

Report from Meeting at Mickle Trafford Police Station on 20th March 2017.

Attending: Villages Ward Speeding Group members (VWSG)
Councillors from other Villages Wards
Ian Wilson, Rob Bouton and Deborah Netherton from Cheshire Police

Speeding - The VWSG brought the Police up to date on the progress that had been made in identifying the key areas in which speed awareness and enforcement was required and provided a printed report.

The Police were not aware that Cheshire Police had 4 speed vans which had the capability to operate in the dark but promised to raise this matter with their superiors, as the VWSG would be following this up with the PCC following his commitment at a meeting held in November 2016 to deploy these vans.

Mickle Trafford informed the group that they have purchased a speed gun for use in their area. It was agreed that a new speed gun which takes a picture of the vehicle should be purchased (approx. £1k) and the cost shared between the 5 parishes. This would be used as a shared resource across the Village Wards. It would need to be collected and returned to the Mickle Trafford Police Station.

It was agreed that the Parish Councils would recruit volunteers who could then be trained by the Police in the use of the speed gun so that they can take part in traffic monitoring and reporting activity. This activity will involve the following:

- Committing to providing their time to monitor traffic in pre-determined locations and times. These will typically not be in their local parishes to avoid any 'local' issues and be deployed in groups of 2 or 3 people.
- Recording speeds and car registrations numbers for vehicles exceeding the speed limits. (New cameras take a picture of the vehicle)
- Sending this data to the Police.

The Police will then write to the owners of the vehicles to inform them that they were driving in excess of the limit. If they are reported a second time they will receive another more strongly worded letter. If they are reported a 3rd time they will receive a visit from the Police. Any further offending will result in a prosecution.

It was agreed that the speed gun teams would best be deployed during daylight hours in places where it would be difficult for a speed van to be parked. For night time activity the new speed vans would be required.

Actions:

1. VWSG members to lead initiatives in their Parishes to recruit volunteers to Speed Teams for next meeting. It was suggested by the Police to include schools in this process, as many offenders are parents on the school run.
2. Police to raise availability of night time speed vans with superiors.
3. VWSG to issue report to PCC and ask for action with night time speed vans.
4. Police to confirm availability and cost of new speed cameras that can take a picture.

Rural Crime initiative - The Police have carried out 'rural nights of action' using local people stationed on key road junctions and equipped with Police radios to be able to report suspicious vehicles and activity for Police to then follow up and pull vehicles over. This has been very successful in the south of the region in catching criminals committing or attempting to commit rural thefts and poaching.

The Police mentioned that people seeing or experiencing anti-social behaviour should call 101 to 'call in' the incident. There may not be any Police available to deal with it immediately but it provides information on where resources are required.

Action:

1. Police to communicate with Parish Councils with regard to potential activity in the Villages Ward which may require volunteers.
2. PCs to publicise the 101 service to residents.

Operation Shield - This is effectively the latest incarnation of the 'Home Watch' programme but utilising uniquely coded markings which can be applied to property so that it can be traced. This doesn't necessarily lead to a big increase in the return of stolen goods but instead provides a good deterrent to criminals.

The average cost per household covered, including street signs, is £10. As this would represent a significant total cost to Parishes and attempts to get residents to contribute to the costs have previously failed, it is recommended that strategic application in areas worst hit by burglary is the most cost effective solution.

Next Meeting -As the meeting was judged by all to be a great success, it was agreed to hold another meeting in 4 – 6 weeks date to be agreed.