

## JOINT MEETING OF THE NORTH WEST AND NORTH EAST COMMUNITY FORUMS



Minutes of a meeting of the Community Forum held on  
Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Lodsworth Village Hall at 7pm.

### Attendance and Apologies (in italics):

<b>Bepton Parish Council</b>	Alex Cunningham and Ros Hart
<b>Bignor Parish Meeting</b>	John Dwane
<b>Bury Parish Council</b>	<i>Apologies sent</i>
<b>Cocking Parish Council</b>	David Imlach
<b>Duncton Parish Council</b>	
<b>Easebourne Parish Council</b>	Stephen Lloyd
<b>East Lavington Parish Council</b>	Michael Harting
<b>Ebernoe Parish Council</b>	<i>Apologies sent</i>
<b>Elsted and Treyford Parish Council</b>	Andrew Leno
<b>Fernhurst Parish Council</b>	John Smith, Maureen Timms, Bill Black and Heather Bicknell
<b>Fittleworth Parish Council</b>	David Brittain
<b>Graffham Parish Council</b>	
<b>Harting Parish Council</b>	Andrew Shaxson
<b>Heyshott Parish Council</b>	Simon Laking
<b>Kirdford Parish Council</b>	
<b>Linch Parish Meeting</b>	<i>Apologies sent</i>
<b>Lodsworth Parish Council</b>	Deryck Hamon
<b>Loxwood Parish Council</b>	Chris Agar
<b>Lurgashall Parish Council</b>	Anthea Martin-Jenkins, Joe Harden, Ray Cooper and Andy Tate
<b>Lynchmere Parish Council</b>	Norma Graves and Sandy Moore
<b>Midhurst Town Council</b>	Mark Purves and Stephen Morley
<b>Milland Parish Council</b>	Simon Pudge
<b>Northchapel Parish Council</b>	<i>Apologies sent Gaye Jordan</i>
<b>Petworth Town Council</b>	Chris Kemp
<b>Plaistow &amp; Ifold Parish Council</b>	<i>Apologies sent</i>
<b>Rogate Parish Council</b>	Elizabeth Brown
<b>Stedham with Iping Parish Council</b>	Lucy Petrie and Eddie Lintott
<b>Stopham Parish Meeting</b>	
<b>The Common Parish of Sutton &amp; Barlavington</b>	<i>Apologies sent</i>
<b>Tillington Parish Council</b>	<i>Apologies sent</i>
<b>Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council</b>	

<b>West Lavington Parish Council</b>	Keith Elmy
<b>Wisborough Green Parish Council</b>	Peter Drummond
<b>Woolbeding with Redford Parish Council</b>	
<b>Sussex Police</b>	Mrs Katy Bourne and Justin Burtenshaw
<b>West Sussex County Council</b>	Janet Duncton
<b>Chichester District Council</b>	Shona Turner and Andrew Frost <i>Apologies sent Eileen Lintill and John Elliot</i>

**1. Introduction by the Chairman**

Andrew Shaxson opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked Lodsworth Parish Council for hosting the meeting. He also reminded everyone why the joint meeting of the two Community Forums was being held.

Apologies as above.

**2 Mrs Katy Bourne, Police and Crime Commissioner**

Mrs Katy Bourne began her presentation by explaining the current budget implications and that the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement had said that police budgets were protected but this meant that Sussex Police were expected to find further savings. From 2010-15 Sussex Police's budget was cut by £52m but further savings will still have to be made.

Although the Chancellor announced Police budgets were ring-fenced, budgets have not allowed for the 1% pay rise or pension increases and last year, the P&CC increased Council Tax but monies are still reducing. We have the fourth lowest precept (Council Tax) in the country for Policing. The majority of funds come from Government – compare this to Surrey residents who pay the most in the UK for policing in their council tax.

Last year, the Police started working more with business partners, making the service fit for purpose and bringing it into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, particularly, as crime types are changing – terrorism, internet theft, fraud and now with crimes online there is no geographical boundary. There are also other changes, eg. child abuse and not just current cases but historic ones too (costs approximately £1 billion annually). With changing crimes types, the Police must adapt to modern demands and needs and make the service more efficient. The Police need to do things in a different way.

**3. Chief Inspector Justin Burtenshaw, Arun & Chichester District Commander**

Justin Burtenshaw began by saying how grateful he was to be able to meet and talk with the Parish Councillors this evening. He outlined the transformational changes Sussex Police are going through and updated us on the Local Policing Programme.

Since November 2014 Justin has had the duty of managing both Arun and Chichester as District Commander and has had success in reducing both crime and anti-social behaviour. He also reported a substantial success in cross-border deployment of staff, leading to successful arrests for burglary and sexual offences. West Sussex has now become a hub and East Sussex is following suit.

He continued by explaining how, under the current operating model, the PCSO's have geographical areas of responsibility which will be changed to one central Team. So rather than having one named PCSO for your area, you will have access to a whole team to assist and there will always be someone there to answer your

call and investigate any incidents. They will be deployed based on Threat, Harm and Risk and work with you at problem solving.

The PCSOs are currently going through the consultation process and will be starting in their new roles by 3 July adding that although there will be a reduction of PCSOs, they will have enhanced responsibilities of being able to investigate more offences, including the taking of statements.

The Mobile Data Device (MDD) – accesses all police systems. There is no longer the need for house visits, followed by the typing up of crime reports at the Police Station etc., the MDD does it all, from statements to forms. There has been heavy investment in this device and it has been shaped with Chichester and Arun in mind.

The group were encouraged to call the police as they now have the resources to deal with issues.

His contact details are:

Chief Inspector Justin Burtenshaw

Arun & Chichester District Commander

Tel: 101 ext. 580223

Email: [justin.burtenshaw@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:justin.burtenshaw@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

### **Questions put to Mrs Katy Bourne and CI Justin Burtenshaw**

- *Issues concerning our PCSOs in Fernhurst; they are valued, in touch with their community. Are the new PCSOs preventing crimes and is this realistic?*  
JB responded – Prevention is the key, it is more important. Not just random patrolling but targeting the area, not full time though, we will still come to events. It is about engagement.

- *But are we in danger of losing our contact with local Police by being proactive and not reactive? I am concerned that contacts especially those with special interest could be lost.*

JB - Although a PCSO will run with a job for its entirety, e.g. in Midhurst, they cannot stay in Midhurst for their whole career. Littlehampton could be very busy whilst a PCSO over here, could just attend a fete, their workloads are different.

By doing preventative work, PCSOs and Police Officers can track and deal with issues quicker, but there are other Teams to work with, not just the Police, eg. Anti-Social Behaviour Team. There are ASB Teams at Arun and Chichester.

KB – Losing confidence and personal touch – Sussex Police are aware of these issues; but criminals do not respect boundaries. I have found there is no information sharing amongst Police systems. There are over 100 computer systems which do not speak to each other. A MDD now means there are mobile Police Officers sharing information via the MDD. All information will be available via this over time. Previously, a PCSO would pass information to the Police Officer, with no conception of what happened to the case. It is now possible to build a case and monitor it to the end, therefore, will have better grip on local community and the new PCSOs are paid more. As we have said, we have also discovered that PCSOs have different workloads, the new model is much better for sharing workloads.

JB – This new PCSO briefing model is one of the best and we are the ‘guinea pigs’. This model will be adopted all over Sussex; everyone will be able to share knowledge and information.

- *Believe you will lose local knowledge which is very valuable and people are comfortable talking to someone they know. Plus some 'older' people are not very good with modern IT mechanisms.*

KB – Local Council Members – you have the knowledge, get to know the Police, help the Police. There are Councillors who have not been into a Police Station.

Also appreciate that not all elderly people are 'online', hence new model is being rolled out gradually. With the MDD everything is inputted, the corporate knowledge remains. The Police will be asking Councillors for help.

- *What you are doing is right but it needs to be sold to our Parishioners, it is very hard as Police are perceived to have disappeared. How are you going to help us get this message to our Parishioners?*

JB – The letter can be shared. I am happy to attend meetings and events, can give assurance; 'talk to us'. Also happy to attend individual Parish meetings, word of mouth, the Parish Council can spread message too.

JB – Come and see it for yourselves, a day or evening out, contact me.

- *Are all these changes public information and what are the benchmarks?*

JB - Crimes are measured by 'committed' and 'solved' <https://www.police.uk/> link to <https://data.police.uk/>

- *What will happen to the Police building in Midhurst? What happens now that the Police are not moving into the Grange?*

JB - Although the Grange is an ideal location, it is not viable to build a new facility there. Would you go there if you were a victim of a crime? We have no intention of leaving Midhurst or Petworth but are looking at options of sharing the building with other services eg. ambulance. We are growing new relationships and looking at partners.

KB – Not selling off Police stations, no Police station has been sold off. Haslemere PSCOs have not been lost as their job description has not changed, therefore they did not require new contracts. Here, our PCSOs have more responsibilities and have had to reapply for their jobs. There has also been a change in working hours and their pay has increased.

- *Lurgashall - NHW lost 2 PCSOs*

JB – Tell him by July will have access to all PCSOs and he can email JB.

- *MDD – does this use a mobile phone connection?*

JB - No, it operates on the emergency band, so yes it works

- *30% policing with Surrey, does our budget include paying for Gatwick policing?*

No, it is not paid by tax payers but it is a benefit to us as it means we have more officers to work with.

- *Who sets the precept?*

P&CC but limited; increase by £5 per house (3.4%) – 2% household per annum.

With no further questions, Andrew Shaxson thanked our speakers for attending the meeting tonight and hoped that they would come back in 3 months' time as they have offered.

#### **4. Any other Business**

Linda Grange, Housing wishes to attend community forums asap. After discussion it was agreed that another joint meeting should be held in July. Although the actual date has yet to be agreed, Petworth Town Council very kindly offered to host the meeting. **(Shona to liaise with Chris at Petworth TC).**

SSALC – Andrew Shaxson raised the issue that he had attended two Chichester sub-district SSALC meetings, but much of the business was not applicable to the area covered by NW and NE Community Forum Parish Councils. Would it be beneficial to arrange a meeting specifically for the Parish Councils of our area? It was generally felt that there might be benefit. **(Andrew Shaxson to contact Trevor Leggo of SSALC.)**

Other topics for the joint meeting to be decided nearer the time.

The meeting finished at 9pm.