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WYCHAVON AREA MEETING

Chairman: Cllr M Rowley
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NOTICE OF MEETING

The Quarterly Meeting of the Wychavon Area of the Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils is to be held via Zoom conferencing on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 7.30pm.

At least two representatives and the clerk from each member council are invited to attend all area meetings. However, only two members from each member council are entitled to vote.

We welcome discussion and the sharing of informal advice on any subject affecting parish and town councils but we remind members that formal indemnified advice is given by the CALC office and if action is taken without this contact members may be at risk.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. To consider the adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2022
3. Matters arising
4. Grants available from Wychavon District Council. David Manning, Community Programmes Manager.
5. Report from Worcestershire CALC
6. Reports and queries from Parish Councils
7. Items for discussion at future meetings:-
Highways improvements
8. Date of future meetings: Thursday 1st June 2023 (AGM), Wednesday 6th September 2023, Thursday 7th December 2023.

WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON CALC

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Wychavon Area of the Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils held via zoom conferencing on 1st December 2022 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Margaret Rowley	Chairman, Tibberton PC
Cllr Graham Boocock	Bishampton & Throckmorton PC
Cllr Bob Gilmoor	Pershore Town Council
Cllr Stephen Davis	Rous Lench & Radford PC
Cllr Ruth Dawson-Jones	Chairman, Crowle PC
Cllr Mary Hughes	Eckington PC
Cllr Rod Smith	Crowle PC

In Attendance:

Mrs Kaye Angus	Wychavon Area Clerk
Superintendent Rebecca Love	West Mercia Police
Chief Inspector Brian Gibbs	West Mercia Police

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mr. Christopher Wayman, CALC Executive Officer.

2. Speakers: Superintendent Rebecca Love and Chief Inspector Brian Gibbs, West Mercia Police

Cllr Margaret Rowley welcomed the guest speakers. Superintendent Love gave an overview of the Local Policing Community Charter. The Safer Neighbourhood Team covering South Worcestershire (Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon areas) is committed to its officers being in the heart of the community dealing with high frequency low level issues. Although policing the city centre takes a lot of resources the team is determined that the rural areas should feel that they are being policed.

Currently there is a Police Uplift Programme in which every police force is being asked to increase their force by recruiting extra officers bringing West Mercia to a total target of 2456 (approximately 193 extra officers for West Mercia). In turn this will result in fresh ideas and young people joining the force which will drive investigation and technology. The new officers will shadow experienced officers to learn policing skills.

The Local Policing Community Charter, which was introduced 18 months ago, commits the Safer Neighbourhood Teams to building relationships with their communities in order to reduce crime, increase detections and protect the vulnerable, and increase public confidence that they can deliver that service. Clear targets have been set on specific crime types such as burglary, residential break-in to sheds, vehicle damage, sex offenders, etc. Offenders are not limited to one crime, they often go on to commit more crime.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Team and the Community Safety Partnership work with the Charter to build relationships with communities and their issues by studying data and agreeing a proportionate way forward. It includes six key themes:

- 1. Visibility & Accessibility* – Access to police in person and via surgeries. In the last quarter across Wychavon there were: 24 surgeries; 35 partnership meetings; 48 targeted operations including warrants for modern slavery and human trafficking and 30 specific events including careers fayres and recruitment campaigns.
- 2. Responding to our Communities* – The top three priorities identified so far by local communities are speeding, anti social behaviour and burglaries. There are 463 parishes in West Mercia, with 69 in Wychavon of which 18 have not so far engaged.
- 3. Prevention and Intervention* – A problem solving approach is taken to prevent local problems developing. Early intervention focussed around children and young people on knife crime has been successful in the recent tour of the Knife Bee constructed from a collection of weapons the Manchester police confiscated.



4. *Vulnerability* - This area is featured heavily within the force, identifying people who need help and working alongside Housing and Adult and Children Services. There is also particular emphasis on domestic violence against women and girls. The night time operation is also key in protecting vulnerable people, for example in Abbey Park and Evesham.
5. *Relationships and Partnerships* - The police want to build relationships and partnerships with the local communities and understand what is worrying or concerning them through contact with parish councils etc.

Note: The Local Policing Community Charter is available at [https://www.public-charter.pdf\(westmercia.police.uk.\)](https://www.public-charter.pdf(westmercia.police.uk.))

Cllr Ruth Dawson Jones thanked the police for their support at the Crowle Bonfire night and reported that there were no incidents. However Crowle Parish Council has requested that officers should attend their meetings in an effort to enhance communication but so far nothing has happened and they do not have a local police officer assigned to their parish council.

It was agreed that there was a gap between recruitment of officers and liaison with Parish Councils, but someone would contact Cllr Dawson Jones to initiate a meeting and work to help improve communication.

Cllr Mary Hughes said that she did not know about the Policing contract and she would like someone to send the Eckington Parish Clerk the relevant papers.

She advised that Eckington had a problem with travellers and anti-social behaviour and would like advice on how to deal with this problem. Cllr Bob Gillmoor said he would share his papers on anti-social behaviour with Cllr Mary Hughes. He went on to say that Pershore used to have a very active Safer Neighbourhood Officer but due to their reduced visibility anti-social behaviour had increased particularly around parks and supermarkets.

In response Chief Inspector Brian Gibbs reported that due to the recruitment drive policing will be brought up to its original levels which in turn should address these issues in the town.

Cllr Stephen Davis reported that he had not been aware of the Policing Community Charter and he would like to see some night time patrols as there had been a heavy toll of crime in the Rous Lench and Radford area in the last couple of weeks where several trucks had been stolen and even though it had been reported he was not happy with the response from the police. Superintendent Love responded that they were aware of this particular crime and they would ensure that the details of the charter were sent to Rous Lench parish council, and that they did engage in rural night time patrols.

Cllr Graham Boocock from Bishampton and Throckmorton PC said that they were supported by the Evesham and Rural West Policing Team and they ran coffee mornings and crime prevention meetings which proved to be a success and he commended them on their 'Safe On-Line' Course. He then asked if more emphasis could be put upon anti-social behaviour with regard to cyclists and mentioned an incident involving a horse rider where they were being intimidated and abused by cyclists.

Superintendent Love concluded by asking people to notify police of any issues. She said that the best route was through dialling 999 and most people default to 101.

Chief Inspector Gibbs added that there is also a single online contact at West Mercia Police: Home which is staffed 24/7 and you can log any incident with them. He said that Crime Stoppers is a separate organisation from the police but they can pass on details of incidents anonymously to the police. Their phone number is 0800 555111.

Cllr Margaret Rowley mentioned an issue had been raised at Tibberton Parish Council concerning alleged hate crime on WhatsApp. Superintendent Love advised that WhatsApp groups should have a code of conduct for users and admins should remove anyone not adhering to the code. She emphasised the importance of online safety. Cllr Graham Boocock asked if the West Mercia Police Home site could be better signposted as it was not initially clear.

The Chair thanked Superintendent Love and Chief Inspector Gibbs for a very informative session.

3. **To consider the adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th September, 2022.**
The minutes were approved.

4. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising

5. **Report from Worcestershire CALC**

Cllr Rowley read the report submitted by Christopher Wayman:

“ We are releasing our pack in the coming days on Councillor recruitment. This will be a pack containing materials which can be sent out directly or tailored with Council information and branding. We will be having a Clerk’s Gathering next Thursday to answer any questions and go over the pack. The CALC AGM on Monday went really well with talks on elections, neighbourhood planning and policies.”

6. **Items for discussion at future meetings**

It was reported that grants were available from Wychavon District Council and also Worcestershire County Council. It was agreed that she would endeavour to get a speaker on this topic for the next meeting on Wednesday 1 March, 2023.

Cllr Graham Boocock said it would be useful to have an update on what Highways are currently proposing for a future meeting.

It was agreed that for the time being meetings would continue to be held on Zoom.

7. **Date of Future Meetings:-**

Thursday 1st June, 2023

Wednesday 6th September, 2023

Thursday 7th December, 2023