

# DEEPING COMMUNITY POLICING PANEL

DATE: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

VENUE: Deeping Community Centre, Douglas Road, Market Deeping

ATTENDEES: Christine Halls (DSJ Parish Council), Andrew Howell (DSJ Parish Council), Julie Howell, Bridget Ley (SKDC), Steve Ley, Phil Dilks (SKDC, LCC), Ashley Baxter (SKDC), Kate Shinkins-Hope (DSJ Parish Council), Joan Read, Tom Genoese, Sharon Genoese, Pam Steel (MDTC), Liz Jarman (Langtoft Parish Council), Andrew Piper (MDTC), Phil Neville, Adrian Clarke (Baston Parish Council), Graham Thompson, Sgt Emma Crisp (Lincolnshire Police), Julie Fortnum (Clerk DSJPC).

Christine Halls opened the meeting and welcomed everybody.

Andrew Howell thanked Deeping St James Parish Council and Market Deeping Town Council for supporting the Community Policing Panel for the next 12 months, ensuring these meetings can continue.

Chief Inspector Jon Shield (Lincolnshire Police, North & South Kesteven) sent his apologise. Chief Inspector Shield wanted to attend but was sent on an external course. We could not change the date of the meeting. The Chief Inspector will be invited to the next meeting.

Sergeant Emma Crisp then addressed the meeting explaining how Policing has changed over the years, and how Policing in Deeping works. With the cuts to Policing, and Lincolnshire being the lowest funded Police Force in the UK, officers can no-longer deal with everything.

- Deeping is a nice place to live, and crime is low. Average: 3 crimes a day.
- Anti Social Behaviour is down in the Bourne – Stamford – Deeping area which is probably due to the weather.
- Neighbour disputes are logged as ASB with the Police, which very often are minor disagreements that are not Police matters. Neighbours should try and resolve these amicably as the Police no-longer have the manpower to deal with these incidents.
- The Police have to deal with the most important calls first eg:
  - Drug offences,
  - Cross County lines offences,
  - Road Traffic Collisions
  - Where life is at risk.
- Mental Health is a big problem for the Police. Some incidents are mental health problems which need to be dealt with by the NHS, or drugs and alcohol induced. When the incident is called in, it is impossible to tell what has induced the situation.

The local Policing team consists of:

- Sgt Emma-Jane Crisp
- PC Claire Wilson
- PC Ingmar Collinson

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Is paying for private security patrols at weekends a viable proposition?  
Deeping St James Parish Council has paid for private security patrols in the past. They act as a deterrent. These people have no powers of arrest.  
  
Sgt Crisp stated this was something for councils to explore further, but there was resistance around the room. It could create 2 tier Policing where wealthier parishes would benefit whilst smaller and poorer parishes would suffer.  
If such a policy was adopted it should cover the whole Deepings, so that any trouble is not just moved from one parish to another.
2. Support for PCSO's: Concern was expressed at the loss of the Deepings PCSO's, who were invaluable. Cllr Phil Dilks spoke in favour of bringing back PCSO's to the Deepings.

3. The idea of a first responders programme for crime was suggested. Where a responder could attend an incident when a Police Officer was not immediately available. The complexity of training was discussed.
4. It was acknowledged that if young people do not see a Police presence, they think they are immune from prosecution and can do whatever they want.
5. Can we have a reduction in the Policing portion of Council Tax as we no longer have a Police Station or PCSO's? This suggestion was made but is unlikely to happen.
6. Adrian Clarke from Baston Parish Council mentioned speeding on the A15 through the village was a problem. The speed camera in Baston does not always have an active camera in it. Baston Parish Council are currently setting up Community Speed Watch via the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.  
The question was asked: "Can someone get prosecuted when caught on a Speed Watch camera?"

#### HOW DOES COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH WORK? (CSW)

CSW volunteers monitor vehicles from designated sites which have been risk assessed and approved by the police. Volunteers use a police approved hand-held speed detection device to check the speed of vehicles and record those driving 35+ mph in 30mph zone or 46+ mph in a 40mph zone. The details recorded are time, date, site, make, model, colour, registration, and speed.

These details are then sent to the CSW Administrator for processing. A Police National Computer check is run on the vehicle and the registered keeper's information is obtained and a letter is sent.

- First offence – Letter is sent to the registered keeper advising details of the offence and a reminder of the effects of their action.
- Second offence – Follow up letter is sent to registered keeper with stronger wording
- Persistent offenders and High Speeders will be added to a tasking list and circulated for targeted police visit and intervention.

7. Can a community sponsor a speed camera permanently placed in their local Speed Camera box? This would benefit the villages of Baston, and Langtoft along the A15.

**Sgt Crisp will explore this further.**

8. Crime Stats – **Andy Piper asked about the availability of crime stats. Referred to the Lincolnshire Police Crime Map. This can be accessed here:**

<https://www.lincs.police.uk/area/your-area/lincolnshire/south-kesteven/market-deeping-and-uffington/about-us/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area>

9. Is there a drugs problem in the Deepings? The number, of barbers in the Deepings has increased, and one of the premises may be being used for drug dealing.

Deeping St James Parish Council has CCTV evidence of what is thought to be drug dealing at both Woody Heights and Jubilee Park, but no action has been taken by the Police.

Sgt Crisp encouraged the Parish Council to send in evidence and crime reports whenever it happens for PC Claire Wilson to deal with.

Drug trafficking is now like "deliveroo". Drugs are delivered by motorcycle, and if one courier is caught, he/she will be replaced, and the drug supply continues uninterrupted. This is prevalent in Stamford and Bourne.

10. People have lost confidence in the Police and are no longer reporting incidents and crimes, because of the perception that nothing will be done.

- It is important that every incident is reported, as Policing relies on statistics. With Lincolnshire Police being the lowest funded force in the UK they concentrate resources where most needed
- Incidents are being reported on social media, particularly on Facebook. This is not the right way to do it. These people must be encouraged to inform the Police.

What can be done to change this?

- Education on Social Media
- Using Council Newsletters
- Posters

- Explain different ways to report to the Police, with online being the best option.
- This is something that both councils should Co-operate on.

**Action Point: We must all try and educate residents to notify the Police of all incidents. Both Individually and with both councils working together.**

11. Are you charged for calling 101? No. It is a free service.
12. What will be the fate of the now redundant Police Station? Graham Thompson asked if it could be used by the Deepings Food Bank?  
**Sgt Crisp will feed this back and try to find out more.**
13. Can we set up Neighbourhood Watch? Yes, this can be done details can be found at:  
<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get-involved/find-my-local-scheme>
14. South Kesteven Neighbourhood Team deals with environmental and neighbourhood issues. They take action on a wide range of environmental issues, including:
- Abandoned vehicles
  - Fly-tipping
  - Dog fouling
  - Noisy neighbours
  - Garden fires and bonfires
  - Flyposting
  - Graffiti
  - Untidy gardens / land

These issues should be reported to SKDC either direct or via your District Councillor.

15. Volunteering – for 5 years volunteers opened Deeping Police Station. Chief Inspector Jon Shield was interested in using Police Volunteers in several roles:
- Monitoring collection points during an amnesty
  - Promoting Policing at local events with the Police gazebo eg
    - The Sunday Fun Day
    - Christmas Fair
    - Raft Race
    - Duck Race
  - Allotment watch
    - Cycle marking
  - Visiting groups to show a police presence eg
    - Joan Wake Close
    - Youth Group

**Sgt Crisp will discuss this further with Chief Inspector Jon Shield**

16. Parking problems – vehicles parked in your space or across your driveway, and abandoned vehicles on the street can seem like a matter for the police. However, the first point of contact is very often your local authority.

#### COMMON TYPES OF PARKING ISSUES

Abandoned vehicles - An abandoned vehicle is one which has not been moved or attended to for a long time. There may be visible damage to suggest a crash or signs the vehicle has been stolen, such as:

- significant damage
- it's run-down or unroadworthy, including being rusted
- missing or suspicious number plates
- broken windows, flat tyres
- has a lot of rubbish inside it
- broken or loose ignition
- broken steering column

What you can do about abandoned vehicles

- If you know the vehicle owner, ask them politely to move it.
- Do not take the law into your own hands by intervening, making physical threats or attempting to move the vehicle yourself. You may make the situation worse and even risk committing an offence yourself. If you find one, please report online.

## PARKING DISPUTES

### DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES

If someone has parked in your designated parking space without your permission always try to resolve the issue peacefully yourself. If you can't find the driver to speak to them, try leaving a polite note on their windscreen.

If you lease a property with a parking space, please contact your landlord such as the freeholder, council or managing agent. If the issue continues, you can report antisocial behaviour using our online service.

### SOMEONE PARKING ON YOUR DRIVEWAY

If someone parks on your driveway without your permission, this is trespass, and a civil dispute.

### SOMEONE BLOCKING YOUR DRIVEWAY

If someone has blocked your driveway so you can't drive in, ask the driver politely to move it, if you can find them. If you can't find them, try leaving a note on their windscreen. If this doesn't work, please contact Lincolnshire County Council.

If a person has blocked your driveway and is preventing you from getting your own vehicle out, you can report antisocial behaviour online.

### ILLEGAL PARKING - If the vehicle is parked:

- on zig zag lines
- dangerously
- in a way that would prevent emergency vehicles from accessing

You can report these online to the Police.

### If the vehicle is parked:

- over a dropped kerb
- on a pedestrian crossing (including the area marked by the zig-zag lines)
- in spaces reserved for Blue Badge holders, residents or motorbikes (unless entitled to do so)
- in marked taxi bays, cycle lanes or red lines
- near a school entrance, bus or tram stop

Please report it to Lincolnshire County Council.

17. The Police and Crime Commissioner is to be invited to the next meeting

Next meeting date Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 @ Deeping Community Centre.