

Sidlesham, Hunston and North Mundham Neighbourhood Panel

6 March 2013 – 7 pm – North Mundham Village Hall

Attendees

Name	Representing
David Baron	Sidlesham Neighbourhood Watch
Corina Hall	Sidlesham Parish Council
PCSO Jacob McQuillan	Manhood Peninsula Neighbourhood Police Team
John Owen	North Mundham Neighbourhood Watch
Roger Pagram	Hunston Parish Council
Linda Rex	Hunston Neighbourhood Watch
David Rozier	North Mundham Neighbourhood Watch
Tim Russell (Chairman)	North Mundham Parish Council
Louise Russell	North Mundham
Denia Turnbull	North Mundham Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Whitehead	West Sussex County Council

1. Introductions

1.1 Those present were invited to introduce themselves.

2 Approve minutes of the previous meeting

2.1 The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the previous meeting.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 There were no items which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4 Discussion of Previous Priorities

4.1 PCSO McQuillan updated the meeting.

4.2 Driving Offences, and specifically speeding.

4.2.1 The police continued to operate against speeding offenders in the area. The meeting noted the difficulty of recruiting volunteers to support Speedwatch and operate the speed indicating device (SID). However Sidlesham delegates were able to report the successful introduction of additional sites where the SID could be operated.

4.2.2 It was noted that the CASPER speed recording equipment was an alternative method of monitoring that did not require operators in attendance, though it had not been seen in use in recent months. Cllr Whitehead volunteered to make enquiries.

4.2.3 PCSO McQuillan noted that the Crackdown system could also be used to make reports of

driving offences. However opinions varied on how easy it was to use the on-line reporting system, and it was suggested that a telephone report was easier to make and just as effective. Delegates also noted the difficulty of identifying an offending vehicle, either because the number plate was obscured, or because of the difficulty of recording the details.

4.3 Vandalism.

4.3.1 PCSO McQuillan reported the police perception that vandalism had not been much of a problem recently, with only three calls in three months. However delegates were able to cite a number of examples, including repeated instances of damage to bus shelters in North Mundham, and a broken window at the school. It was recognised that vandalism is a difficult problem to tackle, and much depends on public vigilance and timely and accurate reporting

4.4 Anti-Social Behaviour, and specifically anti-social parking.

4.4.1 In many instances it was difficult to separate anti-social behaviour from acts of vandalism. It was recognised that there was little that the police could do about anti-social parking unless there was a specific safety issue.

5 **Current Issues**

5.1 Travellers.

5.1.1 Although in most cases the presence of travellers on private or publicly-owned land was a civil matter, the police might get involved in specific circumstances. The Chairman drew attention to a presentation by Inspector Will Rolls at the Peninsula Forum held on Monday, 4 March, at which he explained what the police could and could not do. A copy of his presentation should appear on the Peninsula Forum website in due course. (Note: At the time of writing only a link to the meeting agenda has been published – see: <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=7930>)

5.1.2 It was pointed out that private landowners are becoming increasingly aware of the threat of trespass and taking steps to improve security. This has increased the threat of travellers settling on publicly-owned spaces which by their very nature may be more difficult to secure. It was likely that travellers would remain in the area so long as they continued to find opportunities for work.

5.1.3 Noting that there were travellers currently camped in Sidlesham, the meeting discussed the value of knowing where groups of travellers were camped, and when they might move on. It was explained that the police are reluctant to act as a formal communication authority to advise parishes, though they would give warning where they could. It was understood that the District Council would explore a mechanism for keeping parishes informed.

Post Meeting Note: Latest advice from the police travellers liaison officer and public relations officer is that information about travellers can be promulgated through the Community Messaging system, but only if the information is accurate and reliable. Whether or not this information will be added routinely is still under discussion.

5.2 Burglaries. Burglary continues to be a problem, mainly the theft of garden machinery and garden equipment. This is often associated with sheds and outbuildings that are only lightly secured, or not secured at all. PCSO McQuillan drew attention to the marking scheme for property – he was able to arrange for property to be marked such that its identity was visible under ultra-violet light.

5.3 Wildlife Crime. Both hare coursing and illegal deer shooting continue to be a problem. Delegates noted the difficulty of acting against illegal hare coursing in particular, because potential culprits would present themselves as just taking dogs for a walk, and it was difficult to catch them in the act with sufficient evidence to support a prosecution. In this respect the police are very dependent on the public acting as eyes and ears. It was emphasised that the public should avoid a possible confrontation but to take note of groups of people in the countryside accompanied by one or more pairs of greyhounds or lurchers. Such groups should not be approached or challenged since this might warn them off, but a report should be made as a matter of '999' priority.

5.4 Foreign Registered Vehicles. Following the discussion at the previous meeting, the registration numbers of three foreign-registered vehicles were noted for future reference, for possible action if they were observed to be still in the country beyond six months.

6 Establish New Priorities

6.1 It was agreed that the three identified priorities should be amended to combine the issues of Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour, which are in any case difficult to separate. At the suggestion of PCSO McQuillan the meeting agreed to set Wildlife Crime as the third priority. The three priorities are therefore:

- Driving Offences, and specifically speeding
- Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Wildlife Crime.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Threatening Behaviour. An instance of possible threatening behaviour was noted, with a request for advice on what could be done. However in this instance the victim was unwilling to pass on sufficient information to enable the issue to be pursued. It was noted that there had been reports of other cases in North Mundham which were possibly connected to pupils at the Links College in Fletcher Place. In such cases a report of the precise time of the incident might enable the staff at the college to identify whether any of their pupils were likely to be involved.

7.2 PCSO McQuillan regretted that he was still without a personal mobile phone, so he had no number he could pass on. His e-mail address is Jacob.McQuillan@sussex.pnn.police.uk .

7.3 Date of Next Meeting. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 1900 on Wednesday, 8 May 2013, in North Mundham Village Hall.

7.4 The meeting closed at approximately 2000.