

Barrow District Association

3rd Meeting – 27th September 2018

Part 1 Presentation

Inspector James Bailey gave an update on community policing in Barrow borough. He is responsible for Barrow town and the parishes. **ACTION:** James Bailey to check that he covers Lindal and Marton parish, as well as Dalton with Newton and Askam and Ireleth parishes. He explained that the history of policing is all about community policing with “bobbies on the beat” and this was the case all the way through to the 1950s and the introduction of panda cars. There are three elements to policing: neighbourhood, response (to 999 calls) and investigative. With a reduction in funding from 2009 forces contracted and neighbourhood policing really suffered, particularly when it was combined with response in Cumbria, so communities felt let down. It is true that policing has got more complicated as mobile phones and laptops need searching and there is a lot going on in the background that communities don't see. An inspection by HMIC in 2016 was critical of the erosion of neighbourhood policing, so the Police and Crime Commissioner decided on dedicated community inspectors for each district and 25 more community officers (of which 4 have come to Barrow). The inspectors were appointed in 2017 to re-establish partners (eg. councils, business), work with key people and manage sergeants.

There are multiple strands to this work.

- 1) is all about the *culture* of the police so that it is accountable to the public, transparent and honest and adheres to a code of ethics.
- 2) is the *community engagement* element. Networking (whether school visits or dropping in at corner shops) to get local people to trust the police and then they are more likely to share issues and information. Indeed, young people in Askam (through the Parish Plan survey) responded that they would like the opportunity to chat to the police informally.
- 3) There is a *problem solving* element, whether on a large, multi-agency level like Egerton Court on Barrow Island (involving health partners as well) or a small level to resolve repeated anti-social behaviour at a particular house, through speaking to the residents and landlord or introducing a closure order if necessary. In Askam, there is interest from the community to set up a Speed Watch scheme. **ACTION:** James Bailey to track down speed gun and liaise with Askam parish council. There is an issue of people using gas canisters to get high (eg. at Duddon Road car park) and then driving under the influence. **ACTION:** Askam parish council to liaise with PCSO on this problem.

Element 4) is about *targeting activity* so officers are concentrating on hot spots (such as Barrow town centre). Barrow police uses informative, yet humorous, posts on social media to communicate with the public and has 15,500 followers. It also uses social media to pick

up on local issues, eg. parking on yellow lines outside schools. **ACTION:** Parish clerks to follow Cumbria Police Facebook and Twitter.

Element 5) is about *Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)*. Only BBC can apply and this is likely soon. There are different powers available (eg. ban on drinking alcohol in public spaces, dispersal from a street corner, anti-social behaviour with vehicles). It allows officers to remove alcohol, for example, and to arrest if necessary.

Element 6) is investigative work on *child sexual exploitation* and how young girls are being groomed by drug gangs. Also, trying to break cycles of adverse child experiences (as domestic violence, drug or alcohol abuse in the home increase the chance of poor mental health, early death or prison) by diverting young people (into rugby or boxing for example).

In conclusion, Inspector Bailey said that internet crime is increasing and would welcome the opportunity to give tips on how to keep safe online. **ACTION:** Parish councils to suggest venues for such meetings on internet fraud and scams. Best way to contact police (for non-emergencies) is by email: 101@cumbriapolice and for FAO of relevant officer.

Part 2 Association Business

1. Present

Mike Cumming (Askam); Sandra Hadwick (Askam); Amanda McCleery (CALC); Alf Waite (Lindal); Ben Shirley (County Councillor for Dalton North).

With no parish councillors present from Dalton with Newton the meeting was not quorate to continue with the rest of the business, for example electing a Chairman and Vice Chairman. So, it was decided to hold this over until the **next District Association meeting in March 2019** (following a Barrow JRC meeting), with Mike Cumming agreeing to continue as Chairman until then. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to request that CCC Highways Barrow Network Manager, Keiron Tetchner, attends that meeting, once the date known.