

Parish Council of Bournmoor

**Meeting of Bournmoor Parish Council, Bournmoor Church Hall, 6.30 pm**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

1. **Present** – Cllr Robinson (Chair), Cllr Tait, Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Nelsey, G Oliver (Clerk, minuting), Cllr Willoughby, Cllr Holland.

**Guests** – Joy Allen (Durham PCC), Vicky Booth (Community Engagement Officer – DPCC Office)

2. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Brady
3. **Chairmans Introduction** – Cllr Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially our guests Durham PCC Joy Allen, who had been in post since May 2021 and Vicky Booth, Community Engagement Officer.
4. **Police and Crime Commissioner Session** – Cllr Robinson outlined the broad areas the Parish wanted to discuss with Joy – Police boundaries, reporting systems and feedback, on the beat resources and the Custody Suite.

**Custody Suite** - Cllr Holland discussed the new custody suite at Spennymoor, acknowledging the decision had already been made before Joy took up post. Joy advised that if she felt the custody suite being centralised in Spennymoor was the wrong action she would have said no. She had looked into it, viewed other custody suites including centralised suites in Harrogate and Northumberland and had spent time with officer and sergeants, weighing up risks, reports, legal issues, the medical implications, whether people arrested were fit to be retained in custody. Joy advised she took staffs views on board, and around 80 questions from the public and based on these and evidence obtained, centralising the custody suite in Spennymoor with a back up in Peterlee, was deemed the best option.

**Police Boundaries** - Cllr Holland explained about the boundaries with areas of the Parish and nearby bordering between Northumberland and Durham forces – most criminal activity occurs in the Northumberland areas, but would welcome greater collaboration and closer working between the forces.

**Police Resourcing** - In terms of resourcing, Joy advised they were down on officers with 408 present in 2020, which is a reduction of 27% from the resource we had in 2010. Under a fair funding formula which is based on population and not crime, Durham could be one of 17 forces who lose out. This is currently being challenged and is back on the police agenda. Joy advised the force had lost a lot of experience but they were looking at ways to bring retired experienced officers back, whether for 10 or 20 hours to help/be mentors.

Cllr Willoughby advised that new Government funding proposals would equate to 263 officers for Durham, but it takes 3 years to train and get a degree through the police, but there is also a risk people use their degrees when qualified for roles elsewhere. Joy advised that there would be a 'retaining period' post degree qualification.

**Reporting & Feedback** – Cllr Robinson advised the main areas of concern we see in this area are ASB, Off Road Bikes, Drugs and Speeding. However not everything gets reported as the public perception is that there is no point as nothing appears to be done and/or no feedback is received.

Joy advised the areas mentioned correlate with a survey she did with the public who advised their top 5 areas, they want the DPCC to work on were ASB, Drugs, Flytipping, Speeding and Vandalism, so she wants to deliver on these areas. The survey also showed that 39% of the public hadn't reported any crime as they felt the system wasn't easy to report, the process was too long and there was a lack of feedback. Joy advised that improving the 101 and reporting system was one of her top priorities and to understand where the demand for reported crime was from. Joy also felt police officers should be keeping people reporting and victims of crime informed on progress.

Joy advised that as well as the 101 service, they had introduced a chat on line service, there was also Do-It-Yourself Online available as a reporting mechanism, people can also sign up to 'In the Know' service and there is Crimestoppers where you can report anonymously – with the intelligence then passed onto the police. Neighbourhood watch schemes are also useful, alongside home cctv, ring doorbells etc. To be able to stop crime and identify areas that need support, all crimes should be reported and Joy will be looking at how to make it easier for the public to do so. If people see crime being acted upon it will encourage others to report.

**Action: Clerk to look into costs for leaflet printing to advise local residents ways of reporting crime, ASB and other issues to relevant authorities.**

Cllr Armstrong reported on litter and ASB around pizza shop in Bournmoor and also reported on speeding concerns, such as sports cars racing in dark, cars also going

around the roundabout the wrong way and motorbikes leaving the Dun Cow after a motorbike club 'burning rubber'.

Joy advised speeding was a priority for them to ensure safer roads and from a survey 74% of respondents said they would support enforcement. Joy advised she would be happy to have a walk around the area, work together and have a separate session on road safety. She is also not against having fixed cameras in areas.

5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – September minutes were approved and signed off by Cllr Robinson per pro the Council.

6. **Theakstons/Lambton Roundabout** – Cllr Willoughy, Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Holland had met with Theakstons earlier today. The works is currently 4 weeks ahead of schedule, but it was noted the weather could impact this schedule. After Christmas there will be traffic lights needed for around 6-8 weeks whilst roundabout construction takes place. Current traffic controls will remain in place.

**Action: Clerk to report on progress of roundabout on social media channels.**

7. **Matters Arising –** Cllr Robinson has drafted a note to key personnel to prepare for Bonfire Night, in order to help prevent issues from last year.

**Action: Reminders about respect for Bonfire night, being careful to be placed on social media in advance of 5<sup>th</sup> November.**

There has been no further update on Wildflowers since the last meeting, but there remains an outstanding issue on land ownership of the area

**Action: Cllr Holland to visit land registry and check ownership of the Lambton wooded area.**

The request for volunteers to help with a Youth Club, at Bournmoor Church Hall was published.

**Outstanding Action: Cllr Willoughby and Cllr Robinson to attend meeting with cricket club to look at opportunities to work together.**

8. **Standards matters** – The social media sites continue to grow with 332 followers now on facebook. Posts about who the councillors are continue to be posted

9. **Financial matters** – The following accounts were agreed & paid:-

- Clerk - £551.66
- Council Expenses Oct-Dec - £264.03
- Church Hall hire £40

10. **Correspondence** – None

11. **Village Matters**

Other areas discussed in meeting included:-

- Obtaining a large map of Bournmoor to be used in meetings

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting would be held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021.