

## **SELECT CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE**

6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Present** – The Vice-Chairman (Councillor Whitaker) in the Chair, and Councillors Brown, Graham, Mercer, Moorby, Pighills, Shuttleworth, Solloway and Thompson.

**Officer** – Community Safety Co-ordinator and Committee Officer. Inspector Crocker and Detective Sergeant Dan Ridgeway of North Yorkshire Police were also in attendance.

Apologise for absence were received from the Chairman (Cllr Staveley) and Councillors Mason and Sutcliffe.

Start: 6.35pm

Finish: 7.51pm

### **Minutes for Report**

OS.395

#### **LOCAL POLICING - CRAVEN**

Further to Minute OS.385/17-18, the Chairman welcomed Inspector Crocker and Detective Sergeant Dan Ridgeway to the meeting and invited them to update the Committee on local crime and policing matters. A summary and analysis of the key crime statistics for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017, together with the data for the previous two years for the same period had also been circulated as an appendix to the Chief Executive's report in respect of community safety (Minute OS 396 below). Details of performance data regarding attendance to incidents and victim satisfaction were also submitted.

In presenting an overview of the crime situation in Craven, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda Detective Sergeant Ridgeway stated that year on year the number of crimes recorded was more or less where the Force expected it to be, and as in previous years current data showed that the greater part of police work in the District continued to revolve around public safety and welfare, accounting for 41.6% of the Forces time, compared to 19.7% and 12.9% for crime and anti-social behaviour. Road related incidents, which included road traffic offences, accounted for 25.7%. The performance data regarding attendance to incidents and victim satisfaction showed that North Yorkshire was out performing other forces and locally it still enjoyed the support of the Craven public.

Sexual offences had increased to 36 compared to 26 offences in 2016-17 and 35 in 2015-16; rape had also increased from 11 in 2016-17 to 18 but was lower than the 2015-16 figure of 23. Detective Sergeant Ridgeway expressed the view that the increase may be attributable to victims feeling more confident in reporting incidents. An analyst attached to the Rural Task Force checked reported crimes and decided subjectively which should be viewed as rural crimes, a numerical monthly breakdown of the rural crimes committed in Craven had also been circulated with the overview for Craven. Quad bikes continued to be a big issue with 35 stolen in the District in the current year to date; those involved were penetrating into the District as far Kettlewell. The Force was continuing to work cross border with West Yorkshire and Cleveland and Durham, and there had been a number of arrests.

The Stop Search Oversight Group for the Craven area chaired by Cllr Solloway continued to meet and played an important role in ensuring transparency and challenging instances of stop search. Members interested in participating in the Group's work would be most welcome if they wished to put themselves forward. Monitoring data for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 24 November 2017 circulated with the above overview showed that proportionally more stops involved individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds which could lead to the feeling that ethnic minorities were being unfairly targeted, hence the importance of the Oversight Group.

Amongst other news, Inspector Crocker reported that new PCSOs arriving shortly would take the total number within the District to 13. Once trained and successfully tutored they would be posted to Cross Hills, Skipton and Grassington. A Neighbourhood Constable vacancy still existed in Settle, however a replacement had been identified and would take up his position when released from his current role; PC Barton would be covering the Settle and Grassington areas for the time being.

During the course of the ensuing discussion Committee Members and others in attendance asked a number of questions and commented as follows, receiving replies from Inspector Crocker and Detective Sergeant Ridgeway as indicated

- Were the cameras located around the District helping the investigation of rural thefts?

Response : The cameras could be a very effective tool. Provided information was held on a vehicle / or an individual known to use a vehicle officers received alerts and could head to the area in question.

- Thoughts on the increase in offences recorded relating to damage to motor vehicles?

Response : With the number of new cars now being acquired under a PCP or lease arrangement a contributory factor to the increase in recorded offences could be the requirement to have notified the insurance companies / leasing companies of damage to the vehicle and provide a crime number.

- How were victims of serious crime supported and contacted? Response : There was access to victims' support and "victim's agreement" arrangements were also put in place which set down how the victim wished to be updated on the investigation. A victim's evidence could be taken by video.

- The issue of quad thefts was repeatedly raised at meetings of Upper Wharfedale Parishes.

Police attendance at meetings would be welcomed but recognising this may not be possible would appreciate a parish liaison contact if that were possible. Response : The local engagement policy had been re-vamped earlier in the year and over the course of each year the Neighbourhood Policing Team would endeavour to try and attend a meeting of each parish. Sgt Moorhouse covered Upper Wharfedale and he and his PCSO would get round most if not all parishes and / or circulate updates. The website Police.uk was a good source of information on crimes recorded in each neighbourhood. Parishes / councillors should also be encouraged to join the countryside watch scheme.

- How were rapes dealt with and where? Response : the geography of the area presented a

difficulty as the assessment referral centres available for this area were in West Yorkshire, York and Knaresborough; victims were dealt with at those centres by specially trained staff and rooms were forensically cleaned and sealed to prevent evidence being called into question. Airedale Hospital was used for medical related matters if necessary. For sexual offences investigators had to work to a 72 hour forensic window, and not to adhere to certain principles could bring a case into question. Conviction rates in North Yorkshire were quite good compared to the national average on charging and obtaining a conviction in court. A team examined each investigation and case, assessing the strengths and weaknesses before presenting it to the lawyers. Victims could self refer to an assessment centre if they felt unable to go through the police.

- Were details available as to the number of victims of fraud from cyber crime. Response :

Currently that wasn't available within the statistics for Craven, most cases were referred to the action fraud team, an intelligence gathering team which linked to the national fraud action group. Cases for investigation were referred to a North Yorkshire Cyber Crime Team. To enable a better indication of the position in Craven a report would be obtained for the next meeting from the Cyber Team. Community messaging was used to try and circulate warnings etc, but North Yorkshire had a high risk profile because of its demographic profile and some victims were reluctant, due to being embarrassed, to report this type of crime. Banks reported

suspicious activity and officers had recently banks and building society branches in the area to ask that they contact the Force if they had any suspicions. Romance frauds were an issue.

- Was the need to Police the Kirby Misperton fracking site impacting on policing in Craven? Response : The costs and figures were available on the North Yorkshire Police website and details had been sent to the Clerk to the North Yorkshire Area Committee. Policing the site did have an impact on local policing and mutual aid had been requested. So far as possible the level of local service was being maintained and officers were still attending calls which some forces no longer attended eg shoplifting, however it wasn't always possible and priority was given to persons most at risk. There was a planned finish to the activity at Kirby Misperton.

- With pressures on resources, how did the Force support / police events such as the Tour de Yorkshire and during the event was there an increase in opportunistic crime / increase in crime post the event? Response : Not all officers escorting etc the race were police officers. The race was supported by both the National Road Policing Group and the National Escorting Group; the Escort Group was mostly comprised of former motorcycle officers and did not involve any serving police officers. Overall there was one officer to every four from the escorting group. The Police Group itself was made up of officers from across the country, within Craven local officers were supported by officers from other parts of North Yorkshire in policing the event. The tour organisers had to pay the cost of policing the event. The local neighbourhood teams had learned a lot policing the tours and there was no evidence to suggest a link between such events and a rise in crime either during or after.

- Thinking about the A65 and the number of accidents on that route was it possible to have something presented on road policing? Response : The A65 was a route the Force was addressing and the Craven Area Committee being part of the Highway Authority received regular road policing reports which were available on the North Yorkshire Website; when possible highway officers made time to attend the Area Committee.

- It was a concern that Yorkshire had one of the highest levels of birds of prey offences. Response : In North Yorkshire the Rural Task Force took the lead on wildlife offences and its wildlife team had been really active; poaching dogs were being ceased on a regular basis.

- Was the number of drugs offences down because of recent arrests and what aspect was of most concern. Response : A number of organised crime groups were known to operate in the Craven area, the most worrying one had links to Keighley but was currently inactive following a number of arrests / convictions; the others were active but not at a significant level. Street dealing was an issue and although the drugs situation locally was not at the same level as Keighley and Bradford it would be the subject of some attention in the near future. Criminal exploitation of children was a concern and was the subject of a multi-agency approach, locally the Force was on the front foot.

- Having raised concerns re speeding in Burton in Lonsdale with 95 Alive a covert speed monitoring device had been put in place; was it possible to obtain details of the data gathered by the device? Response : Yes, the 95 Alive Group should be able to provide a report if requested.

In drawing the discussion to a close the Chairman thanked Inspector Crocker and Detective Sergeant Ridgeway for their attendance. Inspector Crocker informed the Committee that he would be retiring in 2018 and that this would be his last meeting, he thanked the members for all their questions and support over the period he'd participated in the Committee's work. On behalf of the Committee the Chairman thanked Inspector Crocker for all he'd done on behalf of the local community in his time in Craven.

OS.396

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Further to Minute OS.386/17-18, the Chief Executive submitted a report updating the Committee on the work of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership and the Craven Community Safety Hub, formerly known as the Community Safety Local Delivery Team for Craven. An analysis of crime statistics for the District provided by North Yorkshire Police for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017, with comparative data for the same period in 2015 and 2016, had been circulated with the Chief Executive's report.

**Resolved** – That the Chief Executive's update on the work of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership, the Community Safety Hub and related matters is noted.

OS.397

### **PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER - REVIEW**

The Community Safety Officer submitted a report presenting a review of the effectiveness of the Public Space Protection Order for the Coach Street Car Park, Skipton.

Introduced in October 2016 Members were reminded that it was a requirement of the Order that an annual review be carried out to make sure the order had been effective, and provided residents with the relief they needed from the specified anti-social behaviour caused by motor vehicles. In the period since October 2016 three breaches (revving engines and loud music) of the Order had been reported, this represented a significant reduction in the number of complaints of young drivers congregating and causing a nuisance on the car park. With the High Street Car Park, Skipton also experiencing similar anti-social behaviour to that which, prior to the Order had blighted Coach Street, consultation had been carried out and in Autumn 2017 a Public Space Protection Order had been placed on the High Street Car Park; as with Coach Street the High Street Order would, subject to annual review, remain in place for three years.

It was recommended and

**Resolved** – That the number and nature of the incidents recorded on the Coach Street Car Park, Skipton in the 12 month period following implementation of the Public Space Protection Order thereon is noted, and that continuation of the Order is supported.

OS.398

### **NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Details of the key messages arising from the most recent meeting of the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 had been circulated. The Panel had raised a number of concerns in respect of the methodology used by the Police and Crime Commissioner in her bid to take over responsibility for the North Yorkshire Fire Service, the analysis of results and some of her responses to stakeholders. The Panel had also requested a report from the Commissioner in respect of areas outlined for improvement in a recent HM ICFRS report on North Yorkshire Police Force's efficiency, and plans to tackle those areas.

The Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Carl Les would be attending the meeting of Select Committee scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Note : An item to enable presentation of a review of an alcohol consumption in designated public places order had been withdrawn from the agenda for this meeting. A report seeking agreement to adoption of a replacement for the order would now be presented to Policy Committee in due course.

**-Sitting as Select Committee-**

OS.399

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

OS.400

**NEXT MEETING**

To be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The agenda to include presentation of the most recent absence management and customer services call handling performance data.

Chairman.