



CLERK'S REPORT October 2019

(prepared by Barbara Bland, Clerk, for PC meeting 21-10-19)

Many of the Clerk's actions are reflected in the agenda content; brief summary:-

- Attended Library meeting with Cllr Weaver. Aim to be completed by 31 March 2020.
- Annual Conference of Society of Local Council Clerks with topics/workshops attended "Where's my Council?", "Being a Clerk" and 1:1 with Lesley Swinbank regarding maintaining CPD registration and Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS).
- Finance Committee to commence budget/precept/project planning process for 2020-21 and full council recommendation approval.
- Sports Park Director's meeting and Park draft published accounts.
- Met with Paul Tovey, Steve Hawley with Cllr Weaver regarding phase 2 traffic calming and pilots/trials to hotspots.

Community Surgery 11th November 2019 – Hosted by clerk and Bruce Brant and Cllr Weaver at the Library. There were 2 resident attendees.

Catch up regarding previous actions:-

- Complaints received from residents and general highway users regarding the surface of Birmingham Road and slippery surface/mud laying on road in wet conditions.
- Residents concerns regarding Maxstoke Lane activities.
Action: Raised at Locality; regular patrols but no activity. Remains on watch.
- Resident concerns regarding Winspear.
Action: Bromford Housing & Sgt Thompson met with residents 29/7. No other feedback from Bromford to date. Resident Agreement to be drafted.
- Letitia update.
Action: Home visits undertaken and all quiet.
- Resident concerns regarding Fairfield Rise, Alspath Road T-junction and parked cars obstructing sight lines and pavement obstruction.
Action: Patrols to monitor inconsiderate parking. BB to speak to Highways officers regarding regulation orders for yellow lines.
- Speed Watch to be reinstated.
Action PCSO Hanley to email shift dates to BB/JB to confirm volunteer availability and set up speed watch dates for next 6 months.

General discussion included:-

- Liz Hopkins provided an update to her work in Balsall Common with community networking events "talking-places to go-things to do" to reduce social isolation. Also to assist with set up and sustainability of groups (funding applications); providing an example of Harper Fields residents being mini bused to Meriden School weekly.
- Liz Hopkins to arrange two drop in events in November for local community to pop in and find out what is going on in their area promoting community groups active in Meriden. The drop-ins will be hosted at the Pavilion.

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Action: Liz Hopkins

- Sgt Thompson interested in setting up Street Watch and linking to volunteers in Millison's Wood who are actively patrolling fields and woodland.

Action: Sgt Thompson to promote.

- Sgt Thompson emphasised the need for reporting incidents on police website or calling 101 so these may be logged to help with prioritisation of resources to tackle anti-social behaviours and other crime/county line related activities. Evidence such as car registrations/model/make and photographs to be given/sent.

Action: Police Team

- Liz Hopkins and Sgt Thompson spoke about youth councils and hosting a youth café; there has been some success in Balsall and this model to be introduced to Meriden. A "Make your Mark" initiative has been developed and through young people's voices the top two to tackle is "protecting our environment" and "knife crime". These stats will feed into a wider Borough database to inform priorities of Solihull MBC and Police Teams.

Action: Liz Hopkins

- A link to the "More" page on SMBC's website to be put into the Meriden Magazine December edition.

Action: Clerk and Bruce Brant.

- The advertising boards for the "pink shopping event" to be raised with highways, enforcement/permits and trading standards officers for removal. Damage to grass verges and village green reported.

Action: Bruce Brant

The surgery closed at mid-day.