

Wed 6th August at Tanterton Christian Fellowship

The meeting was opened by the Chairman Tom Anderson. Approximately 33 people including residents, police, councillors and service providers were in attendance at the meeting.

Apologies: CBM Andy Counce, PCSO Julie Anyon, Liz Soole, & Cllr Pringle.

Police Update: Given by: PCSO Jackie Fulham.

Between the weekend of the 1st and 4th of August, youths have entered the greenhouse at the rear of INTACT and pulled up some onions which were growing there. They have also used a selection of builders equipment and built a den using the same.

A female has given a known male access to her bank account due to him not having his own to pay wages into. He has used this account to commit various frauds on ebay and gumtree. This is currently under investigation.

In relation to the motorbike nuisance problems in Ingol Golf Course and the Bexhill Road canal tow path, we have caught a male on an off road bike after a member of the public reported the noise nuisance. The male was from the Ashton area and has been served with a Section 59 warning notice which will now stay on his record. If he is caught on that or any other bike, it can now be seized straight away.

A drive-off of £50 has occurred at the Murco Service Station on Tag Lane. CCTV has caught the suspect's vehicle. The keeper has been identified and enquiries are underway on this investigation.

A male from Threefields was reported by his mum for taking her car without consent. Police attended and were informed he was at the Lane Ends chippy. The vehicle was sighted on its way back from the chippy, stopped and the male arrested for unlawful taking of a vehicle and also blew over the alcohol limit so was also arrested for drink driving. The chips were stone cold when he got home.

A group of youths have approached an address on Bexhill Road whilst the occupants were abroad on holiday and thrown stones at her windows. A group were stopped nearby and 2 males identified as causing the damage. Due to their age a Community Resolution was carried out and parents agreed to pay for damage which the aggrieved was happy with. Youth Referral forms submitted.

Offenders have targeted an address on Tag Lane at 3.00am and smashed the outer pane of a double glazed bedroom window. They have also uprooted bedding plants, throwing some into the road and placing others on the owners vehicle bonnet. No offenders available as yet.

A girls insecure push bike was stolen from the front garden of an address on Marfield Close. The bike was eventually returned home by the offender and the aggrieved was happy it was just borrowed. So no further action apart from a stern talking to by the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

It appears a youth with a BB gun has taken a shot at a window of an address on Bexhill Road shattering same. House to House and CCTV were negative for witnesses'. Nothing seen or heard.

A Nissan Qashqai has been scratched all around the exterior on Threefields. The aggrieved suspects a neighbour he has previously reported for parking issues, but no evidence to suggest this. CCTV and house to house enquires were negative.

Offenders have broken in and entered the old Tulketh High School. Whilst inside, they have entered the incorrect security code and set off the alarm. Security arrived only to see two persons fleeing. Due to more damage at the school, the majority of the windows have been boarded up and anti vandal paint applied to part of the external building. A Bat Survey team were at the school on Monday 4th August, which hopefully means plans are afoot to do something to the building.

A celebration of an engagement at St Margaret's Church Hall between Sikh embers was interrupted by a local female due to excessive noise. The female was apparently under the influence and created a public order incident by using racist language and driving the car at members of the event outside. Police arrived and she was arrested for public order and whilst driving over the prescribed alcohol limit. Currently on bail.

191 Incidents from this month last year compared to 194 incidents this month

29 Crimes from this month last year compared to 23 this month

As this was Jackie's last PACT meeting before taking up her new position within the Police force, we would all like to pass on our thanks and gratitude for the devoted service she has given to Ingol & Tanterton over the past 12 years. You will be missed, but not forgotten.

Q. What is the future of Neighbourhood Policing?

A. Sgt Osborne replied that the Police are committed to Neighbourhood Policing and that I&T still have CBM Andy Counce and are looking to investigate to replace or reassign a PCSO to replace Jackie. We still have 17 officers in the local team.

Q. 20 – 25 years ago Ingol was a “red” area. It is now a very much better area to live. We don’t want the area to slide back to the bad days due to a lack of local policing. Please take this comment back to your superiors that the police and the community have worked hard together to reduce and manage crime. Current crime figures are low and we need our Police to maintain these current low figures.

A. Senior policing management team are looking at area wide policing, but I cannot give promises.

Q. Please take back to your inspector our concerns.

A. PACT to write to Inspector Steve Anderton and P&C Commissioner Clive Grunshaw.

POSTSCRIPT PCSO 7450 Julie Parker, who has a number of years experience working at Lea on the Larches & Savick areas and will start work on the Ingol & Tanterton Area from 1st September 2014.

Benefit Fraud – Ian Guest.

Ian has worked for Trading Standards for 37 years and is the Team Manager for benefit Fraud covering an area from Liverpool to Cumbria.

Fraudsters are just like anyone else in appearance. They don’t skulk around, but carry on their lives just like the rest of us. His team have caught Bishops to ordinary people in the past 37 years. His team covers all state benefits. Details come from people reporting suspicions. They investigate fraud from £2k upwards, with no top limit.

Following an allegation, the person is traced, checked and surveillance commenced if required (they have to apply for surveillance to prevent civil liberties from being breached). All officers are fully trained. The Police work with the team when a household is under investigation. The largest fraud uncovered so far this year is £99k. The team use specialist cameras – micro cameras can be fitted to the lapel of a jacket – long telephoto lenses etc. All interviews are conducted under caution, where the team is given the chance to explain the facts put to the claimant. From this interview, either the case will be dropped or the evidence put to the CPS to prosecute. The investigators prepare the facts. Following prosecution – which is a criminal matter – monies can be reclaimed under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Q. How many investigations per year do you carry out?

A. Approximately 1500 per year. 10% go forward for prosecution and 15% go through the administration penalty route. Section 155A of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 as amended by Section 15 of the Social Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997 allows us to apply a penalty as an alternative to prosecution.

Q. How many are genuine mistakes by the claimants?

A. We deal with several, which are errors, which are re-directed back to the Benefits Agency. If they are not an error, we will investigate and take other actions. We try to carry out investigations as quick as possible.

Q. Benefit claim forms are not easy to fill in and not able to keep a copy if you have to stop part way through to find information required.

A. Fully agree. It’s almost information overkill. It was easier with the old paper form and assistance rather than the on-line form. Best advice is to take it to an expert and copy it if possible and keep it safe.

Matters arriving from previous minutes:

- 1. Tanterton Playing Field:** The project to drain the playing fields started Thursday 31st July and should be completed in approximately 10 working days. £17k of the funding was provided by Ingol & Tanterton Neighbourhood Council, who felt it was a worthwhile project to support.
- 2. Sylvancroft Pavement:** Cllr Winlow and Lesley Marshall have visited the area along with Paul Dunn from LCC Highways. The footpath between numbers 109 – 116 are to be resurfaced. The fault was reported to be between 118 – 120 Sylvancroft. The area will be revisited after the summer holidays and Places for People will also re-check the area.

Community Tasking/Information:

Q. Tulketh High School is now boarded up and a bat survey conducted. What is the most likely outcome for the school?

A. As the school is surplus to current requirement and the developments to the north of Ingol not going to be completed for several years, the most likely outcome is that the school building will be demolished as it does not meet the current standards for schools. The sports facilities, buildings and fields, will be staying.

Q. How can we as a community help?

A. Letters/emails from residents and PACT to Cllr Winlow will show support for action regarding this community asset.

Q. Do you know what is inside the school? I am thinking of stacking chairs which Tanterton Village Centre are desperate for.

Q. Why can't the school be rented out for small business etc.?

A. LCC have looked at all avenues and are now looking to divest all non used property. Cllr Winlow to pass on the ideas to LCC.

Q. Weeds on Thistlecroft are now approaching waist height. Is there anything PACT can do?

A. LCC have started on a project to apply weed killer to the area. They have started in the South and are working Northwards.

A. Places for People reported that their maintenance team are also cutting back bushes and weeding their area in a North – South direction.

Q. A representative from IGVRA informed the meeting that a planning application to build up to 168 houses on the Ingol Golf Course around New Rough Hey and The Avenue had been submitted but made public on the PCC planning web site.

A. Cllr Brown reported that she had met with Chris Haywood from PCC, but as yet he had not seen the planning application. So could not comment.

Q. Would a formal letter from PACT be of any assistance?

A. Cllr Brown responded that it would be of assistance and could the letter be directed to her for passing onto Chris Haywood.

POSTSCRIPT. The planning application was made public that evening, so a letter from PACT was not required.

INTACT. It was reported that construction of the extension has now commenced by local contractors John Turner & Sons. It is planned for completion by February 2015. Intact are still open and operating via the side entrance. Some activities have been moved to the Ingol Methodist church nearby. More details can be found on the web site and facebook.

It was reported by a resident that bedding plants have stolen from the garden at 12 Mayfield Avenue. A man from New Rough Hey was seen with a carrier bag of plants nearby.

Tanterton Village Centre is also open for business whilst the outside of the building is being re-painted. Check our facebook page for activities.

Community Gateway Andy Rankin, ex PCSO for I&T, introduced himself as the new Anti-Social Behaviour officer for Gateway. Andy's contact details passed to the community.

The Policing priorities were set as:

- **Ingol & Tanterton** - **Speeding**
- **Top of Whitby Avenue & Ingol Golf Club** - **Motor bikes**
- **Tanterton Shops** - **Anti Social Behaviour**

Date & Place of next PACT meeting

September 3rd at St Margaret's Church Hall. Starts at 6.00pm