

Minutes - Epsom and Ewell Crime Summit – 12th October 2015

1. Why has there been a reduction in local police meetings?

There have been low attendance (sometimes only 5/6 people), so considerations must be made about whether this is a worthwhile use of officers time. Funding cuts have also lead to further limited resources.

2. Has your policy changed in relation to Surrey Police attendance at ward/panel meetings? As at our Police Panel meeting in Cuddington last Thursday, the Police did not turn up.

It appears that the wrong/mixed message may have been conveyed; the police should be attending local meetings (where possible). PCSO's are still available for police panel meetings.

(Kevin): I'm sorry to hear that you were let down at the last minute, and no-one from Surrey Police attended your last community meeting; this is unacceptable. They should have arrived or let you know that they were no longer able to attend.

3. When is the building on the Longmead estate (not sure which one this is?) coming down?

Rosebury housing is not involved in this. Currently the council are working with a new partner to get this completed and are very close to signing the deal; they are just waiting for the legal agreement to come through. A planning application is expected to be submitted by Christmas.

4. Why hasn't the building been bulldozed before?

This is the remit of the local council – for any decisions on this; residents need to speak to the ward councillor and start a petition.

5. Why has the PPC not applied pressure to Rosebury housing, when it's widely known that the key 'problem people' in the area are tenants here?

Kevin will follow up with Chief Executive to discuss options and Kevin will also have discussions with the Chief Constable to find out what is being done on the Longmead estate to help reduce ASB.

6. There is a problem with burglary in the local area. What can we do about it?

Develop neighbourhood watch committees.

The JAG group is busy trying to address some of these issues on the Longmead estate. Local Councillor will be chasing if Rosebury housing representatives don't attend these meetings.

7. Resident has submitted an FOI request and found that there have been 0 enforcements of penalty notices for fly tipping and there does not appear to be any operational policy. Why?

It is very expensive to enforce fly tipping; it is actually cheaper for the Council to undertake the clean-up themselves. The council has been bringing in external people and contractors to help with the clean-up of the Longmead estate; bringing in external people should help to reduce some of the community tensions.

8. We need to have re-access to the recycling centre

This is a local council matter and should be taken up with them.

Surrey Police are running a fly tipping project to help address some of the issues on the Longmead estate.

9. Your 'Zero Tolerance' stance doesn't seem to be occurring?

We are getting increasing collaboration between partners, and are keen to get more people involved. There is of course a limit to how far we can take zero tolerance policing, especially with the increasing budget restrictions.

10. What practical suggestions can be offered to Longmead residents? Aside from the budget cut reference, as problems have been occurring on the estate, long before the recession hit.

- *Write to a member of parliament to counter cuts.*
- *Join a local neighbourhood watch scheme and/or residents association.*
- *Become a mentor to an 'at risk' youth*
- *Become a special constable*
- *Work to support local agencies.*
- *Jeff to look into other areas that are experiencing similar problems to see if we can use some of their ideas/initiatives in the Longmead estate.*
- *Evoke the Community Trigger*
- *New legislation is coming through that will now make it easier for landlords to deal with ASB – we will still need statements or information from the community, but we can use this to help evict problem tenants, so if you do know anything or have had any problems, please do raise this with Rosebury housing.*

11. If we're so short of resources, why do I see Police officers patrolling in pairs?

Operational deployments are a matter for the Chief Constable. It is possible that they were in training.

12. Why have neighbourhood watch schemes not been getting updates from the Police?

Our current system is currently very old and slow, and we have been experiencing a number of technical difficulties that have made us unable to send these updates in the recent months. We are currently in the process of putting out a Tender (as per European guidelines) to obtain a new system, which we are hoping will be up and running in the next few months.

13. What social aspects can we do/can be done to help improve the Longmead estate? As currently the young people have nothing to do.

We currently run the Longmead Kicking exercise, which has proven to be very successful. We are also now running this with a more local football team, who better understands the young people, and the area. This should help with retention, and engagement with some of the more difficult young people, which hasn't always happened previously.

Actions

1. Kevin to talk to Chief Constable to see if there are any specific problem areas/issues that can be rectified in the Longmead area/to find out what is currently being done in the Longmead area.
2. Kevin to follow up with the Chief Executive re applying pressure to Rosebury housing to deal with problem tenants.
3. Kevin to go out with Longmead resident to experience some of the problems on the estate – they have contacted already, so need to follow this up.
4. Jeff to work with the Community Safety Partnership, to see if any other local areas are experiencing similar difficulties and to see if ideas and initiatives can be utilised on the Longmead estate.
5. Paul Taylor to work with resident association and neighbourhood watch groups to help promote them and the work they do.
6. Residents - talk to Rosebury housing if you're having a problem with any of the tenants.

Additional Notes

- We need to get more young people engaged in the neighbourhood watch schemes.
- Epsom Police have provided 'first class' in their help for the Ruislip Neighbourhood Watch.
- (Resident) - Cuts have gone too far, we need more money.
- More officers on the street is not going to happen, there will be a minimum of 500 officers lost over the next few years. However, the Chief Constable is working on ways to maximise visibility. One way is to decrease the numbers of Police Staff and increase the number of Police Officers, but cuts will have consequences.
- (Resident): There are very few neighbourhood watch co-ordinators in the borough, yet they are a useful point of reference and very helpful for the Police.
- Figures shown by Inspector Rutter were 2014/2015 year not 2-15/2016, as shown on the slides.