

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Date: Monday 30 March 2015

Time: 18.00 hrs.

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present Councillors: S Mead (Chair), M Notley (Vice-Chair), L Bell, E Connolly, M Gardner, L Harrington, J Mead and P Stuart.

Also Present Councillor R Henry CC, Portfolio Holder, Safer Communities, Older People & Health, Chair of the Responsible Authority Group, Chief Executive, Nick Parry and Chief Inspector Richard Harbon of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Start Time: 18.00 hrs.

End Time: 19.25 hrs.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Broom and the Youth Mayor S Field.

There were no declarations of interests.

2. OUTCOMES OF THE 2014- 2015 SO SAFE COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN & EMERGING PRIORITIES FOR 2015/16

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, Older People and Health, Councillor R Henry CC gave a presentation on the Community Safety Action Plan.

Members received an update on the progress of the agreed priorities and the various initiatives employed. The priorities discussed included domestic abuse, violent crimes, alcohol and drug abuse, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, acquisitive crime, hate crime and reassurance.

Councillor Henry advised the meeting that in comparison with other districts in Hertfordshire, crime levels in Stevenage were low and falling especially in the areas of domestic abuse and violent crime.

Members welcomed the public awareness of domestic abuse and the increase in reporting by third parties, noted the various initiatives and especially the positive impact of the Herts Change Perpetrator programme on both victims and perpetrators.

In response to a question about the impact of the Part Night Lighting on crime

levels, Chief Inspector Harborn advised that there was no evidence that this decision had led to an increase in criminal activity in Stevenage.

The meeting was informed that as a result of intelligence gathering by Police and the various authorities working in conjunction with pub licensee holders, taxi drivers and trained night club door supervisors, incidence of drug and alcohol abuse was very low in town generally.

On the issue of hate crimes, Members were informed that the spike in levels recorded could be attributed to a wider definition of the crime beyond those directed at ethnic minorities, to include issues that could result in community tension.

The Chair thanked Councillor R Henry CC for his presentation and welcomed the fact that most of the actions in the Community Safety Action Plan had been delivered or were on track.

It was **RESOLVED**

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. That Older People's networks be used to advertise Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety measures for Older People.
3. That a public awareness campaign of the term, "hate crime" be undertaken.
4. That an article be placed in the Chronicle magazine highlighting community safety messages likely to affect older people such as scams and cyber crimes.
5. That the Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator be asked to consider defining the term Anti-Social behaviour more clearly.

3. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.

4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

PART II

5. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

Chair