



MINUTES OF SILSDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY 26th JULY 2017 SILSDEN TOWN HALL@1900.

Present: P Robinson- Chair
C Goodall – Minutes
K Amos N/W/C
J Kilvington N/W/C
J Grogan MP

K Khan Police Inspector – West Yorks Police
D Livesley PC - West Yorks Police
J Beecroft Chief Inspector -West Yorks Police

Over 50 Silsden Residents Attended

Apologies: There were no apologies submitted

- G1** **Welcome and format of meeting PR)**
PR- Welcomed all to the meeting and expressed his delight at the high numbers of residents that had taken time out to attend.
- PR** Explained he had been asked by **KA** to chair the meeting and had no hesitation in accepting, He therefore introduced the panel of guests.
- G2** **Neighbourhood Watch Overview (KA-JK)**
- KA-** Updated all on the neighbourhood watch overview of current issues.
- She thanked all for attending and touched on the crime within Silsden and the fact that residents thought not enough was being done to tackle such.
- It was explained that as a consequence some residents were taking it up on themselves to patrol the area, **KA** Stated this was a good initiative but it may also end up in a resident or residents being at risk and therefore such needed to be coordinated with the police and other bodies.

KA- Urged residents to report crimes whether trivial or not. She had taken residents' concerns around such to Silsden Town council, which as a consequence has resulted in tonight's meeting to establish what actions we can agree together that would help Silsden to be a better place to live and to achieve, as we all have a responsibility.

G3

Comments from JG (MP)

JG- Firstly He explained sadly he had other engagements and would be able to stay for up to 30mins.

But he wanted to place on record the hard work done so far by **KA** and **JK** for Silsden's neighbourhood watch scheme. He also commented on the number of residents that had attended the meeting quoting it has been a long while since extra chairs had to be brought into such a meeting which clearly shows a high degree of community spirit in the Silsden area.

He stated these schemes work best in partnership with other bodies such as the police, he mentioned that in Keighley we have an outstanding leader in Inspector Khan, He explained that Inspector Khan and his team were doing an excellent job in difficult circumstances.

He also took the opportunity to thank the senior police team for turning out tonight

JG Left the meeting at 1930

Response and update from West Yorkshire Police (JB)

G4

JB- Informed all that she was also a resident of Silsden and as such had a personal interest in the area. She stated over the last few years with budget reductions, the police as whole has had to tighten their belts.

She stated that we all needed to collectively work together to tackle the issue in Silsden

KK- He informed all that he had been in post since December 2016, He initially started as a ward inspector and as such he had a good understanding of the issues within the Keighley area ideas that could improve/solve the underlining issues.

He had met with local councillors and MP to discuss the issues around neighbourhood policing. He pointed out that the force had difficult choices/decisions to make re resources last year which were painful for neighbourhood policing, However, he was happy to highlight that he had been given extra resources joining his team and this would help/support us going forward in tackling the current issues.

He stated that he further needs the help/support from residents i.e. being

the eyes and ears for the police and reporting crime and providing intelligence. He was also fully aware the need for safeguarding vulnerable members of the community.

He further highlighted that in the first 3 months of the year there was a total of 5 Burglaries reported in the Silsden area. However, 3 out of the 5 reported were as a consequence of the residents leaving doors/windows unlocked

He touched on vehicle theft/crime and again highlighted that on investigation it was found that a number of vehicles had been left unlocked and items of value left on display and as such this had resulted in said crime taking place. He did not rule out that devices existed to unlock cars, but all the cctv evidence seen so far was that the perpetrators had randomly tried car doors until they found one open.

He further stated that security was the key message such as ensuring all properties/vehicles were secured and in vehicles valuables should be placed out of sight in the boot

KK- Spoke about antisocial behaviour in Silsden he stated that compared to other local areas the incidents of antisocial behaviour was low. However, he highlighted a recent case of a stolen motor bike which had been followed from north Yorkshire to Silsden and when in Silsden the rider and bike were detained and arrested.

He further stated that police will have a visible presence in the area where antisocial behaviour has been reported.

The strategy is to engage with residents, not just in situations when a crime has been committed, but as an on-going tool in tackling crime. This evening's attendance has clearly shown we want to work together and with all due respect the audience is of age where engagement is very good, but the Local Police's team need to engage more with the youth of Silsden.

KK- Presented further stats i.e. In the first 3 months of this year there had been a total of 59 crimes recorded with a further 53 recorded the second 3 month period.

G5

Concerns, Comments and questions from the public

1. Why can't we have cameras installed in and around Silsden?

Action

Response It's a funding issue and something will be put to Silsden Town Council to discuss.

Action

2. My daughter's car door was kicked causing damage and as such my daughter had to pay for the repair as the offender had run off i.e. if there were cameras then he would hopefully have been identified.

Response re Q1

Action 3. The top of Howden Road is the route most criminals take on entering and leaving Silsden as they are fully aware it is likely that there will be caught or captured on camera and as such it would be ideal to install some sort of ANPR device.

Response Re Q1& 2

Action 4. If cameras were to be installed would it not result in a net saving to residents in less insurance claims being submitted and a decrease in the pressures of police call outs?

Response Re Q1,2,& 3

5. I recently installed cameras at my property at a cost of £600 as consequences of regular vandalism this decision resulted in 2 persons being arrested and convicted of Vandalism.

Response

Round of applause from all in attendance, **JB-** Highlighted this was a good example of what such intelligence can do when prosecuting such crimes. She urged others to be as positive.

6. Would the police benefit from having contact details of all residents whom currently have such camera's installed for a visible aid in the fight against crime?

Response

JB- Stated yes that would be very helpful, as in most cases of crime officers would look to see if neighbouring properties had such devices that may have capture some intelligence.

KA- Informed residents this is possibly something that can be done through neighbourhood watch.

Action 7. Why are there more police foot patrols over the border in Craven than in Silsden?

Response Re Q 1,2 & 3

KK- Further presented stats which showed that 20 offences were prosecuted in the last 3 months. Some offenders were local to Silsden and some outside of Silsden

8. Why has the contact point been removed?

Action **Response JB-** It was not cost effective to have a police officer sat there all day hoping that residents would call. Figures clearly showed that on average, up to 2 residents a session used the facility.

KA- Stated again this is something we could look into with regards volunteer's manning such contact points **KA-** Also asked for volunteers as coordinators to push the Neighbourhood Watch forward as currently there was only her an **JK** co-ordinating all the information. As each have full time day jobs it would be a great help to have other volunteers.

KK- Highlighted that Drug dealers from Keighley were coming into Silsden. Police are hitting them hard but need further intelligence from residents in the fight against drug dealing.

He further stated Class A drugs were not a big issue in Silsden but Class B was.

JB- Stated that all crime can now be reported on line as well as the phone.

9. Can you tell me what is the standard response time following a 999 call?

Response JB- If when the crime is reported the offender is still on scene then a response will be swift. However, if the offender has left the scene the response could be longer.

10. We dialled 999 and it took 2 hours before a bobby arrived.

Response JB- All calls are risk assessed and prioritised accordingly, the Bradford division receives up to 600 calls per day.

11. I had a caravan broken in to and the police arrived within 6 minutes and the offenders were arrested excellent service.

Response JB- This may have been a unit that was nearby.

JL- Going forward the Neighbourhood Watch has been very successful we are notified of any local crime which help us pass this on to residents, but as **KA** had said earlier, we need further support in helping us speak to residents who don't use social media and therefore again, it would be great if some more residents volunteered.

KA- Residents need to speak/support each other and collectively report concerns, as such togetherness makes us stronger. Again, we need people to help support the Neighbourhood Watch and therefore you can contact KA or JL if you're interested.

12. Why have some St Lights been switched off this allows crime to be carried out under the cover of darkness?

Action

Response Re Q1,2,& 3

PR Closed the meeting at 2030 and thanked all for attending

