

## PANGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

**A remote meeting of the Pangbourne Neighbourhood Action Group was held via Zoom at 4.30pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

**Present** S Briscoe Purley on Thames PC (Chairman), J Spring Streatley, I Parsons Basildon PC, PC R Perry TVP, PS D Lond, R Jones WBC and Purley on Thames PC, J Higgs, Pangbourne PC, B Kerr-Muir Pangbourne PC, J Chishick Tidmarsh with Sulham PC, A Williamson WBC (*arrived part-way through*)

**In attendance** S Williams, Assistant Clerk, Purley on Thames Parish Council

**21/09 Apologies** G Child Pangbourne PC

**21/10 Declarations of Interest** None

**21/11 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were accepted and would be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**21/12 Matters arising from the Minutes that are not already on the Agenda** None

**21/13 Introductions and reports**

**Pangbourne**

It was reported that, before and during the Easter holidays, there had been an increase in antisocial behaviour (ASB) and littering and, the week before the NAG meeting, an item of play equipment and some surfacing had been damaged. There had also been reports of abusive and threatening behaviour to families using the playground, as well as several instances of motorbikes being driven on the meadows and electric scooters being ridden at speed on narrow pavements in the village. Residents of Thames Avenue had been subjected to abusive behaviour from drunken youths, front and rear gardens had been accessed, fencing from the meadows had been broken and there had been other damage to property.

The above had all been reported to TVP; CCTV had recently been installed at the Recreation Ground and meadows and footage had already been provided to the police. TVP explained that meadows everywhere were currently attracting young people, it was simply due to current restrictions and circumstances. A few things were being considered, such as use of horses and explaining water safety issues. Riding electric scooters on pavements remained illegal.

There had been a significant increase in dangerous and obstructive parking outside shops in the centre of Pangbourne. The Belisha beacon outside Garlands had been smashed and would be replaced, and WBC had also been asked to look at improving signage and white lines and increasing the level of parking enforcement. TVP was also asked to be aware of the problems. TVP explained that the overall parking situation was expected to improve when people were less reliant on takeaway food/drink services. The issue of deliveries and lorries was a slightly different matter which resulted from the road layout; it was not clear what could be done to deal with the problem.

There was a continuing problem of speeding on Pangbourne Hill and the SID had been deployed and photographs of speeding vehicles would be submitted to TVP.

There had been further issues of speeding and reckless driving at the Reading end of Bourne Road. TVP explained that the speed gun could be taken out only if Cheryl Evans at WBC authorised/instructed it.

*A Williamson arrived during the above discussion.*

J Higgs reported that Pangbourne's new warden had been absolutely brilliant; as well as clearing up rubbish herself, she talked to people and was getting to know them, and she handed out bags for people to use when clearing up after their visit.

### **Basildon**

There had been problems similar to those in Pangbourne. ASB had been most evident only in the last couple of weeks. TVP would go round the village hall and recreation ground and drive through the village regularly to deter further incidents.

There had been an increase in parking, largely by walkers who parked in parking spaces on the narrow roads, which held up traffic and caused problems for deliveries. Improved signage and road markings and the installation of a speed camera had been agreed with WBC.

### **Purley on Thames**

It was reported that, although there had been problems over the past year, Purley had been fairly quiet so far in 2021 and there were no major issues to discuss.

WBC had put parking restrictions in place and the PC was also in discussions about how to deal with the litter problems.

A Williamson mentioned that motorbikes had been taken down Mapledurham Drive and ridden on the meadows by the river. TVP explained that off-road bikes were being used by young people as a cheap, unregulated form of outdoor entertainment. It was hoped that the problem would reduce as facilities reopened and other options became available.

S Briscoe reported there had been instances of young people throwing stones at people and dogs. TVP advised reporting all incidents so that developing issues and trends can be highlighted.

There was an ongoing problem of parents parking by the school in the village and the idea of using cones/cut outs was still being considered. It was agreed that PCSOs would be present at school drop off and pick up times over the next week or so.

### **Streatley**

Overall, the problems were similar to those already discussed.

Parking problems at the top of Streatley Hill had been dealt with quickly by WBC introducing cones and road markings. The SID on Wantage Road had been put in the wrong place and facing the wrong direction. There had been issues of motor and pedal bikes being ridden on footpaths, often by older, more abusive people. Littering and petty damage by groups had been reported. The damaged fencing at the recreation ground had been replaced with a metal gate and posts being used rather than wood.

A pedestrian had been hit by a car while walking on the High Street pavement, there was dashcam footage of the incident. TVP reported that it was not aware this had happened.

There had been a problem of obscene and offensive graffiti on benches on the National Trust land south of Streatley Hill. As the graffiti had been in chalk, the clerk had arranged for it to be removed and, so far, there had been no recurrence. TVP confirmed that this had been an isolated incident and asked that any similar problems were reported.

### **Tidmarsh with Sulham**

J Chishick asked that two incidents the previous year be recorded in the minutes.

On 30 May 2020, travellers trying to break into the village green had been caught on a security camera. The turn into the green was too tight for them to drive in easily, and parishioners had managed to block their access. Unfortunately, the footage also shows police cars driving past rather than stopping to help.

A few weeks later, the same security camera caught the end of a police car chase which resulted in a police car turning from the main road into Mill Lane very dangerously and on the wrong side of the road.

In both cases, TVP's response/actions had been extremely disappointing and, although nothing could be done now, the PC wished to have the matters formally logged in the minutes.

Other than that, higher numbers of walkers in Sulham Woods had led to an increase in instances of dangerous parking at the top of Sulham Hill. WBC had dealt with the problem very quickly by introducing double yellow lines which had helped, but TVP was also asked to keep an eye on the area as well.

### **West Berkshire Council**

Nothing further was reported.

### **TVP**

#### **Reported incidents to April 2021**

	Tidmarsh with Sulham	Pangbourne	Basildon	Purley on Thames	Streatley
ASB personal/community	4			9	2
Criminal damage	1			0	3
Theft from cars	1			1	1
Theft of cars	2			1	0
Burglary – dwelling	1			1	2
Burglary – non dwelling	1			0	0
Theft	1			0	2
Assault injury/non injury	0			6	2

The way in which ASB was recorded had changed in November 2020 and every call had to be logged, regardless of whether there was an obvious crime. The assaults in Purley also seemed high but two were an elderly dementia patient mildly assaulting her carer, one was an issue between two 14-year old girls, and one was a non-domestic classed family incident.

Figures for Pangbourne and Basildon had not been provided but had been requested in future.

TVP was due to move to the new fire station in Theale in October 2021. The Superintendents' Association would remain in Pangbourne.

#### **21/14 REVIEW OF OPEN PROFILES**

##### **Antisocial behaviour**

There was nothing further to report.

#### **21/15 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA OR REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ACTION**

None

#### **21/16 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 4.30pm (subject to change) to be chaired by Jon Chishick. If it was possible to have a face-to-face meeting, it would be held in the Large Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft, Purley on Thames. If restrictions were still in place, a remote meeting would be held via Zoom.