

Shirley South Ward Panel Meeting Minutes - 7th November 2022

(1) Introductions

Chris Kirwan welcomed the panel members to the reformed Shirley South Ward Panel, and thanked the previous panel members for continuing to serve on the panel and welcomed new members.

(2) Minutes/Actions from last meeting

As there were no recorded meeting minutes available from the last Shirley South Ward Panel meeting and with the panel membership changes, no existing actions have been recorded to discuss.

(3) Police Update and Actions from previous priorities

As noted in item (2) there are no recorded priorities or actions for the police to report on, as a result Sergeant Nathan Saville was asked to include a general update under item (4), Police report on Ward crime and ASB.

(4) Police Report on Ward Crime and ASB

PCSO David Thompson gave a presentation on recorded crime data for Shirley South which covered each crime category and he pointed out that the increase in the overall crime total (66) for September 2022, was due to the increase in 'Violence Against the Person' (27) and 'Vehicle Crime' (19). David explained that there have been various vehicle incidents across the Ward but in the last few months, there have been a high proportion of vehicle crimes in Devonshire Way, which included two recent catalytic converter thefts.

A question was raised regarding the 'Violence Against the Person' crime figure and what exactly this related to. Sergeant Saville explained that this figure included a variety of incidents, including domestic reports they were called to attend.

(5) Community Concerns

Panel members raised various local crime issues and concerns, including those canvassed from local residents. This covered how local crime was reported, the rise in vehicle crime incidents, specifically in Devonshire Way, including catalytic converter thefts and a major concern raised by older residents of the increase in Cold Calling. It was reported that these Cold Calling incidents have been unsettling and caused considerable worry and distress to older and more vulnerable residents and they were unsure of what action to take or who to inform.

The SNT confirmed that any residents who were concerned or worried about Cold Callers should ring 101 as well as informing Trading Standards. The SNT would also provide reassurance visits and meetings if the residents details were passed on to them.

A question was raised on whether the police were expecting an increase in crime generally due to the current recession and the squeeze on peoples finances?

Sergeant Saville replied that although there has been a reduction in the overall police funding, they were committed to carry on policing the Ward as usual to serve the local residents.

(6) Agreeing Priorities and Actions on them

The first priority is set by the MET police to address violence or the drivers of violence.

Priority1: To tackle the gang problems on the Shrublands estate, regular weapon sweeps and patrols of the estate and surrounding area..

Priority 2: To implement strategies to address the continuing rise in the number of vehicle crime incidents, specifically in Devonshire Way.

Priority 3: To address with partner agencies the increase in Cold Calling locally, which is causing worry and distress to some older and more vulnerable residents.

(7) AOB

It was agreed that representation be made to various local community organisations, faith groups, schools and sports clubs to increase the panel representation from all sections of the Ward.

Feedback to residents on issues raised, priorities agreed, action and progress will be through the Spring Park Residents Association (SPRA) website with a dedicated Ward Panel section, the SPRA monthly SPAN magazine, which reaches around 1650 households and the Community Safety twitter account.

The Ward Panel 'Terms of Reference' and 'Privacy Policy' to be circulated to all panel members to acknowledge and to agree the holding of personal contact details (telephone numbers, emails) for the purpose of communicating Ward Panel information.

Date of the next meeting: February 2023, availability dates to be confirmed with the SNT nearer the time and canvas panel members on their availability to agree a date suitable date.