

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Safety Sub-Committee** held on **8 November 2000** when there were present:

Cllr Mrs J E Ford - Chairman

Cllr R A Amner  
Cllr Mrs R Brown  
Cllr K A Gibbs  
Cllr J E Grey

Cllr Mrs J Hall  
Cllr V H Leach  
Cllr Mrs W M Stevenson  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D M Ford, D R Helson and R A Pearson

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllrs D F Flack and Mrs H L A Glynn

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren – Chief Executive  
R Hill – Assistant Community Safety Officer  
J Mitchell – Domestic Violence Co-ordinator  
A Wyatt – Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Chief Inspector Bottrill – Essex Police

### **159 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting on 26 September 2000 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **160 PRESENTATION BY YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM**

The Sub-Committee welcomed Sgt Michael Armstrong who had been invited to attend the Meeting to give a brief presentation to Members on the work of the Youth Offending Team covering the Rochford District. Sgt Armstrong advised Members of the background to the work of the Youth Offending Team, its current establishment and its main aim which was “to prevent offending by children and young people”.

Members noted that there were four Youth Offending Teams covering Essex with the Basildon office covering Rochford, Castle Point,

Basildon and Brentwood areas. The reform of the Youth Justice System which came about on 1 April 2000 sought to change the way young offenders were dealt with by the Police with a view to preventing inappropriate repeat cautioning and dealing more appropriately with the crime and the offender. Sgt Armstrong advised Members of the following options available to the Police and Youth Offending Team which included:-

- Action Plan Orders
- Reparation Orders
- Detention and Training Orders
- Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- Referral Orders
- Parenting Orders
- Child Safety Orders
- Child Curfew Schemes
- Reprimand and Warnings

Sgt Armstrong then went on to answer Members' questions on the following points:-

- The age of the youngest offender currently being dealt with by the Youth Offending Team
- The establishment of the Youth Offending Team and its ability to meet current workload demands and the future for the team
- Where referrals would come from for Youth Offending Team intervention
- The length of time records were kept
- The roles of individual professionals in providing a holistic approach to dealing with youth crime
- The effect on police paperwork when dealing with young offenders and the subsequent freeing up of officer time to deal with other matters
- Parenting Orders

Members thanked Sgt Armstrong for his presentation and although they considered the service to be currently under resourced, acknowledged that the formation of the Youth Offending Team was a good start which could be worked upon in the future.

## **161 UPDATE ON CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION STRATEGY**

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which updated Members on the current situation with regard to the actions required by Rochford's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

Noting the update information outlined in the report Members raised the following points:-

**7.1 Primary Objective - Reduce the number of incidents of criminal damage (vandalism) within the Rochford District.**

**Point 2** - Members were advised that all calls to the Police Station were logged with every report being given an incident number whether a crime had been committed or not. Further to this Members were advised that each call to the Police Station was prioritised with more serious crimes/situations being given the highest priority.

**Point 3** - During discussion of this item a Member made reference to the benefit of Parish Councils installing lighting within their own areas.

**7.2 Primary Objective - Speed reduction and related matters such as illegal parking and highway safety to effectively reduce the number of road casualties in Rochford District to bring it in line with the Accident 2000 Projection.**

**Point 6** - Reference was made to a system currently in place in some States in America whereby people were able to reduce fines and/or penalty points by attending driving courses such as "driving legally and driving safe".

**7.5 Primary Objective – Fear of Burglary**

**To reduce the fear of burglary within local communities across Rochford District.**

**Point 2** - Members considered that the Police should make their views on doorstep sellers more well known given concerns raised by Members on the subject. Furthermore Members were advised of a scheme whereby Neighbourhood Watch were looking to provide a number of view holes for front doors for residents across the District.

**7.7 (a)Primary Objective – To reduce the levels of crime and disorder and to address the causes of crime and disorder in Rochford Roche ward.**

**Point 1** - Reference was made to the lack of a national computer system for tracking stolen motor vehicles other than systems such as Tracker.

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**RECOMMENDED**

That the report be noted and update reports be submitted to future Meetings of the Community Safety Sub-Committee.  
(HCPI)

**162 CASTLE POINT AND ROCHFORD DRUG REFERENCE GROUP  
UPDATE REPORT**

The Sub Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which updated Members on the work of the Drug Reference Group (DRG) and sought approval for funds to be made available to continue the work of the DRG.

In noting the work undertaken by the DRG since the last update report and the future plans for the group, concern was expressed by some Members at the drug problems they had encountered within areas of the District, although it was further noted that the lack of witnesses for drug related activity did not help the Police with their enquiries.

Whilst considering the issue of the Drug Reference Group it was noted that the two Members present served on the outside body as representatives from this Authority. It was considered prudent for all future reports relating to the activity of outside bodies to show the Member representatives for reference purposes.

**RECOMMENDED**

- (1) That the work of the Drug Reference Group be noted.
- (2) That the Council continues to support the work of the Drug Reference Group and make available the sum of £1,000 from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy budget for this purpose. (HCPI)
- (3) That the Finance and General Purposes Committee be asked to consider the inclusion of outside body members' names on all Council reports relating to the work of outside bodies for reference purposes. (All)

**163 REFERENCE FROM THE MEETING OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2000**

The Sub-Committee considered the Minute referred by the Community Services Committee to this Sub-Committee for consideration of the Police's view on the issue of harassment/obstruction of shoppers within Rayleigh High Street by the activities of pollsters.

Members noted that regrettably, the representative from Essex Police had left during consideration of a previous item for operational reasons. However, Members made the following observations on the report:-

- Could Town or Parish Councils adopt the Essex Act 1987 given its incompatibility with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 which this Authority had adopted.
- Could this Authority unadopt the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and adopt instead the Essex Act 1987.
- Could the activity of pollsters be controlled in a similar fashion to that used for charitable street collections.
- Given that the ultimate goal of a pollsters activity was to sell goods could that be taken as a form of street trading and so require the consent of the Local Authority.
- Does the County Council have any bye-laws which could be used to regulate or stop the activity of pollsters on highways land.

It was considered that the matter should be deferred for consideration at the next Meeting unless a representative from Essex Police was present at the Meeting of the Parent Committee when the Minutes would be considered for approval.

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the report be deferred until the next Meeting of the Community Safety Sub-Committee or the Meeting of the Community Services Committee when a representative from Essex Police can offer Members their view on the issue of harassment/obstruction of shoppers within Rayleigh High Street by the activities of pollsters. (HLS)

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_