

# Notes of the Meeting with David Sidwick, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, 11 am on 21 June 2022.

## 1. Attendees.

David Sidwick (PCC)

Cllr Simon Christopher (SC)

Vanessa McAra (VM)

Deirdre Coates (DC)

Mick Downes (MD)

Anna Dunn (AD)

George Dunn (GD), who chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Vanessa McAra

Peter Hunt (PH)

## 2. In Attendance.

Sal Robinson, Clerk

## 3. Apologies.

None. *After the meeting, the Clerk was informed that the Char Valley representative thought the meeting was in the evening.*

## 4. Welcome and Introductions.

**VM** welcomed everyone and went round so everyone could introduce themselves.

**PCC** gave a brief summary of what had been happening since the last meeting with Chideock parish Council on 10 August 2022.

**A new Chief Constable** has been appointed. The PCC's requirements were that the candidate had to have worked with other forces, have varied experience having worked in many roles including public order, understand all aspects of diversity e.g. Chideock versus Bournemouth, not be urban focused, and be willing to buy into the PCC's plans.

Scott Chiltern was appointed, previously with Hampshire and London police forces.

A **Rural Engagement Van** has been commissioned – a “mobile police station” – which will visit the villages.

**Action** – details of date / time of visits must be sent to parishes well in advance to allow for it to be well advertised.

### **Rural Policing**

There were specialist 2 Rural officers, now there are 10 plus 3 public service volunteers and 4 special constables planned. They are based in Blandford and will work across Dorset closely with officers based at the various police stations

### **Anti-social behaviour.**

Operation Relentless has been set up to tackle this.

There is an Operation Relentless Fund which is for communities who have ideas for working to reduce ASB. £50k last year and this year, grants of £100 up to £5,000 are available.

### **Neighbourhood Police Teams.**

Each team is committed to 3 priorities.

In addition the teams need to make better connections with their populations – using shop fronts and / or bringing back front desks at police stations.

Increased numbers of officers – 50 so far with a further 2 tranches.

### **Drugs.**

1. Tough enforcement
2. Effective rehabilitation
3. Impactful education – awareness of risks and harm

Forces in the South West are working together – e.g. Operation Scorpion, in conjunction with other bodies. 1<sup>st</sup> time was very successful and it will be repeated.

In Dorset with Operation Viper, Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams focus on significant problem areas – drugs, ASB etc. Started this May.

PCC is co-chair of the national Addiction and Substance Misuse Committee. The “Fixing the Future” initiative aims to deter youngsters from going down that path.

**Victims and Communities** – high priority focus.

**Businesses** are another focus – shop lifting and cyber-crime.

### **Government Funding.**

**PCC** is lobbying government re increased government funding (Dorset is 40<sup>th</sup> out of 41). A panel is currently sitting on this. At the moment the National Funding Formula gives Dorset Police 50% of its funding the rest coming from Council Tax. DC is pushing for some consideration to be given to areas with high transient populations – holiday makers.

### **Reporting of Incidents to the Police.**

When a crime is happening or anyone is in immediate danger - 999

To report a crime or incident that is not an emergency report online or e-mail [101@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@dorset.pnn.police.uk) or ring 101.

**VM** asked if the Operation Relentless Fund could be used to purchase infrared cameras to tackle off-roading at night on Hell Lane Chideock. **PCC** said probably not. It was suggested that signs saying that infrared cameras were in place could be a deterrent. **PCC** asked the Clerk to e-mail him.

## **5. Pre-submitted Questions from Chideock Parish Council..**

**A. West Dorset is not adequately represented on the Dorset Roadsafe board. The single Dorset Council representative is from the EAST of the Dorset Council area which is very different to West Dorset.**

This is a matter for Dorset Council. **SC** asked the Clerk to e-mail him on this.

The **Clerk** said that there are similarities in that Dorset Police cover the whole Dorset county not just the Dorset Council area.

**PCC** said changes have been made – there are now 2 commands – Dorset Council Local Policing Area and the BCP Local Policing Area. But this does not apply to Dorset Road Safe

**B. Is the Police working with National Highways to provide Average Speed Cameras for the 30mph limit between Chideock Hill to the west and part way up Furches Hill to the east?.**

**PCC** said that they are. National Highways is looking at 4 areas in West Dorset – they should report in August.

**C. The speed cameras at either end of Chideock are ineffective - they only monitor receding traffic. The installed cameras are capable of monitoring traffic in both directions - why doesn't Dorset Roadsafe take advantage of this?**

Dorset Road Safe claim that the cameras ensure that vehicles slow down to 30 mph on entering the village.

The cameras are only licenced for use in one direction. An application for both directions had been made.

There followed a discussion about whether the mobile speed check vehicles still visit Chideock.

**PCC** asked if there were suggestions for other ways to deter people from speeding on Chideock Hill.

Suggestion were: -

- Decoy van – there are cost implication. **Action - PCC to find out if this could be done if a van were sourced.**
- Unmarked police motorcycles.

**6. Pre-submitted Questions from Char Valley Parish Council**

**A. We are experiencing a lot of fly tipping in the area and a councillor knows of a certain location where this is done routinely. What can be done about this?**

Possible action is being worked on.

**B. Please can a speed camera be installed on the A35 Morcombelake?**

This is a cost issue – it cost £50,000 to reinstate the eastbound Chideock camera.

National Highways is considering Average Speed Cameras for Winterbourne Abbas, Bridport, Chideock and Morecombelake – they should report in August.

**C. Can we receive crime statistics for the area?**

Yes.

*To be added when received by the Clerk.*

**7. Other Pre-submitted Questions From Chideock Parish Council.**

**A. Construction and Use regulations are not being implemented. It is against the law to modify an exhaust thereby producing an increase in noise. It doesn't need technology to clamp down**

Dorset Police do stop noisy motor bikes if they see / hear them.

Specific “stop” exercises must be conducted at a suitable location.

**Action – PCC to take back the idea of a “deterrent day” targeting this.**

Dorset Road Safe is investigating the use of “audio cameras” PCC will suggest to Grant Shapps (DfT) that a pilot is conducted in Dorset. Police in Kensington already use them plus have a Public Space Protection Order.

**Action – PCC to take forward “audio cameras” and the use of Public Space Protection Orders.**

- B. Why do we only see Traffic Division vehicles when there is an accident. More patrols are needed in West Dorset. We would draw attention to the picture on social media of a patrol car outside Bridport Police Station with a bird nest on its roof! Why are these vehicles always parked there, not out patrolling? And “If the answer is manpower, then we suggest a shift in emphasis away from BCP.”**

The uplift in police numbers will help both Lyme and Bridport police to patrol the A35.

There is a low level of crime in Chideock but a large number of vehicles pass through.

Current incident reporting requirements mean that officers have to return to base to log details etc. which wastes a lot of time. Laptops were tried in the past but now a mobile phone app is being introduced so details can be logged without returning to the office.

The police vehicle with a bird’s nest on the roof was not being used due to age, so no disruption to service has occurred.

The **Clerk** said that there are always police vehicles parked in the Dorset Council owned car park by Bridport Police Station and asked if the Police pay for using it? **Action – PCC to find out!**

- C. Chideock is lucky it is free from majority of recorded criminality - except for 1 thing - illegal activity on Chideock’s Main Street – the A35. Day after day laws are ignored due to the lack of a presence of proactive and effective policing .**

**Why is this not recognised by the Chief Constable?**

Dorset Council is looking at imposing a 20-mph speed limit through towns and villages. But the A35 does not come under Dorset Council.

A discussion on the varied speed limits between Morecombelake and Bridport followed. (40 through Morecombelake then 50, dropping to 30 part-way down Chideock Hill, then 40 after exiting Chideock and 50 at Miles Cross).

Char Valley PC want the current 40 limit through Morecombelake reduced to 30.

**Action – PCC to raise with National Highways the possibility of reducing the 50 mph between Morecombelake and Chideock Hill.**