

MEETING NOTES FROM 29th APRIL 2021

Both PCSOs were in attendance.

Parish Councils attending were Brightling, Burwash, Etchingham, Hurst Green, Robertsbridge & Salehurst and Cllr Sue Prochak , Rural Affairs RDC. There were apologies from Dallington.

A slight upward trend is being seen in crime locally. Sheds and outbuildings are being particularly targeted with tools, machinery and a motorbike being stolen. Theft of Catalytic convertors from vehicles is more prevalent. At least three of these incidents taking place in Etchingham. Concern remains regarding the welfare of Dean Walker.

Cllr Prochak informed the meeting that ESCC is funding additional youth work in Battle, Bexhill and Robertsbridge.

Etchingham confirmed that its Speedwatch team would be recommencing during May, assuming Covid restrictions do not regress.

Stephen O'Connell, Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) joined the meeting and asked for questions.

Q Speeding and noisy motorbikes on the B2096 (Brightling). Road through the village has no pavement or safe verge to set up observation safely and Operation Crackdown is impractical as it demands the use of Reg numbers which are impossible to collect.

A In this instance must keep a log/diary of incidents to build a pattern, submit to the PCSOs and it may be possible to bring in Traffic police at peak nuisance times to assess the best course of action.

Q How to go about getting traffic calming.

A This is the remit of ESCC Highways but can be assisted by evidence from the Police Traffic Engineers. A VAS installed by ESCC may fall to the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain. Mobile VAS are often preferred as once various sites have been licenced by ESCC then the sign can be moved around to avoid 'sign blindness'. The Black Cat equipment (which can be shared between a number of villages) is a good evidence builder but does not automatically create individual letters (major issue with computer security/compatibility).

Q How effective are the VAS that show the Reg number as well as the actual speed.

A Called AMPRs, there are none in Sussex. Evaluation not known but definitely very expensive.

Q Suggestions for new signs suitable near schools offered.

A Signs have to be considered in light of legibility for a driver of a moving vehicle and also ensure not a distraction to the detriment of safe road use. However, the local police are to produce some new signs "We've got our eyes on you", no sample available for meeting but sounded striking! Etchingham to apply for near the school. (Done)

Steve closed by offered a huge 'thank you' to the Speedwatch teams saying that reports were back up to 7k in April (from 5k) and expected to rise closer to pre-Covid as more groups recommence duties.

With thanks to Steve the meeting closed. Date of the next meeting to be confirmed.