

These are notes from the Southern Link meeting on Thursday, sorry for the delay.

The first item as a talk from Inspector Sloman. Inspector Sloman addressed the crime figures (attached). 22% - 27% of reported crime results in some level of detection. The main focus of the force is around assisting victims, including putting victims in touch with relevant support organisations.

They currently have a major commitment, Operation Cob, which is putting pressure on staffing. Operation Cob is the Police response to the badger cull.

At this point the I left the meeting to discuss our particular issues privately with Inspector Sloman. The Inspector has a good knowledge of and soft spot for Princetown. His grandfather was a Prison Officer here, his mother was raised in the village and his parents married in St Michaels. He is keeping the village high on his agenda, the village is a permanent agenda item on the management meetings.

1. The issue of the fire at the Youth Club. Inspector Sloman explained that Arson is the deliberate act of causing damage to owned property which may be why it was not classed as Arson. The different classification of the fire does not mean he considers the incident any less serious.

2. The PCC from 2014 is no longer in place. There is one PCSO for the village who is supported by another. The PCSO's are supported by a Beat Manager, Inspector Sloman is hoping to have another Beat Manager in place in the New Year.

Any officers with downtime have been instructed to patrol in Princetown. Inspector Sloman and his officers keep a record of these patrols. The patrols can be at any time of day so we may not always see the officers.

3. Whilst the Inspector understands the issues faced by the village, he has said there will not be any additional officers allocated to Princetown. The PCC has said her interest is in rural policing so this may have an impact on things in future.

4. Inspector Sloman now has his staffing levels for next year. There will be 24 officers for the whole of West Devon, this figure does not include the number of PCSO's

5. A lot of actions came out of the multi agency meeting. The majority of these are not with the Police. He was able to say that there will be a great deal more support for the families concerned. He expects we should see improvements in the situation quite quickly. The Inspector wants us to know that the overriding thing is that they are all working on this, they do take it very seriously.

At this point I rejoined the main meeting.

There is a £4K training fund which is not being used. There is a proposal to reconstitute the Training Sub Committee.

VAS for Horrbridge and Grenofen. The Parish Council will be seeking funding for the signs from the TAP fund in December. They were advised to check with Parks about and planning permissions that might be required.

Stephen Belli (Head of Planning, DNP) gave a talk on planning matters. There will be a new list of staff sent out with the minutes of the meeting. DNPA Planning have taken on additional staff, notably they now have a new Planning Enforcement Officer.

The Planning Portal has been updated, it is designed to be easier to use (I've used it and it is a lot easier, the documents can be much more easily accessed) Next month (October) a new service goes live which will allow people to register and get emails with a link to any new Planning Application submitted within the area you specify.

Stephen Belli spoke about the Local Plan. He has said they would like input from as many residents of the Park as possible. This needs to be a very wide ranging consultation, he would like the focus to be on younger people as they the Plan will have a greater effect on them over the years than us old people 😊

He spoke about the AirBand application for a mast on North Hessary Tor. AirBand were told at the Pre Application stage that a separate mast was not likely to be approved as the Government guidance on new masts is that they should not be approved if mast sharing is an option. The planners were also not happy with the proposed site of the new mast either.

DNPA Planning will be happy to run Planning workshops for Parish Councils. These would cover everything we would need to know before considering Planning Applications. They would prefer it if these could be run for more than one Parish Council at a time as there are so many Parish Councils to cover. There is also the possibility of a workshop on Planning in World Heritage sites.

He said in the meantime, if we have issues with an individual application we need to speak to the Case Officer for that application.

Updates from DCC

Skanska Corporation is taking over from South West Highways for the maintenance of the roads. Skanska has initiatives around dealing with potholes, securing jobs in Devon and communications with Communities.

A 3 year £5 million contract for youth services has been agreed.

Hedge cutting is done once a year with the grass cutting by DCC. The responsibility for other cuts lay with the land owners.

The next meeting will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. There will be a combined Link meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> December, the keynote speaker will be Alison Hernandez. Hopefully she will expand on her thoughts around improving rural policing.

Suzanne