

**Notes of Bassingbourn and Melbourn Neighbourhood Panel
held at Melbourn Village College
Tuesday 20th October 2009 at 7.30 pm**

1

Welcome and Introductions

1.1

John Fuller welcomed everyone to the meeting. Agencies were represented by:
Inspector Chris Savage and Sergeant Rebecca Williams
Linda Browne – South Cambs. District Council

John Fuller introduced Claire Dillon the new Neighbourhood Performance Officer.

1.2

Representatives attended from the parishes Bassingbourn, Litlington, Abington Pigotts, The Mordens, Whaddon, Meldreth, Shepreth, Melbourn, Great Chishill, Fowlmere and Foxton.

2

Notes of previous meeting

2.1

Notes of the previous meeting held on April 9th 2009 were agreed

3

Update on previous priorities and community feedback

3.1

Sgt. Rebecca Williams went through the profile update produced by the police divisional intelligence unit in consultation with neighbourhood staff.

Bassingbourn ASB at Recreation Ground

Patrols of Bassingbourn (including college) on foot and in vehicles

Positive engagement with young people with motorcycles – asked them to push their bikes down South End to relieve the problem.

Liaison with Bassingbourn Village. Talks given at Village College on ASB

Engagement with Public Houses in the village to ensure they do not contribute to the problems of anti-social behaviour

Involved moped riders in finding alternative locations to go to. This is ongoing.

Engagement with residents in South End who are keen to help find the young people somewhere else to gather.

Warning of vehicle confiscation (Section.59 Notice) given to one rider in response to an incident.

Engagement with youths on 'Connexions' Bus.

Visits to Spar shop during patrols, as this has also been a gathering point.

ASB in Melbourn

Patrols of the area on foot and in vehicles, Alcohol confiscated from underage drinkers.

Groups of young people asked to clear up litter. Advice given about noise levels.

Groups moved on where appropriate – particularly from the bus shelter on the High Street and moved on to youth shelter on the recreation ground.

Engagement with local residents who raised their concerns.

Responded to incidents wherever possible, conducting area searches and speaking to informants.

Talks given at Vicarage Close to encourage reporting and offer reassurance.

Details taken of young people and vehicles being used.

Currently arranging talks on ASB at Melbourn Village College

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Current issues as identified in profile update

4.1

Bassingbourn - more than half the violent crimes offences were reported at Kneesworth Hospital.

Crime levels have remained stable in Melbourn, Meldreth and The Mordens. In Bassingbourn, Fowlmere and Foxton there have been an increased.

Dwelling Burglaries have remained fairly stable

Burglary remained stable in Bassingbourn, Fowlmere and Foxton and increased in Meldreth

Non-dwelling burglary and other offences have remained stable in Melbourn and increased in Bassingbourn Meldreth and The Mordens.

Violent Crime offences increased in Bassingbourn, Fowlmere and Foxton and Meldreth.

ASB incidents have remained stable in The Mordens, Bassingbourn, Fowlmere and Foxton and increased in Melbourn and Meldreth.

5

Community feedback on current and future issues

5.1

Bassingbourn

- Police presence in South End has made an impact but would like this to continue.
- There is a problem with graffiti at the recreation ground.

A question was raised about what engagement was happening with young people.

JF explained about the 'The Big Plan' – Guidance. The plan states the overall vision for local services and the standards which govern that vision. A copy of The Big Plan can be obtained by logging onto the Cambridge County Council website.

5.2

Melbourn

- Cars parked on the corner of the crossroads with Metcalf Way and Orchard Road making it difficult to see on coming traffic. PCSO will visit and give feedback.
- There is still a problem with youths using the village as a racetrack even though there is a plot of land been given to them for this purpose. However the land may not be ideal.
- A resident wanted to thank PCSO Lyndsay Gardiner who has agreed to look into a speeding issue in Royston Back Lane.

Why is ASB up in the village when there has been a greater police presence?

This could be for several reasons. ASB can be seasonal and encouraging residents to report issues where they may not have done so previously.

It was agreed that ASB was noticeably worse in the summer.

A member of the Problem Solving Group mentioned they would like to set up at village blog to encourage people to talk about issues positive as well as negative.

5.3

Meldreth

- A bonfire has recently been built and set grass alight in a wild meadow close to Melwood. The wood used was carried from an area by the wood where bonfires are permitted.
- There are still occasional fires at the woods although there have been no recent reports to the Fire Department. Apart from this Meldreth has been relatively quiet.

- Residents also asked why incidents were not in the profile.

Fowlmere and Foxton

- Speeding in the High Street is becoming a problem and parked cars are being damaged. Representatives would like to look into setting up a speed watch group. Insp. Savage will look into having a survey carried out.
- Dwelling burglary of a shed was not reported in the profile several other parishes said they had notice similar instances of lack of information. Insp. Savage explained not all statistics could go into the profile for a variety of reasons. With regard to the shed, this was investigated but is not classed as a dwelling burglary because it is not attached to a house.
- Parking in Station Road is becoming so bad the road could become blocked and emergency vehicles unable to get through.

Litlington

- Out buildings have been broken into on the Royston Road. These had been reported to Hertfordshire Police who stated they would pass the information on to Cambridgeshire.

5.4

The Chishills

- There had been 2 burglaries in 3 weeks, all were reported but there was no pattern except the properties were insecure. Essex had been experiencing similar offences.

5.5

The Mordens

- Very happy to have some continuity with the PCSO who recently attended the Parish council meeting. It was asked if attendance at Parish Council meetings was monitored. Insp. Savage explained it was and each Parish should have some form of contact each month. The contact could be phone calls and emails to the Clerk or Chair or attend a meeting. However with 102 Parishes it is not possible to attend every one. An agreement with each parish is needed as to how contact and information flows will be maintained.
- A couple of incidents which were reported and no feedback was ever received made residents feel police are lacking in this area. Again it was explained that some information couldn't be shared, however Insp. Savage agreed there was no excuse for residents reporting incidents not to receive a feedback call.

5.6

Shepreth

- Racial attacks (one incident which has been prosecuted) and vandalism to property.
- Group of young people throwing things at the elderly and roaming in gangs. This has been reported and is being looked into.
- ASB behind the Church and the Farm track.
- There have been repetitive attacks on the railway station ticket machine.
- A BMX project is being worked on for the young people of the parish.

Abington Pigotts

- The parish feel they have lost contact with the police and would like to re-establish it.

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Speedwatch

Presentations were given by Whaddon and Great Chishill schemes which illustrated considerable effort and enthusiasm locally for the initiative. Inspector Savage welcomed the data and stated it allowed his officers to target their enforcement action at sites identified by the schemes.

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Priority Setting

It was agreed to adopt the following priorities:

- In liaison with British Transport Police, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour linked to the railway stations at Ashwell, Foxtan and Shepreth. Includes vandalism, thefts and anti-social parking.
- Continue with the ASB reduction plan in place at High Street, The Moor and Vicarage Close, Melbourne.
- Reduce ASB in the Shepreth village.

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Locations and Dates of Future Meetings

Tuesday 19 January 2010 at Bassingbourn Village College

Tuesday 20th April 2010 at Foxtan Village Hall TBC

Tuesday 20th July 2010 at Bassingbourn Village College

Tuesday 19th October 2010 at Melbourn Village College