

MEETING NOTES FROM 20th July 2021

Both PCSOs were in attendance together with Gary Reader guest speaker from BTP (British Transport Police, Ashford), David Dennis a Police volunteer at Battle and Cllr Sue Prochak representing RDC.

Parish Councils : Ashburnham & Penhurst, Bodiam, Brightling, Burwash, Crowhurst, Etchingham, Ewhurst, Hurst Green, Robertsbridge & Salehurst, Ticehurst and Seddlescombe.

There were apologies from Cllrs Boylett and Lloyd.

The meeting opened with a plea from Mark Townsley at Battle Police Station asking that any information sent out by them regarding Operation Templar (active minor break-in e.g. sheds etc) be circulated as far and as quickly as possible to demonstrate that although of a minor nature these criminal activities are still truly on the police radar.

Gary Reader was introduced, he is the primary contact at BTP and was very involved with Dean Walker and does not have a purely 'railway station & lines' remit.

Brightling Nothing to report.

Burwash Nothing to report but had been informed of a burglary in Brede.

Etchingham Nothing to report. PCSO confirmed that reports received about group of young men with guns was confirmed as a legitimate shoot.

Ticehurst Very quiet although there had been a report of a 'suspicious' white car. No further action taken and a report of an abduction of a child outside Stonegate School had thankfully proved to be a false alarm.

Hurst Green Nothing to report.

Robertsbridge Petrol has been syphoned from two vehicles on Brightling Rd. A suspicious male seen, but too vague so no action could be taken. PCSO visits have been made to the Cricket Club and there have been no further reports of vandalism. Issues at the Station noted last month have not reached BTP. This will be checked by Gary Reader. Graffiti issues on trains are often not found until the end of journeys so impossible to pinpoint when/where they happened however BTP has growing intel files on 'tags' and we were advised to forward examples from our own villages to help build up a better picture of the spread particularly villages with stations.

Ewhurst Very quiet now following PCSO visits to the Recreation ground.

Bodiam Trade registration plates have been stolen.

Crowhurst A glass window in the church porch has been smashed, issues continue with noisy groups of youths and motocross bike causing noise and nuisance. The PCSOs reminded us all that, while they are more than happy to receive notifications direct they must be repeated on 101 to ensure that (a) they are logged and (b) they will receive attention even if our PCSOs are not on duty. Obviously any urgent and a real emergency then we must ring 999.

Ashburnham & Penhurst Nothing to report.

The PCSOs told us that thefts of catalytic convertors continue in the vicinity. To steal them, the vehicles have to be jacked up so if this is seen going on in strange circumstances it is well worth reporting

Cllr Sue Prochak referred to Camber as being the 'big issue' and said that a meeting with relevant MPs had been called. The checking, by the police, of waste licences at St John's Cross had been noted and was very much appreciated in the war on fly-tipping. The PCSOs were made aware of the 'illegal' (Planning Law) road being built at Beechhouse Lane, between Salehurst church and the Bodiam Road.

PCSO Emma suggested that efforts were made to establish the priorities of local residents for police action and involvement. A real plea that this goes beyond speeding and noisy motorbikes as these are not news! The police want to understand and react to more than that issue important thought it is. The parish responses to this when the Review of Engagement is issued will be conducted through the Clerks.

David Dennis, in reference to the vandalism at Crowhurst Church, informed the meeting that Rural Crime posters are available to parishes highlighting how reports can be made of malicious damage if seen and particularly if being seen happening.

Gary Reader, apart from being liaison with BTP also volunteers with the Coast Guards and has contacts with the Fire and Rescue teams, all of whom have excellent warning posters particularly regarding the dangers of water – not just in the sea but inland water as well – which are readily available on request.

Following thanks from the PCSOs to the guests and attendees the meeting closed. The date of the next meeting to be confirmed.

Paulette Barton