

## Report to Scrutiny Committee: October 2013

### My Priorities

- Implement an OSCP plan to raise awareness and develop resilience in respect of the sexual abuse and trafficking of vulnerable people.
- Continue to implement the Positive Futures programme for young people at risk of offending.
- Extend the CCTV system to include Rose Hill and Headington.
- Implement the action plan to minimise anti-social behaviour associated with visiting students and implement stay safe, safe havens for them.
- Tenants 'Local Offer' for ASB.
- Student safety plan refresh.
- Extend the universities' warden scheme.
- Implement a refreshed Noise Out of Hours service and Weekend Operations to tackle anti-social behaviour that occurs overnight.

### The work of the Neighbourhood Action Groups

I have discussed the NAGs with Superintendent Christian Bunt and he expresses himself fully supportive of the NAGs. However, even though there has been an extensive handover, the recent transfer of the secretariat from the City [Ben Smith] to the Police has not run smoothly. I had hoped to attend NAGs across the City but I have been given very short notice of meetings, papers have not arrived and email lists used by the Police are not up-to-date. I shall continue to press Supt Bunt on these problems. Ben's new role is to develop ASB prevention projects, thus he will continue to support the NAGs in their delivery, rather than their administration.

The Cowley Police team is recruiting as it is under strength. However, the team do attend the Cowley NAG and take note of concerns in the area. The attendance of councillors, both city and county, is patchy so that might be improved.

The Police also attend Tenants Association meetings but I have noticed that police have not attended recently in my ward, perhaps because of shortage of staff.

The Police organise 'meet the people' sessions throughout the City so that is another example of police engagement on a less formal basis.

### The PCC

The Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld visited Oxford at my invitation on 11 July to speak to the Crime and Community Safety Team. The aim was to explain to him the important work that the City does in crime prevention, community safety and the co-operation between the police, youth workers, the Community Response Team and the Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation Team (previously CANAcT). The PCC funds an element of

this work so we aimed to show him that the money was well spent in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour.

There were short presentations from members of the team and that was followed by an interesting discussion about the issues facing the City.

### **PCC Scrutiny Panel**

On 12 July Oxford City hosted the Scrutiny Panel. Tim Sadler gave an overview of the City's profile. Many members of the Scrutiny Panel were surprised by the aspects of the City that were very different from their own areas-ethnic diversity and the young population, for example.

This was followed by some wide ranging questions to Anthony Stansfeld, including CCTV and preventative policing.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel congratulated the Oxford team for its work and the useful discussion that followed from the questions. The 'Oxford' format is to be copied by future scrutiny panels.

There had been an issue about Anthony Stansfeld's expenses but he repaid a small sum and there is a newly established procedure for his expenses claims.

### **PCC Scrutiny Panel Conference on 19 July**

This first annual conference was held and one of the aims was to try to generate interest in the work of the PCC and the Scrutiny Panel. In future, Councillors could raise questions for the Portfolio member to pass onto the Panel for future meetings of the Scrutiny Panel.

### **General Points**

#### **Closure of Wood Farm Police Station**

This will close and there will be a police room at the Churchill hospital.

#### **Blackbird Leys**

A new police room is being organised.

#### **Police Cells at St Aldates**

These are being closed and prisoners will be charged/detained in Abingdon. I raised this with Sara Thornton at the Scrutiny Panel meeting. Since then Tim Sadler has received a reassuring reply to his letter which explained that many councillors are concerned about the closure of these cells.

#### **Language School Students**

The Language School Forum meets to co-ordinate work with the Police, Language Schools, Bus companies, Parks department and City Council ASB team.

## Out of Hours Service and Weekend Operations

The new service builds upon the existing noise service. From Sunday to Thursday evening the service will continue to on a Duty Officer call-out basis with calls for assistance routed through our out of hours call centre. The Weekend Operations has two council officers, usually one Environmental Health Officer and one from an asb team, working in the city between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. They are tasked with a range of proactive and reactive works with noise complaints taking priority. Other activities include the licensing of free printed material, street trading issues, asb cases, taxi infringements, trade waste presentations, litter dropping and any other requests from teams across the council. This is an exciting development in our approach to tackling and resolving anti-social behaviour.

Pat Kennedy

September 2013

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