

AMPTHILL COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP  
Minutes of meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016

	<b>Present:</b> June Hutley Tim Norman Peter Downing Helen Armitage Cllr Paul Downing Steve Ware Barbara Wheeler Alan Read	
1.	<b>Apologies</b> Lloyd Hynes	
2.	<p><b>Report by Councillor Paul Downing</b> The Crime Prevention meeting held at the Rufus Centre was well attended, mainly by parish and town councils across Bedfordshire. Some questions from the floor couldn't be answered because of lack of specific knowledge. One of the topics discussed was vans being broken into and tools stolen, which seems to be an emerging trend. Victims have been unhappy with the police response. At an ATC meeting last week there was a report of an incident in Tavistock Avenue when the owner of a van made a citizens arrest when he found someone breaking into his van. He called the Police but, when there had been no response after an hour, he had to let the perpetrator go. Paul has written to PCC Kathryn Holloway about the situation together with questions about the recruitment of specials, the circulation of crime figures, and her promise of more uniformed visibility in village areas. To date he has had no reply. Our local officer is currently in charge of 15 areas with limited resources to call on. At a meeting of the fire service it was revealed that the police took two hours to respond to the major fire on the A6. However there was a reasonable police presence in Clophill for Halloween where there are sometimes incidents near the old church..</p> <p>The Deputy Chief constable Mark Collins is leaving to move to Daffyd as Chief Constable, which will mean another change of senior officers in Bedfordshire.</p>	
3.	<b>Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b> These were accepted.	
4.	<p><b>Matters arising;</b>  <b>4.1 Station Road</b> No progress has been made on the scheme. However, June has heard from Steve Lakin at CBC that it will be done within this financial year, i.e.before April 2017.  <b>4,2, Warren Farm</b> June has had a reply from CBC that S106 monies will come through as the development progresses. She has been supplied with a list of all the works but no details about where the S106 money will be spent. We will keep pursuing the details. If the CIL were in place the money would have to be spent locally rather than anywhere in Bedfordshire.  <b>4,3 Number 4</b> There are rumours that Number 4 is to close. Cllr Downing will be seeing Mark Collins next week and will check the situation  <b>4,4 Website</b> We have now paid for another year with Mr Site. Steve has updated all the links. He asked if we should add some paragraphs on the initiatives page about current issues and Street Watch, Warren Farm, and Number 4. Members agreed this would be a good idea.  <b>4.5 Parking and vehicles over 7 ½ tons</b> June asked Juliet Wright whether anything could be done about cars parked illegally or dangerously and was told that we could report it to 101. We could also ask CBC for extra patrols if we identify particular problems. Glebe Road is a case in point with cars parking too close to the junction with Flitwick Road.  Once the A6-M1 link is opened, it will divert traffic from the A507 which will be downgraded and this should remove a lot of heavy traffic. The A421 is to be converted to dual carriageway. Steve said there are problems at</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PD</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JH/HA</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JH</b></p>

	Junction 13 on the M1 roundabout because traffic going into the Amazon site at busy times leads to gridlock.. Paul said the Flying Horse roundabout is also a pinch point. There have been heavy lorries coming through Ampthill town centre despite the 7 ½ ton limit causing chaos at the roundabouts. We could approach ATC to see whether the CCTV cameras in the town centre could be used to capture offending vehicles registration numbers. Mark Smith may be able to help with this. Paul suggested it might be possible to request the use of police cadets to monitor traffic in the town centre. He will also check on what is happening about the relocation of the tidy tip gates further back into the site so that lorries do not have to queue on Abbey Lane.	JH PD PD
5	<b>Local Plan Meeting</b> The online survey about CBC's new local plan has now closed. There are a number of local meetings planned to discuss it further. The Ampthill meeting will take place on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> February next year and we will have a presence there. Location and time to be confirmed.	Ongoing
6	<b>Crime Figures</b> The most recent ones received via Street Watch have more detailed figures but there are still no outcomes included.	Ongoing
7.	<b>Crime Prevention Meeting</b> June and Peter attended. Lesley Johnson, the Crime Prevention officer said that figures for the various types of crime vary throughout the year. Light levels play a part as more crime takes place in the winter months. The biggest deterrent is for people to keep changing their habits. Operation Salcoat is ongoing which discourages speeding and informs residents of ways to avoid being a victim of crime. Operation Fidelity targets burglary. Burglary response surgeries are intended to reassure neighbours in areas which have been hit. One way of protecting possessions is to put bells on purses and bags to alert owners if someone is touching them. Empty product boxes should not be visible if there is no room for them in the recycling bin, as this tells thieves what is in premises. This especially applies at Christmas There is now a designated Police Officer who advises developers and CBC on the design of new developments to avoid places where crime would be easy to commit. A designated Police Officer for travellers has also been appointed and Kathryn Holloway is aiming to improve procedures to speed up the removal of illegal traveller sites. Juliet Wright spoke about the various Watch schemes and the important part they play in the community.	
8	<b>AOB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Towns which have a Neighbourhood Plan can challenge developers even after planning permission is granted by local authorities. Ampthill does not have one but Cllr Downing advised that the Local Plan would override a Neighbourhood Plan so it would have limited powers.</li> <li>Christmas Tree Festival: We have been invited to submit a tree but unless anyone has any brilliant suggestions we will decline this year.</li> </ul>	
9	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b> December 13 <sup>th</sup> at 1830, Waitrose Training Room <i>Post meeting note; The Training Room at Waitrose is not available at all in December as it is used to store gifts ordered from John Lewis. June will enquire whether we can have it on January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 instead and confirm to everyone.</i>	JH