

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2024 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors D Bligh
R Goodchild
K Pughe - Chair
N Trenor
P McMorrow

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
S Sandiford (Deputy Town Clerk)
M Jahn (Committee Officer)
T/Sgt A Ison (Bedfordshire Police)
Inspector J Hurley (Bedfordshire Police)

Members of the Public: 2

21/CS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

22/CS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

23/CS QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 minutes per person; maximum 15 minutes)

There were no questions from the public.

24/CS MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 October 2023 for consideration.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Safety Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 October 2023 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

25/CS LEIGHTON TOWN BOXING CLUB

Two members of the Boxing Club attended the meeting and gave a verbal update on the club which had now moved into new premises in the town centre, with groups meeting since last Tuesday 9th January 2024. So far 56 children and 54 adults had attended the club and it was projected this would rise to around 70 children and between 50 and 60 adults on a regular basis. The Club was open four nights a week at present and it was hoped in future to expand to offer more support and help to participants alongside other organisations such as Ollie's foundation and TACTIC. A formal opening

would be arranged and Councillors invited to attend to see the good work being carried out by the volunteers at the Club.

Further to the resolution made by committee on the 10 July 2023 to consider releasing grant funding to the Boxing Club from the Community Safety earmarked reserve and following the provision of detailed estimates for building works and equipment required, members agreed to provide grant funding of £5,000 in this financial year with further discussion at the next meeting in April 2024 regarding the remaining balance.

RESOLVED to support initial grant funding to Leighton Town Boxing Club of £5,000 from the Community Safety earmarked reserves for the purchase of equipment in this financial year with the remaining balance being discussed at the next meeting in April 2024.

26/CS BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

The Sub-Committee received a report on Operation Dodford additional policing activity for September, October and November 2023, including details of market day patrols, key incidents and statistics in respect of crimes and anti-social behaviour. Bossard House was now in operation as a permanent base for the Community Support Team. It was hoped to be able to use this as a multi-agency facility with housing, police and community safety using the same premises. Members were keen to have a public facing desk available which could be manned by volunteers at Bossard House as had been promised previously.

Since the last meeting the key issue of shoplifting had been targeted with extra random shifts scheduled but not in a regular pattern and this seems to have reduced the instances of shoplifting in the town.

A question was raised regarding the actual number of police based in the town during the day and night. Members felt this needed addressing following recent increases in the police precept but no perceived increase in the number of police officers available. A suggestion was made to invite the Police Crime Commissioner to a future meeting of this sub-committee to address and discuss this issue.

The Community Officers were thanked for their report and for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED to note the report.

27/CS CCTV & REDPLOYABLE CAMERAS

The Sub-Committee received the CCTV reports created and published by Central Bedfordshire Council for the months of September, October and November 2023. It was discussed that a visit to the CCTV control room would be arranged and Councillors would be notified when the date was confirmed.

RESOLVED to note the report.

28/CS 'WATCH' SCHEMES UPDATE

Members were informed that the Speed Watch group was not operating at present and an appeal had been made on social media by the Town Council for more volunteers. This appeal would also be included in the new About Town for volunteers for Speed Watch and Shop Watch to enable those schemes to continue.

RESOLVED to note the information.

The meeting closed at 2035 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2024.

Chair

8 APRIL 2024