

Sidlesham, Hunston and North Mundham Neighbourhood Panel

10 July 2013 – 7 pm – North Mundham Village Hall

Attendees

Name	Representing
Corina Hall	Sidlesham Parish Council
PCSO Jacob McQuillan	Manhood Peninsula Neighbourhood Police Team
Roger Pagram	Hunston Parish Council
Innes Mary Quigley	Merston Neighbourhood Watch
Linda Rex	Hunston Neighbourhood Watch
David Rozier	North Mundham Neighbourhood Watch
Tim Russell (Chairman)	North Mundham Parish Council

1. Introductions

- 1.1 Those present were invited to introduce themselves.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Nick Atkins, David Baron, Paul Chivers, Sarah Gunn, and John Owen.

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. A copy of his notes is attached at Annex A.
- 4.2 Driving Offences, and specifically speeding.
 - 4.2.1 The police continued to operate against speeding offenders in the area. PCSO McQuillan advised that he and a number of his PCSO colleagues were to be trained in the use of speed guns, so that they could identify offenders for further police action. He also noted that there had been an instance of noisy driving in the Keynor Lane area which suggested that the drivers responsible may be doing laps of a circuit.
- 4.3 Burglaries and theft
 - 4.3.1 It appeared that instances of burglaries and theft were significantly lower than in other parts of the District, though the meeting noted continuing warnings about theft, particularly from motor vehicles, in the Community Bulletins. There was concern that the onset of hot weather,

with more windows and doors left open, may prove tempting to offenders.

4.4 Travellers

- 4.4.1 PCSO McQuillan updated the meeting on the latest movement of a large group of travellers towards Lavant, where the police threatened Section 61 action – for only the third time in the District. Faced with this action, the group had moved on. The meeting noted the willingness to use Section 61 powers in this instance, and wondered what specific criteria had prompted their use in this case.

Post meeting note: It appears that this group have subsequently settled on a site at Tangmere, on the old airfield.

- 4.4.2 A second smaller group had been successfully evicted from a site which they had occupied earlier, using the injunction that remained in force. It was not clear whether this injunction would be valid against any group of travellers, or only those whose occupation of the site had initiated the injunction in the first place.

5 **Current Issues**

5.1 Operation Crackdown.

- 5.1.1 Operation Crackdown allows members of the public to report instances of driving offences, abandoned vehicles etc. PCSO McQuillan advised that the website is currently undergoing re-design, and an improved version should be available once testing is complete. The meeting welcomed this development, since the existing website had been often criticised for being difficult to use, or unavailable.

5.2 Landowners Map

- 5.2.1 PCSO McQuillan made a request for any information which would help the local police compile a map showing who owned what land. It was noted that this sort of information was often very helpful in resolving issues – for instance the campers in Hunston Copse had been moved on once the landowner had been contacted and confirmed that they did not have his permission to be there
- 5.2.2 It was thought likely that Parish Councils might be able to help in compiling such a map – for example some of them collected such information to identify who was responsible for maintaining ditches. PCSO McQuillan emphasised that such information would be for police use only. The Chairman offered to make contact with the North Mundham Parish Clerk.

5.3 Operation Accent.

- 5.3.1 PCSO McQuillan briefed the meeting on Operation Accent. This is an initiative to reach out to migrant workers, many of whom come from countries where the population have a less easy relationship with the police. As a result they are reluctant to seek police help, and are wary of any approach by the police.

5.3.2 There is a particular focus on local crime groups, where there have been instances of exploitation of migrant workers. Workers have been recruited abroad and brought into the area where they have been found work but their pay has been withheld as payment for food and accommodation and their passports impounded. As a result there is a risk they will resort to petty crime merely to fund their everyday living expenses.

5.3.3 There has been one successful prosecution in such a case, but it is believed there are other instances, and any information on migrant workers living in over-crowded or poor living conditions would be helpful.

5.4 Illegal Camping

5.4.1 PCSO McQuillan noted that there were a couple of camps on the east side of the Chichester canal, between Hunston and Chichester. The Chairman offered to pass on some details of a previous operation against such camps, which had involved planning enforcement officers from Chichester District Council.

6 Establish New Priorities

6.1 PCSO McQuillan suggested that Burglaries and Theft, and Travellers, might be removed from the list of priorities. However the meeting felt that they would wish to retain both these items for the time being. In the case of Burglaries and Theft, it was felt that the risk still remained despite the good record in recent months, particularly with the onset of warmer weather. In the case of Travellers, the meeting recognised that there was little that the local police could do while their responses were still circumscribed by police policy. However the effect of Travellers' actions on the general local population still remained a matter of considerable concern.

6.2 The three priorities therefore remain as:

- Driving Offences, and specifically speeding
- Burglaries and theft
- Travellers

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Chichester Food Park Entrance

7.1.1 Concern was expressed about lorry traffic emerging from the Chichester Food Park at the roundabout on the A259. It appears there are repeated instances of lorries pulling out in front of traffic that should have priority on the roundabout. It was noted that this issue has been raised before, and the Chairman advised that he had in the past had a discussion with the Estate Manager.

7.1.2 The Estate Manager had noted that the ideal position for 'Give way' signs was actually on land controlled by WSCC Highways Department, who had not been convinced there was a need for them. If they were placed on land owned by the Food Park they would be some way back from the roundabout and could exacerbate the situation since they might appear to apply only to the cycle lane where it crossed the exit.

7.1.3 It was suggested that PCSO McQuillan might ask his traffic officer colleagues to visit the site and review the situation, since a recommendation from them might carry more weight

7.2 Sight Lines

7.2.1 It was noted that sight lines at the junction of Church Road, North Mundham and the B2166 were obscured by tall vegetation growing behind the barriers. The Chairman volunteered to make a report to West Sussex highways.

7.3 Date of Next Meeting. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 1900 on Wednesday, 11 September 2013, in North Mundham Village Hall.

7.4 The meeting closed at approximately 2010.

Annex A: Copy of PCSO McQuillan's "Sidlesham, Hunston and North Mundham NMP 10/07/13 Police Update"

Sidlesham, Hunston and North Mundham NMP 10/07/13 Police Update

General Update: Crime has continued to fall across the peninsula, year-on-year. The parishes, in general, remain quiet with few incidents taking place.

Current Priorities:

Driving Offences: Speeding remains an issue along Lagness Road and the B2145. Feedback from RPU officers is that they remain targeting these areas. I am also currently in the planning stages of an Operation to target driving offences in particular in the area.

I have received reports of loud vehicles speeding in the Keynor Lane area of Sidlesham in the early hours. I shall be doing what I can to investigate this.

Burglary and Theft: Since the last meeting, we have had 2 burglary offences reported, one in Hunston and one in North Mundham. We have also had a total of 8 theft offences reported, with 2 from Sidlesham, one from Hunston, and 5 in North Mundham. Three of those in North Mundham are from the Lakeside caravan park. Given the increasing number of holiday makers, this is unlikely to be part of a series.

These numbers are low, and I would recommend that this can be removed as a priority.

Travellers: At the time of writing, we have only had 1 further incident involving the travelling community. A small group gained access to a site they had previously been evicted from. The injunction on the site was still valid and a unit from Chichester swiftly moved them from the site.

A group, whom I contacted the local Parish Councils about this evening, has made not made towards the Manhood Peninsula.

Given that I have been made aware of the feelings of the panel, and the limited ability Sussex Police have in dealing with traveller camps, I would recommend that this can be removed as a priority.