



Skipton Town Council

15th December 2022 Community Safety Working Group

Present: Councillor Brian McDaid (Chair), Councillor Lewis Morgan, Councillor Winston Feather, North Yorkshire Police Crime & Fire Commissioner Zoe Metcalfe, Amanda Bowers Community Engagement Officer, Inspector Julie Earnshaw North Yorkshire Police, Stacey Reffin Community Safety Officer CDC, Sarah Howsen Skipton BID, Emma Pears and Owen Clark SELFA, Gareth Dixon Craven College, James Neill Skipton Youth Council, Louise Close Chief Officer and Jenny Dean Deputy Clerk Skipton Town Council.

Welcome

Councillor McDaid welcomed everyone to the meeting. This is the first meeting of the Community Safety Working Group that has been established following recent incidents in the Town, and residents raising concerns regarding community safety.

The meeting is not about apportioning blame but finding out what can be done working collectively to work on future strategies.

Introduction

A round of introductions took place

Crime Figures

Inspector Earnshaw gave an update on the crime figures for the last 90 days. There were 562 crimes across Craven, with 50% of these being thefts or violent offences. These equated to 6.2 crimes per day, with Officers on average having 1 crime a day to deal with.

Clarification was given on the term violent offences, as this covers a wide range of crimes from some being minor to others more serious. It also includes domestic incidents.

A discussion was held regarding the 3 recent incidents, those being the stabbing on Keighley Road, the incident in the Black Horse and the one on the canal involving a homeless man. Inspector Earnshaw reported that the 3 incidents were unrelated and were isolated incidents.

As these incidents had been reported and discussed on social media, it is understandable that residents are concerned about community safety and antisocial behaviour, and that the public perception is that crime levels are increasing. But Skipton remains a safe place to live, and crime levels remain low.

Licenses are doing everything required of them, and the STAND group is now re-established with the Police working closely with them.

Skipton BID has also funded marshals to workover the festive season.

The Bus Station was highlighted as an area that residents were particularly concerned about from the results of a survey recently carried out. The full survey results are being analysed, and the location is now having a problem solving plan developed for it.

Stacey Reffin reported that the bus station has always been a location that has attracted people gathering there. Part of CDC's statutory duties are to prevent ASB, and they utilise methods such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, which work well particularly if parents are on board. There has not been a rise in ASB recently. ASB also includes environmental antisocial behaviour, so this needs to be taken into account when looking at figures.

Commissioner Zoe asked if CDC have mobile CCTV cameras. CDC do not have mobile cameras available for ASB. Sarah Howsen updated the group on some electrical issues that NYCC need to resolve to get the camera at Keighley Road up and running.

Action: Sarah to follow up with NYCC, and if needed contact Cllr Andy Solloway

Action: NYCC Councillors for Skipton to be invited to the next meeting

Action: Skipton Town Council to consider how it can keep residents informed about this meeting, and the actual crime stats for the area.

Open Discussion

Councillor McDaid reported that his experience of being a Governor at the PRU was that there is increasing violent behaviour in schools, and asked those who work with young people to share their experience.

Gareth Dixon said this was the same at the college, but from a minority of students. The college have now employed two security guards to work on site. They are exploring upgrading their CCTV. Covid has had a massive impact on behaviour in college.

Commissioner Zoe asked how the college work with services such as social services. The college work closely with social services, but this is an area in need of additional resources. Students also come from a wide area so the college are required to work with 4 local authorities. 50% of students come from Bradford area.

James reported that members of the Youth Council had spoken with the Skipton Academy, and that it was felt that there were not enough after school activities. The college don't currently have any after school activities but would investigate and consider any proposals put forward by the Youth Council.

Action: Youth Council to discuss/survey what activities could be considered

Action: All secondary schools in Skipton to be invited to future meetings

Emma Pears gave some background on SELFA, and that SELFA provides support throughout childhood, where other interventions often are only short term. SELFA have identified a small number of individuals who have a big impact on resources, and would benefit from more targeted 121 work.

Sharing data, intelligence and lived experience would enable us to identify and fill gaps.

Action: Commissioner Zoe will have a conversation with the integrated care board.

Question and Answers to Commissioner Zoe

Commissioner Zoe began by giving an explanation of her role. Now that she has attended this meeting she will be able to go to the Chief Constable to discuss resources and how we can work more effectively.

There was a discussion about how the community have lower tolerance levels for ASB since COVID, and how issues such as mental health have been adversely affected by COVID. Some services, such as Youth provision, that stopped during COVID may not have returned in the same way they operated previously.

Following questions regarding police resources, Inspector Earnshaw reported that there are approximately 51 officers based from Skipton, including response and neighbourhood teams. There are some students who are coming through their training at the moment so this number will be increasing.

Councillor Morgan said that residents often say to him that there is a lack of visible policing. Inspector Earnshaw reported that due to the numbers of new students the number of officers at Skipton would be increasing. Emma Pears raised that when the Police set up a gazebo on Broughton Road this was a very positive activity, and gave the community a chance to speak to the Police.

Following a question about resources on weekend evenings, and bust times of the year, Inspector Earnshaw discussed the changing shift pattern of the Police to ensure busy periods are covered. Stacey informed the meeting of a joint campaign about getting home safely from nights out over the Christmas period.

Following a question about resources for youth activities, Commissioner Zoe discussed the Community Safety Fund, and a portable van where they can do outreach work. This could be something that the group could put a bid to get involved in.

Councillor Feather updated the group on the previous work of the Street Angels, that were volunteers who worked weekend evenings. At least 15-20 volunteers are needed, as 6 volunteers were needed for each evening that they go out. The scheme was very beneficial.

Action: Stacey Reffin, along with Cllr Feather, to look into the Street Angels Scheme, and whether it can be resurrected.

Action: Emma Pears to work with Cllr McDaid to arrange a meeting with NYCC Youth and Sport services to find out what else happens around the county, where are the commissioned services and where are the gaps.

Action: Commissioner Zoe and Inspector Earnshaw to send a report to future meetings with any updates they have.

Once it has been established what gaps there are, and what after school provision is needed/wanted, joint funding applications could be submitted.

Summary of Actions Agreed

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Next Meeting

All agreed that the Working Group should meet every 2 months. Future dates would be circulated.