



**CLERK'S REPORT – COMMUNITY POLICE SURGERY**  
(prepared by Barbara Bland)

**Community Police Surgery 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020** – Hosted by Clerk, PCSO Hanley and PCSO Harkin via zoom. There were 4 resident attendees, Cllr Weaver and Cllr Hughes. No apologies received.

Cllr Weaver welcomed all. PCSO Hanley advised she would be leaving her current role and awaits deployment as a police officer which she hopes will have continued contact with Meriden. She introduced PCSO Emma Harkin who is taking over Meriden with PCSO Arun Murdoch who is the FarmWatch Officer for Rural Crime. Cllr Weaver congratulated PCSO Hanley and welcomed PCSO Harkin. New sergeant is Neil Millward. Resident questions were invited:-

A resident provided a list of items to be discussed as follows and is the basis of the agenda and notes.

- **Vehicle Crime/Burglaries**

Vehicle crime has increased with 7 thefts of motor vehicles with 3 being recovered. Burglaries are up too with a pattern of early mornings targeting sheds, garages, lawn mowers. Quite a few items have been recovered and warrants issued for arrests. Advise for victims on how to protect items is available. SelectaDNA is a type of Forensic Coding with the added benefit of micro-marking. It uses chemical compounds (a unique synthetic DNA strand, UV tracer, microscopic dots and water based adhesive) to form the most secure product with which to mark items and protect them from theft and can be purchased online. See also WMNow website and crime prevention survey. Extend Street Watch with volunteers receiving training.

- **Rural Crime**

Vans and tools are targeted. Also theft of equipment from local stables and farmyards. Residents feel the five gateways leading in and out of Meriden are fast routes to get out of the village undetected specifically Hollingberry End and Kinswalsey. The dedicated FarmWatch officer has regular meetings with local farming community. Social Walkers to get involved in Street Watch.

- **Speeding**

Cllr Weaver advised this is something the parish council is pursuing with SMBC Highways and certain new initiatives are out for public consultation including Leys Lane TRO.

Residents discussed crowd funding for ANPR camera technology on Main Road and Fillongley Road; improved police presence and response; the addition of speed bumps. All to be explored with Highways by the parish council.

- **Drugs**

PCSO Hanley reported collating top targets in Meriden and their known associates. There is work being undertaken gathering intelligence and evidence for obtaining warrants to search houses and premises. The police are very aware of what is going on relative to usage/supply/dealing with positive actions for arrests and S18's. Gas canisters are regularly seen discarded in local hotspots however this is not illegal.



- **Parking**

Issues with parking continue ignoring new park restrictions put in place for no loading, double yellow lines and reduced waiting time in and around the village shops. There is not enough enforcement. There is a lay-by outside Meriden School for police teams to pull drivers over when caught speeding on Fillongley Road, even with implementation of new 30mph speed limit. PCSO Hanley replied that the police have continued speed watch during lockdown. Police to speak to Highways.

- **Communication (101)**

PCSO's advised a weekly post is put out providing update on recent crime. Residents replied this is not seen. Residents need to be signed up to WMNow to receive updates. Cllr Weaver suggested a weekly summary is sent to the clerk for inclusion to Meriden's social media sites. PCSO Harkin to action. There was acknowledgement of a greater police presence in Meriden with patrols and also on foot policing. There is a need to try and change the perception of no police presence. Residents also need to receive updates of reported crimes and actions thereafter.

***Additional items:-***

- **Speed Watch**

PCSO's advised speed watch is ready to go again. With the comments received earlier regarding speeding they requested dates of speed watch volunteers availability to start up now we have come out of lockdown. Cllr Barber to email PCSO Harkin with dates of speed watch team. PCSO Hanley confirmed she had carried out 3 speed watch sessions in last 2 months for Meriden.

- **Statistics**

3 speed watch sessions undertaken in last 2 months;  
Increased patrols (car and foot) in Meriden;  
7 thefts of motor vehicles reported with 3 recovered;  
Decrease in burglary crime from 20 in 2019 to 15 in 2020.

- **ASB**

ASB nuisance reported in Winspear. There have been incidences of covid breaches and noise by large groups congregating for bbq's/drinking. Police liaising with Bromford Housing identifying offenders gathering intelligence and putting together evidence. Review Bromford Housing Agreement with tenants. Police to contact Karina Devers. Also on SMBC's community housing radar with Cllr Diccio receiving resident complaints. PCSO's also advised Letitia evidence gathering.

- **Leys Lane**

Residents asked what was happening with Leys Lane closure proposal. Leys Lane is a cut through for vehicles travelling from Berkswell Road to Fillongley Road cutting off corner of either Leys Lane or Berkswell Road narrowly missing centre pedestrian refuge. This is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs unless something is done.

It is not helped by Heart of England Club being used as Pertemps car park with additional vehicles using this cut through. Cllr Weaver advised this was currently being looked into with Highways as part of phase 3 of traffic calming.

Cllr Weaver thanked everyone for their input and attendance. It was disappointing not to have more residents attending given recent posts on FB but some good points have been raised. To summarise tonight's actions as follows:-

- To set up regular monthly community police surgeries going forward.  
**Action: PCSO Harkin and Clerk**
- PCSO Harkin to send weekly update to clerk profiling Meriden crime actions.  
**Action: PCSO Harkin and Clerk**
- Start up Speed Watch again with volunteer team.  
**Action: (i) PCSO Harkin to look at shifts and email clerk; (ii) JB to send to PCSO Harkin volunteer available dates**
- Future discussion to get Street Watch up and running parish wide, not just Millison's Wood. Volunteers required for training with full insurance provided. Police portal where what's happening in your area can be viewed, report anything seen and feel empowered to do something.  
**Action: PCSO Harkin to forward information to clerk for posting in noticeboards and social media sites**
- Information on DNA technology for marking personal items/equipment which may be promoted at a residents meeting.  
**Action: PCSO Harkin to forward information to clerk.**
- ANPR cameras to be explored for Fillongley Road and Main Road with a co-ordinated approach including Police and Highways colleagues. Cost to be scoped out but would need support of Police/Highways colleagues to enforce and manage.  
**Action: PCSO to speak to Highways; parish council to cost out and follow up at next meeting highways as part of phase 3 of traffic calming measures looking at HS2 funding.**

The police surgery closed at 18.25.