers but there is a recruitment process taking place. There has been a significant increase spread between Harborough and Wigston and so everything is going in the right direction.</p>
<p>Looking at p.5 – 3 year crime comparisons and p.6/7 which picks up on a lot more categories there – some categories could overlap and therefore it doesn't always give a clear picture.</p>	<p>A lot of categories relate to national crime recording standards and the police have to add qualifiers on crime reports (for example vulnerability, domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol) and the statistics are pulled from that so some assaults could potentially appear in two or three different categories but that is bound by national recording.</p> <p>As a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) we have access to a dashboard provided by the County and are able to look into the categories in more details for or priority planning.</p>

Is the CSP in every district area in the county?	Yes, each District Council has a CSP and there are a number around the county. Every area also has a JAG which sits under the CSP and works in more detail and has other agencies there as well - the CSP looks at higher level strategy.
If you were doing a comparison of Harborough and Broughton Astley, would you give a percentage figure?	We do a percentage change when looking at the figures.
What is the Jenkins centre?	This is a domestic abuse service centre in Leicester who work county wide with perpetrators of domestic abuse.
Safer Streets, two new papers for target areas, could you elaborate on that?	Newsletters were part of the original plan, an initial newsletter was sent out in the area in which it was being run, and we were going to do a follow up, but this wasn't required as there were four mail outs in the area and it was a really successful project.
Rural crime – could we make it clear what the remit is for this?	The definition of rural crime is complex and is evolving and a specific remit wouldn't necessarily help – the rural crime team is developing and working to understand what a Rural Crime Officer deals with.
What is the Biker Down course?	This is a course run by the Fire Service and is an initiative working on safety information for motorcyclists.
<u>Increased confidence in residents that illegal drug use will be addressed</u> – Why does it just say cannabis and how can we work to alleviate this and what can we do? Is there a policy to underpin this and how are we working with housing associations to address this?	Cannabis and neighbour disputes about the smell were one of the main issues that came up and this is still quite high on our list. Sometimes the police address dealers, but the smell is something that we can address jointly, and now have a process of warnings we work through and then a Community Protection Notice (CPN) but not going down the criminal route of proving dealing or using cannabis but more the distress caused by the smell. There is a flow chart we use and after each JAG there is a housing association meeting looking at ASB – at the moment they can't do the CPNs themselves, so we do that for them.
What is the Emergency Cadet project?	This didn't run this year due to Covid and staffing issues. It was a joint project with Police and Fire service.

<p><u>Chart p.5 1a. YTD Beat Area Comparisons – Ashby Magna is tiny; how can it have a +6.2% increase in crime?</u></p>	<p>Ashby Magna is the name the police use for the Broughton Astley area.</p>
<p><u>To help support and advise our communities on taking personal responsibility, by promoting good practices and using partnership resources to reduce property-based crime – how are you promoting this?</u></p>	<p>There are two newsletters for Harborough, we use social media advertising, campaigns on Harborough FM that the CSP have paid for, each beat have Beat Meetings with crime prevention information and the dates of these are advertised on the website of Leicestershire Police, however comms and engagement are a challenge in the area as it is a big area with different age groups and demographics but the main tool is neighbourhood link – if people sign up there they can receive messages and we can send messages to specific areas. We can also geofence an area on Snapchat and that is the sort of thing we are exploring going forwards so anyone in that area will get an alert.</p>
<p>What is happening at the moment with domestic violence?</p>	<p>There is a new domestic abuse link worker who is part of the CSP so that is a good new resource. There is also a project called JADA+ supporting families afterwards when they are no longer with perpetrators, and there is also the work we do with perpetrators.</p> <p>Any high-risk victims are seen by dedicated detectives that work out of the city, standard and medium risk sit with our teams and there is a lot of scrutiny of these and we take action against domestic perpetrators and arrest in almost all our cases. There has been a massive increase with COVID and as a force this is one of our number-one priorities and there is a whole pool of other officers we call upon to assist.</p>
<p>Do you publicise your work with domestic violence so the victims know how a case will be dealt with and proceeded on?</p>	<p>It is hard to do this anonymously, but we proactively support other initiatives like Ask for Angela and as a CSP it is really important we have this as a priority, so people have the confidence to talk to other people if they don't want to talk to the police.</p>

	<p>We do do other campaigns and radio ads throughout the year, such as the white ribbon campaign and one around Valentine's Day and we publicise helpline numbers and our Domestic Abuse Worker is going out to events to talk to people.</p>
<p>No figures in the report on cyber-crime is that because people don't report it in the area but rather through the central government website?</p>	<p>We don't get local figures for cyber-crime – there are national figures and our strategic assessments look at those figures every year, so we know it's important, and keep it as one of our priorities. We do campaigns throughout the year and are doing more public engagement again, but the main thing we do is on social media as that is where most people are being defrauded.</p>
<p>Is there any sign that domestic violence is starting to improve with all these systems that have been put in place?</p>	<p>One of the things we want to address is to get more people reporting, so in that sense it can be difficult to assess the impact as we are actively trying to get more people reporting incidences and to get them into referrals.</p>
<p>Could we as members have things earlier so we can have more time to get them out and circulate ourselves? Could we promote the newsletter again to get a wider sign up?</p>	<p>Campaigns are put into Members Newsletter.</p>
<p>Fears also get raised and exacerbated through social media and how do we reach those who don't have social media? Also maybe you can do some work with Cross Counties Radio as well as Harborough FM?</p>	<p>The issues talked about on HFM are more about Harborough and Harborough North beats. Adverts are produced for Cross Counties Radio.</p>
<p>Is there any way we can consider a police officer visiting parish council meetings?</p>	<p>There are logistical issues to this due to the large number of parishes but we have sent an email out to Parish Councils via the Community Safety Manager saying we will try to get to one a year but if there are specific issues please invite us.</p>
<p>Residents don't always realise there is a police presence in villages but if it were to go at slower speeds and drive once around the streets the people would see they are there.</p>	<p>We are targeting more sign ups to Neighbourhood Link but are also using demographic data from this to send PCOs into different areas and reach the widest breadth of people possible. We do track neighbourhood officer visibility.</p>
<p>You could also approach Town Councils and ask them if they want a meeting.</p>	<p>Town Council should have had same letter as the Parishes from the police.</p>

The Chairman thanked the Police and Community Safety Manager for their report.

7. Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The Service Manager Community Partnerships introduced the report, the purpose of which was to review and scrutinise the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027. The Chairman invited questions and comments from those present and the following were recorded:

Question / Comment	Response
P.55 - Physical Activity – the one area missing is the help for the rapidly aging population with health-related conditions – there should be some special concentration on helping these people so they can undertake at least some physical activity.	There are older people who are in good health but in terms of the action plan, the points on p.77 would cover older people.
The leisure centres tend to be mainly in the larger towns and I'd like to see something for the smaller villages.	Community infrastructure is one of the priorities, using Section 106 money for investment in those rural facilities and the stronger communities priority is about how we use those buildings, commissioning instructors, and making sure the buildings are sustainable.
The crisis café due to open in Lutterworth has a self-help group already which shows it is required, is there further help available?	The Council will be working with Beacon in Lutterworth to make sure they have links with substance abuse workers, housing support and others.
Local Area Coordinators (LACs) are missing in the report – they work for public health and can signpost people to support, and that needs to be promoted more and included in the Strategy.	Yes, we can add in this as well as information on social prescribers.
Could we promote GP referrals and add this into the action plan.	These can be mentioned specifically and added to the list of partners.
There should be an emphasis on prevention.	
Is there a reason 5a and 6e are separate?	Wellbeing at work covers everybody including those with mental health problems.

8. Any Urgent Business

There was none.

The meeting closed at 20.02.