

Item 14

The Standing Citizens' Panel for Surrey Heath
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
SURREY HEATH
2nd December 2004

KEY ISSUE:

The report updates Members on the last meeting of the Standing Citizens' Panel for Surrey Heath.

SUMMARY:

The Citizens' Panel met on 26th October 2004. The Panel discussed key themes for the Community Safety Strategy for Surrey Heath. Inspector Mark Adams from Surrey Police was in attendance.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee for Surrey Heath comments on and notes the report.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. At the Local Committee meeting held on 17th July 2003, the Committee agreed to the setting up of a Standing Citizens' Panel for Surrey Heath. The next Panel meeting will be on 10th January 2005.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

2. The Panel was asked to note down community safety issues on post-it notes, these were then grouped these together and the Panel discussed each group.

3. Burglary

Four post-it notes, one of which highlighted business crime.

- Reassurance is needed – people talk.
- Lack of response and kids have no fear of the Police.
- Elderly feel insecure
- Business community also at risk, no presence on business property at night or at weekends.

Actions

- Police talking to people about prevention
- More Police on the street and more Police clinics

4. Anti-social behaviour

10 post-it notes, highlighting St. Michael's, young people, noise on the street and from car stereos and drunken behaviour in the town centre.

Also 5 post-it notes on criminal damage, highlighting business crime, the High Street and St Michael's.

- Drinking and vandalism in parks, Frimley Green bus stop, Frimley Green Recreation ground and Frimley Lodge Park.
- Young people are very mobile and so travel around.
- Drinking not seen as high on the Police agenda.
- Vandalism and noise are the main rural issues.

Actions

- Target hotspots – way home from the town centre.
- Encourage reporting of incidents to the Police etc.
- Greater publicity on ASBOs, drinking orders etc. Part of reassurance.
- Greater use of yellow / red cards.
- Rural – awareness, presence of Police, rural residents feel helpless.
- High profile policing needed.
- Target local shops – trading standards.
- Town centre – special offers / happy hours.
- Publicity about licensing laws.
- Greater penalties for bar staff. Target managers and the people higher up.
- Police / Fire / Trading Standards joint patrols at night.
- Off License staff – target selling to young people.
- Education in schools but need to educate parents as well.
- Greater public drinking bans.
- Confiscate more alcohol from young people.
- Target where young people “hang out”
- Stagger or reduce licensing hours.

5. Alcohol and substance misuse

6 post-it notes highlighting anti-social behaviour in the street and young people in public areas.

- Could we have a drinkers licence? You could give points for bad behaviour, like a driving licence.
- There is a profit issue to this – bars want to make money.
- Why do people drink – if you knew this you could address the root cause.
- Drugs are not as big an issue as alcohol.
- Drinkers impact more on people's lives. Alcohol is more accepted.

Actions

- Ask everyone for photo ID.
- Lobby Government and Courts for more powers.

6. Road Safety

4 post-it notes highlighting rat running in Yorktown and lack of action on the M3 when accidents occur.

- Parking on pavements puts pedestrians at risk.
- Lack of parking enforcement
- Need more parking for new houses. 1 ½ spaces per house is not enough.
- Need to ensure that the M3 is opened as soon as possible after accidents.

Actions

- More speed advisor signs
- Greater enforcement of parking restrictions.

7. Other comments

- 2 post-its on vehicle crime – both theft of and from a vehicle.
- 3 post-its on the town centre and Land West of Park Street and how this will affect town centre issues.
- 3 post-its on violent crime.
- 3 post-its on education and crime prevention.

8. Review of the SCP

- SCP needs more feedback.
- The Panel is useful for networking.
- Written feedback is needed as well as a table of successes.
- Ensure that there is feedback from the CDRP.
- Report back on feeding into the Local Committee.

9. Panel members were asked to rate how useful the Panel is. All members who voted gave at least 7 out of 10.

CONSULTATION

10. The Panel is a consultative group of local representatives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. None

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

12. The results of this consultation will feed into the drafting of the Community Safety Strategy for Surrey Heath 2005 - 2008.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

13. This meeting has wide ranging crime and disorder implications that will be addressed in the Community Safety Strategy.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

14. The Panel is representative of the Surrey Heath Community.

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Local Committee for Surrey Heath comments on and notes the report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None