

# Denmead

## Safer Neighbourhood Panel

NOTES OF THE **Denmead Safer Neighbourhood Panel**  
MEETING HELD ON **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019** IN THE BARN GREEN ROOM,  
THE OLD SCHOOL, SCHOOL LANE, DENMEAD, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM.



<b>Present:</b>	Cllr P Langford-Smith Cllr K Andreoli Cllr I Brown Cllr J Morphet Cllr C Brook PS S Gilmour PCSO S Slater Nigel Prior	Denmead Parish Council Denmead Parish Council Denmead Parish Council Denmead Parish Council Winchester City Council Hampshire Constabulary Hampshire Constabulary Area Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
<b>Apologies:</b>	Brendan Gibbs Davina Domone-Hollands Sandra Tuddenham Cllr P Stallard	Denmead Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Winchester City Council Neighbourhood Services WCC – Community Safety and Neighbourhood Services Hampshire County Council/Winchester District Council
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Lydia Merriman Eleven	Deputy Clerk, Denmead Parish Council Members of the Public

**001/20SNP** **Welcome:** Cllr Langford-Smith opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. Apologies from those members who were unable to attend were also given.

### **Matters Arising and Outstanding from Previous Meetings:**

**002/20SNP** There were no matters arising or outstanding matters to consider, although Cllr Langford-Smith provided those present with a brief resume of matters discussed at the previous meeting.

### **Police Report:**

**003/20SNP** Sgt Gilmour introduced himself as Denmead's Neighbourhood Sergeant and also introduced PCSO Slater, who provides visible policing presence and support in Denmead. He thanked everyone present for their attendance and then stated that much of what he reported last year, was still relevant.

Initially, Sgt Gilmour spoke about the high-profile crime of the cashpoint robbery from Denmead Co-op in October 2018. He informed those present that on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019, five suspects who had committed ATM thefts in Hampshire, including the one in Denmead, had pleaded guilty in court and are due to be sentenced in June. Sgt Gilmour said this was a good outcome and that he predicted the offenders would be receiving a lengthy prison sentence for their crimes.

A week after last October's meeting, Travellers incurred on King George V Playing Fields. Sgt Gilmour wished to express his disappointment that Denmead had suffered from a further incursion so soon after the incident on the Community Centre field. However, he stated that a meeting had been conducted afterwards between Denmead Parish Council and himself with the Chief Inspector. This had resulted in positive discussions, as he felt lessons had been learned by the Police and that DPC had since implemented target hardening strategies to help prevent any future incursions.

The current crime rate for Denmead is still low. Although the National Crime Statistical Survey shows that crime generally has increased during the last 12 months, Winchester District is relatively low in comparison, with a 30% successful outcome rate for catching criminals. Sgt Gilmour confirmed that periodic crime is still occurring at quiet locations, such as Creech Woods but he indicated that it should be the responsibility of residents to protect their valuables when leaving vehicles unattended and it is important to remain vigilant of being watched. Chief Inspector Lynch had currently been working hard to find and apprehend organised group criminals who are travelling across the country to commit crimes

in rural locations. He said that there had been a series of break-ins at Hambledon Cricket Club within the last 9 months.

Sgt Gilmour stated that there are no specific crime concerns or trends affecting Denmead, although there had been reports of outbuildings which had been broken into for the main purpose of stealing high specification pedal cycles (which had later been sold at local car boot sales) and garden machinery. Only two domestic burglaries had been reported in the last six months, although the unusual characteristics surrounding these crimes would suggest that strangers had not been involved. During mid-April, a motor vehicle had been reported stolen from a residential address near Furzeley. In this instance, the owner had left the keys in the ignition whilst the car had been on parked on the driveway. Sgt Gilmour reiterated his point that these kinds of crimes could be prevented by provision of better security, ensuring simple risks are not taken and generally making it more difficult for opportunist criminals.

A Policing Review is currently being undertaken. The issue of Community Engagement has already been considered in relation to how the Police effectively communicate through social media. Sgt Gilmour suggested that residents should speak to him after the meeting to provide any ideas on how to engage effectively with their local policing team.

Additional policing staff is expected this year due to the precept increase. Sgt Gilmour was able to confirm that for Bishops Waltham, there would not be a significant change although there would be benefit of additional staff across the District.

PCSO Slater summarised her report in relation to general anti-social behaviour, which she said had recently moved location, primarily to King George V Playing Fields. The Parish Council had made her aware of a recent issue relating to groups of youths using co2 cannisters. PCSO Slater explained that whilst the possession of canisters is not illegal and actually has a lawful purpose, there was a worrying health risk if used inappropriately. Sgt Gilmour advised that in such cases, it is often beneficial to utilise Health and Outreach Workers to speak to the individuals in order to achieve health benefits, opposed to offence.

PCSO Slater stated that Denmead Parish Council had also reported issues in relation to inconsiderate parking and obstruction of the highways.

#### **004/18SNP Neighbourhood Services Team:**

Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Team produced a report which Cllr Langford-Smith read out to those present.

There had been a number of fly tipping reports for the Denmead Area and three sites were attended in which evidence had been obtained. At one site a large amount of paperwork naming an individual, had been found and it is hoped therefore that this matter may be pursued.

The Neighbourhood Services Team wished to remind everyone what to do if they find a fly tip, in order to assist WCC in tracing offenders and ultimately taking legal action against them:

- Do not touch the waste
- Visually inspect the waste
- Take note of its exact location, or the nearest landmark
- Do not disturb the site or remove anything from the fly tip
- Record the date and time that the incident was noticed
- Provide details of what was being fly tipped and how much
- Provide an account of people involved if you witnessed the fly tip

Personal safety is considered very important and therefore no-one should put themselves at risk.

To report fly tipping, contact Winchester City Council on 01962 840 222 or report on WCC's website: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/report>

Reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area of Tiller Road / Baler Road has reduced, although there had been a smaller number of reports associated with the green area. The Neighbourhood Services Team had recently attended a meeting at Berewood School and had promoted the 'Report It' flyer in order to encourage greater reporting of anti-social behaviour. Winchester City Council had recently

removed a 'den' from Newlands Walk following reports from the local community.

Anti-social behaviour should be reported online at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/report> and The Neighbourhood Services Team can be emailed: [nservices@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:nservices@winchester.gov.uk)

**005/20SNP** **Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr Brendan Gibbs, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, was unable to attend. Nigel Prior, the District Area Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator therefore addressed those present to provide an update from the last six months. He said that in order to encourage more involvement from residents, a monthly drop-in at Barnards had been introduced and he invited everyone to attend as a matter of bringing the local community together.

He repeated Sgt Gilmour's sentiment that Denmead has a relatively low crime rate, although he said it was the continued responsibility of individual residents to use preventative measures but to report any suspicious behaviour or crime. He indicated that an easier way of reporting, called Contact Management Platform would be introduced soon to replace the existing 101 system to improve re-directing queries.

**006/20SNP** **Police and Crime Commissioner Road Safety Report:**

Sgt Gilmour said he would provide any recent updates to the Parish Council in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Road Safety Report which has the objective of keeping our communities safer. Last October, recommendations in which Councils were advised to consider, relating to road safety were:

- Enhanced village place name signs
- Traditional finger post signing
- Sign de-clutter works
- Temporary electronic Speed Limit Reminder signs
- Minor signs and carriageway lining alterations
- Bollards to prevent footway overrun
- Informal crossing points for pedestrians

**007/20SNP** **Questions / Comments:**

District Cllr Brook wished to mention the "drug den" made out of tarpaulin which had recently been removed from the Berewood Development after police had found drug paraphernalia. Sgt Gilmour responded that Police were aware that there has currently been a small pocket of anti-social, minor criminal behaviour in rural areas around Furzley, Purbrook Heath and along Soake Road near Billy's Lake.

Cllr Langford-Smith asked if Sgt Gilmour was aware of the abandoned car which had driven into the hedge along Forest Road and how long it is likely to stay until the Police move it. Sgt Gilmour said he was aware of the situation but would find out more when he returned to the station.

Mrs Travagelini expressed her concern in relation to a Mini which has parked on a regular basis in the bus stop along Hambledon Road. PCSO Slater said that although the car may be causing a hindrance, it is not obstructing the highway and therefore may prove difficult to move on. She advised that Parking Services should be contacted to investigate.

There had been a recent arson at Lexington Ridge and Cllr Langford-Smith wished to know if there were any updates. Sgt Gilmour reported that Basingstoke CID were investigating this case.

A member of the public spoke about his concern that many more cars in the village have been parking on the kerb and pavement, causing obstruction for the elderly, disabled and parents with pushchairs. PCSO Slater commented that parking obstruction tickets can be issued but that would require the Parish Council to consider employing an Enforcement Officer to attend. The resident asked if double yellow lines could be installed to enforce but Cllr Langford-Smith said that for the last 4 years, WCC have refused to do this. She concluded that there is no parking warden presence in Denmead.

Mrs Morphett wished to raise the issue of dangerous parking on the corner of Home Mead and Pond Piece. PCSO Slater confirmed that DPC had already informed her of this matter. She continued by stating that unfortunately many estates experience similar problems and there is no easy solution. It was agreed that PCSO Slater would write an article to include in the June's edition of Denmead Scene in relation to inconsiderate parking. Sgt Gilmour stated that the issue of parking on corners was deemed as advisory and therefore not an enforceable matter. He concluded by saying that forcing people to move their cars was not always a helpful option, as this often creates a displacement of vehicles in built up areas.

A resident living in The Smithy wished to complain about the continued inconsiderate parking along the road and on the path from five different vehicles, which are from the same household. Sgt Gilmour indicated that there is no quick fix to this kind of issue but assured the resident that it would remain on their radar.

Last October Sgt Gilmour contacted the Safer Camera Unit in order to try to identify an enforcement site along Hambledon Road near Uplands Road. It was however confirmed that there would be no safe site available in order to locate a speed camera van along this stretch of road. This is due to the fact that a flat surface in the road would be required for the camera to effectively read the registration plates of passing vehicles.

Mr Settle asked the Police if there had been any recent information in relation to the potential equine crime in Furzeley on 17<sup>th</sup> April which had been reported. Sgt Gilmour said he would provide an update in due course. Mr Settle wondered if equine theft appeared to be on the increase due to the fact that this kind of crime was committed by people who were known in the equine community. Sgt Gilmour agreed that often in reported cases there is a dispute of ownership.

Cllrs Langford-Smith and Brown had recently been the victims of two separate crimes. One incident was that their van wing mirror had been deliberately punched off. The offender was caught and had paid a fine after the matter had been taken to court. The other incident involved the theft of a large post box positioned at the end of their driveway. Cllr Brown said he felt they had both been targeted on two different occasions and therefore warned people to be aware of cold callers acting suspiciously.

Cllr Brook wished to ask Sgt Gilmour if there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour since the introduction of the Part-Night Lighting scheme. Sgt Gilmour responded by saying that there has been no significant change in anti-social behaviour and in fact there is evidence to support that there is less criminal activity during times in the night when it is dark and there are no street lights. He concluded however by advising people to install home security lights if they were concerned.

In view of the large number of foreign Travellers setting up camp recently in Winchester and Portsmouth, Cllr Brown asked if they had the same rights as British Travellers. Sgt Gilmour confirmed that in law, Travellers must be treated the same, in relation to the Human Rights Act and Welfare Rights. Cllr Langford-Smith said that DPC had recently invested in significant target hardening strategies to dissuade Travellers from encamping on Council owned areas in Denmead. The installation of drop-down bollards had been fixed in locations such as Harvest Field, Community Centre, KGV Gates and Southwick Road carpark. Denmead Parish Council were also considering the installation of Dragons Teeth at Wyfarers Green.

Cllr Brown wished to raise awareness about the increased risk of Keyless Entry Cars being stolen. Sgt Gilmour described how thieves are able to access vehicles which have the key pulse transmitter system, by using technology such as relays. It was advised that car keys should not be located indoors near the proximity of the parked car. One resident suggested that placing keys securely in a metal tin would prevent criminals from using any device in order to gain access to the car.

The final question came from a resident asking if a speed camera van might be located on the grass verge outside Denmead Infant School along Hambeldon Road. Sgt Gilmour advised that once ownership of the grass verge had been established, this may be considered.

**008/20SNP** **Setting of Policing Priorities:** The following priorities were set:

- (a) Inconsiderate parking (causing obstruction)
- (b) Anti-Social Behaviour patrols in Ashling Park
- (c) Theft from vehicles, particularly in Creech Woods Car Park

**009/20SNP** **Next Meeting:** The date of the next meeting was scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7.00pm, and it was agreed that future meetings should remain in the evening, to continue attendance from more residents.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.33pm