



## Community Forum Action Notes



**Forum: Norton, Pedmore & Stourbridge East, and Wollaston & Stourbridge Town**

**Date and time: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 6.30pm**

**Venue: Norton Community Centre, Kempton Way, Norton, Stourbridge, DY8 3AP**

**Attendance:** Councillors Colin Elcock (chair), Angus Lees (vice-chair), Steve Clark, Les Jones, Ian Kettle and Heather Rogers  
Officers/police: Simon Manson (Liaison Officer), Iain Gillet (Community Development Worker), Chief Superintendent Sally Bournier, Sgt Joanne Fletcher and PC Emily Weaver  
Members of the public: 20

**1. Apologies and declarations of interest:** Apology from Councillor Nicolas Barlow

### **2. Police and Communities Together**

Chief Superintendent Sally Bournier, in charge of policing in Dudley Borough introduced herself and outlined her background and motivations.

#### Subject

#### Action/Response

Chief Superintendent indicated that Dudley was the safest borough in the West Midlands for crimes per 1,000 population; Stourbridge wards amongst the safest in the borough. There were a small number of crimes but some with significant impacts on individuals and communities.  
Priorities are violent, including knife, crime; car jackings and home invasion/aggravated burglaries.

Police were thanked for knife detector deployed in 4 pubs in Stourbridge town centre on Saturday evening.

Over 400 customers went through detector; those who didn't were searched although no weapons found. Also used in a school today: 1 knife found. Will be used again in town centre and schools. Preventing harm is the focus. Police working with Urban Boundaries in Year 6 at primary schools. Stop and search used carefully; young persons panel monitors. Will use S60 powers to search individuals where necessary.

Parking outside St James's Primary School

School needs to take some responsibility for communicating with parents. PCSO will meet with school and TRA on this within next 6 months.

Responsibility for policing strategy and funding decisions

Police funded from Home Office and local council precept. Police and Crime Commissioner sets priorities, decides budget, and holds the Chief Constable to account; Chief Constable responsible for operational issues across West Midlands. Chief Superintendent responsible for policing in the borough.

Drugs and anti-social behaviour offences increased in Norton. Concern that grooming for gangs taking place in Stourbridge.

Police working closely with council and other agencies through Children's Safeguarding Board. There are some young people being exploited in borough e.g. through 'county lines'. Drug operations undertaken in town centre; some recent successes with cannabis factory seizures.

Please report information using Crimestoppers or direct to Sgt Fletcher by email or phone.

Number of recent burglaries around Compton Road, Pedmore. What can communities do to help?

Can sign up to Street Watch (community-led initiative based on street patrols carried out by members of the public with no police powers but with training and support) - contact Sgt Fletcher.

Residents have set up a local WhatsApp group.

Please pass on information shared locally through social media to police.

Number of other parking and speeding concerns raised.

Parking enforcement generally a council responsibility. Police have to prioritise and need to manage expectations. However, PCSOs can be deployed to work with communities e.g. on resolving parking issues through getting messages out through schools, etc. Community speed watches operate e.g. covering Norton Road. Photos of dangerous parking can be sent to the Road Harm Reduction Team

Policing resources available in Stourbridge and closure of police stations

West Midlands Police is a significantly smaller force following 9 years of cutbacks. Fewer buildings were needed and were moving to digital services where appropriate. The aim was still to have neighbourhood Sgts. based in Stourbridge; there is the pop up station in the Ryemarket.

The key is mobilizing citizens to be the eyes and ears of the police, pass on information and join schemes such as street watch and speed watch.

Sgt Fletcher has 4 PCs and 4 PCSO posts (although 1 of each long-term sick) in neighbourhood team. There are also borough and force wide teams which are deployed locally when appropriate.

Police and Crime Commissioner recently announced the recruitment of 200 new officers over next 2 years.

Tenants and residents associations can help with getting information around.

Police provide advice and information digitally.

Advice and support and live web chat available on [www.west-midlands.police.uk](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk)

Twitter feed for Stourbridge police:  
@StourbridgeWMP

Sign up to alerts through:  
[www.wmnow.co.uk](http://www.wmnow.co.uk)

Liaison officer to add to future community forum agendas.

### 3. Listening to you

#### Subject

Vandalism to steps and threatening behaviour by resident on Dorset Road. Wollaston Farm TRA requested response about resident being charged for damage.

#### Action/Response

Cllr Alan Hopwood pursuing issue. Question sheet submitted for response.

### 4. Working with you

#### Subject

Cllr Clark dealing with a range of ward matters.

Cllr Kettle referred to an ASB issue resulting in an arrest and concern re scooter in area.

Cllr Rogers had worked to get yellow lines installed on Corser Street, Love Lane, Stanley Road, Gainsborough Hill, Yarnborough Hill and Mary Stevens Close to help traffic flow.

#### Action/Response

Cllr Elcock was helping to seek sponsorship for a local budding archer hoping to reach the Olympics.

## **5. Funding**

### Applicant

63 Military Intelligence Unit charitable fund

### Recommendation

£1,650.00 for the design, casting and installation of a Blue Plaque on a former residence of Major Frank Foley in Eveson Road

**Meeting ended at: 8.30 pm**