

Sidlesham, Hunston and North Mundham Neighbourhood Panel

26 March 2014 – 7 pm – North Mundham Village Hall

Attendees

Name	Representing
David Baron	Sidlesham Neighbourhood Watch
Cllr Margaret Evans	WSSC
Sarah Gunn	South Mundham
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

1. Introductions

- 1.1 Those present were invited to introduce themselves.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Innes Mary Quigley and Denia Turnbull.

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 Food Park Exit (minute 3.1). The Chairman noted that he had already reported the feedback from Tracey Webb (WSSC) – for the record the text of this e-mail is reproduced in Annex B. It appeared unlikely that there would be any further action in the short term, unless Tracey Webb's approach to the Highways Agency comes up with any practical suggestions. He also noted that Councillor Simon Oakley had suggested that the correspondence should be copied to Oving Parish Council. The resulting exchange of correspondence is also reproduced in Annex B.
- 3.2 Faded Traffic Signs (Minute 3.2). The Chairman noted he had already reported the response from Tracey Webb on the topic of faded traffic signs – a text of this e-mail is reproduced in Annex B. It was clear that we should not anticipate any further action unless a sign is so faded as to be unreadable, and it was agreed not to pursue this issue further.
- 3.3 Neighbourhood Watch Signs (Minute 7.2.1). John Owen reported continuing difficulty in finding a supply source for replacement signs. Investigations continue.
Post meeting note: John Owen has advised he has now tracked down some information.

4 Discussion of Previous Priorities

4.1 PCSO McQuillan updated the meeting. A copy of his notes is attached at Annex A. The demand on police time from the Bosham murder case had reduced.

4.2 Driving Offences

4.2.1 The Neighbourhood Teams and the Road Policing Unit continue their campaign against all forms of driving offences, with positive results.

4.2.2 Delegates from Sidlesham voiced their intense disappointment that when they arranged to use the SID it was delivered to them with a fault, which meant that all their efforts, to arrange a roster of people to provide the necessary supervision, had been wasted. PCSO McQuillan agreed to investigate.

4.3 Maintaining High Visibility

4.3.1 Neighbourhood officers continue to patrol the area, on foot whenever practical.

5 Current Issues

5.1 Hare Coursing.

5.1.1 Hare coursing had not been a problem recently, and it seems that the earlier attention had been successful in discouraging any further activity.

5.2 Theft

5.2.1 There had been a few instances of theft in the area, including an outbreak in the Keynor Lane area where the police had successfully targeted named individuals.

5.2.2 It was noted that there had been two oil thefts reported in the area, one in South Mundham and one in Merston.

Post-meeting note: There has been further information of a theft of oil fuel in School Lane, North Mundham.

5.3 Anti-Social Behaviour

5.3.1 One informant had reported instances of Anti-Social Behaviour in the Foxbridge Road car park, but no specific offences have been detected.

6 Establish New Priorities

6.1 It was agreed that the current priorities should be modified, to include a focus on the recent local thefts. The priorities would therefore be:

- Driving Offences
- Maintaining high visibility
- Thefts

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Website Pages

7.1.1 It was noted that links to the local area pages on the Neighbourhood Policing part of the police website did not always lead to the right area or to correct information. The chairman volunteered to follow this up.

7.2 Foreign Cars

7.2.1 It was noted that a significant number of foreign-registered cars were being used, or left in local roads, and there was concern that these vehicles may not be properly taxed or, more significantly, insured. Because these vehicles do not appear on the UK database it was difficult to initiate effective action, since there was no easy way of knowing how long since they were last imported and hence whether they were liable to be registered in the UK.

7.3 Crime and Disorder Survey

7.3.1 There is an opportunity to contribute to the 'Safer West Sussex Partnership' crime and disorder survey. Details can be found on-line at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWSP2014>

7.6 Date of Next Meeting. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at 1900 on Wednesday, 14 May 2014, in North Mundham Village Hall.

7.7 The meeting closed at approximately 1955.

Annex A: Copy of PCSO McQuillan's "Sidlesham, Hunston and North Mundham 26/03/14 - Police Update"

Annex B: Texts of e-mail correspondence – Food Park Exit and Faded Road Signs

Sidlesham, Hunston, and North Mundham 26/03/14 – Police Update

Current Priorities

Anti-Social Driving

Anti-social driving continues to be an issue on the busy roads in the area. NPT and RPU officers regularly deploy with speed measuring devices when not attending other incidents. Appropriate and positive action is taken with results.

There are several operations up and coming to target drivers in the area.

Maintaining Visibility

Officers make regular patrols throughout the area, on foot when able, and through side streets and populated areas.

Other Issues

Wildlife Crime

As the coursing season comes to a close, we have had no further incidents of coursing or poaching in the area. It appears the rapid response to the first incident of the season has discouraged the perpetrators from committing any further incidents.

Burglary & Theft

There have been a total of two burglaries and seven thefts since the last meeting. This included a small spate that lasted around one week in the Keynor Lane area of Sidlesham. Patrols were directed to the area and nominals targeted, whereupon the incidents have stopped.

Other Issues

Some Anti-Social Behaviour has been reported to me to be taking place in the Foxbridge Road Car Park. Patrols in the area have revealed no persons present, and complaints have only come from one person. Patrols in the area are continuing.

Texts of e-mail correspondence – Food Park Exit and Faded Road Signs

Food Park Exit

Chairman to circulation list – 27 February 2014

At our meeting last November I said I would pursue the problem of vehicles coming out of the Food Park exit at the Drayton Roundabout on the A259, which have been reported as not giving way to traffic approaching from their right (minute 7.2.1). When we met in January I said I had been in contact with Tracey Webb from West Sussex County Council, but I was still waiting to hear the results of her investigation (minute 3.1). I have now had a response.

In her reply Tracey apologises for the delay in responding, and comments as follows:

"I have looked at the area with an engineer and we both feel that the installation of a sign would not be appropriate as we do not feel it would help the situation. Having watched the junction for some time we felt that the conflicts that occurred were due to the length of time needed for a lorry to pull out and accelerate away from a standing start. Due to the volume of traffic there are few gaps that are long enough to accommodate lorries so they get frustrated and pull out into a gap that is insufficient. Unfortunately, there is no appropriate traffic sign that could be installed and there is always the danger that non-standard signs may distract a driver rather than help the situation. I will however, discuss the roundabout with my colleagues from the Highways Agency who manage the A27 to see if they have any other suggestions.

I am sorry that I cannot help you more at the moment."

Chairman to Clerk to Oving Parish Council – 3 March 2014

One of the topics which was raised at our (Neighbourhood Management) meeting recently was the problem of heavy trucks, more particularly but not exclusively foreign trucks, pulling out of the food park exit at the roundabout near Drayton on the A259. We have had a number of reports of trucks pulling out in front of traffic coming from the Bognor direction. This roundabout is strictly speaking not 'on our patch', but the issue was brought to our attention by Innes-Mary Quigley (Mrs Stephen Quigley) who is a Merston resident and attends our meetings regularly.

There have been a number of suggestions to alleviate the problem, most notably improved signage at the exit, but also a suggestion that vision was impaired by an overhanging tree (I looked into this last possibility, and I have to say I don't think it's relevant). I have also had some discussions with the estates manager on the Food Park - who saw no need for any action.

Councillor Margaret Evans (was Margaret Whitehead) from WSCC is a regular attendee at our meetings, and through her contacts I was able to open a useful dialogue with Tracey Webb from WSCC. Tracey has investigated and came back to me as follows:

"I have looked at the area with an engineer and we both feel that the installation of a sign would not be appropriate as we do not feel it would help the situation. Having watched the junction for some time we felt that the conflicts that occurred were due to the length of time needed for a lorry to pull out and accelerate away from a standing start. Due to the volume of traffic there are few gaps that are long enough to accommodate lorries so they get frustrated and pull out into a gap that is insufficient. Unfortunately, there is no appropriate traffic sign that could be installed and there is always the danger that non-standard signs may distract a driver rather than help the situation. I will however, discuss the roundabout with my colleagues from the Highways Agency who manage the A27 to see if they have any other suggestions.

I am sorry that I cannot help you more at the moment."

I have also asked our local PCSO to get his traffic officer colleagues to look at the problem, but they too feel there is no specific way to alleviate the problem.

Simon (Oakley) has suggested that this may nevertheless be a topic of interest, particularly if the new grain store gets planning consent and we get a large number of tractor and trailer movements during the harvest season.

Oving Parish Council – Clerk's response 5 March 2014

Thank you for your introduction and making Oving PC aware that a concern has been raised about this issue. You seem to have already done all there is to do in alerting the relevant authorities of those concerns and we look forward to hearing any responses you may receive from the HA. A slip road for the lorries seems to be the most popular solution offered by our councillors, or a widening of the exit to give the lorries more turning room so they do not obscure so much of the roundabout when pulling out. I'm sure this has been discussed and the subject of cost will be factor. Other than that the OPC has no further suggestions to add to those already outlined in your email. As such the OPC are not inclined to take the lead in moving this forward.

That said, the OPC and North Mundham PC should include a comment on the extra traffic in our responses to any future planning applications for further developments in the Food Park. That way CDC might get money from the developers under section 106 agreements to fund a slip road.

In the meantime, regular users of the roundabout should all by now be aware of the large lorries that exit on this roundabout and the problems they face pulling out from a standing start. When a lorry is waiting to exit it is easily visible as you approach on the A259 from the south. Perhaps we local resident car drivers could be encouraged to help the matter by slowing to let them out when safe to do so, rather than putting all the blame on the lorry drivers. I'm sure the lorry drivers don't enjoy pulling out and risking an accident either and I can see how they could be sat there for a very long time, regardless of whether the traffic is heavy and slow or light and fast. A sign for the northbound traffic might help remind local drivers of this and encourage them to be considerate and helpful if they see a lorry waiting.

Faded Road Signs

Chairman to circulation list – 27 February 2014

One of the topics we discussed when we met in January was the problem of faded traffic signs (Minute 3.2).

The concerns which were expressed at that meeting, and the previous one, have been passed on to West Sussex County Council. In particular, a view was expressed that faded signs may not be enforceable. Tracey Webb, from WSCC, has responded as follows:

"This issue has been raised in other areas and I asked for the Police's view on the faded signs. Their response is that provided that the sign still conveys the meaning to the public they can continue to enforce the speed limits. If the Parishes have an examples where there are so faded that they are illegible I will pass them on to highways to add to the replacement programme."