

Reports presented at Hawstead PC Meeting 16 January 2014

1. Police Report

HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL POLICE REPORT 16 JAN 2014

Here is the crime report for Hawstead for the period 21/11/2013 - 16/01/2014 ahead of tomorrow night's meeting.

PC Sippitt is on duty tomorrow evening, however we do have 5 Parishes all with meetings so he will do his best to get to as many as possible, if he doesn't make it in person please do not hesitate to forward any issues or concerns onto us. Since the last meeting on the 21st November 2013 there have been 2 crimes of note in the area. These were:

- Theft of approximately 300 litres of heating oil from a property in Hawstead. This occurred sometime over a 2 and a half month time period from 1st October 2013 to 23rd December 2013 when the owner noticed almost double the quantity of oil they would usually use in that time frame had gone from the tank and the cap missing.
- Burglary other building - A derelict property currently under renovation on the Lawshall Road, Hawstead. was broken into and a number of tools stolen from within. This occurred sometime between Saturday 28th December and Tuesday 31st December.

General information worth noting:

Last week we had 4 outbuilding burglaries reported to us in the areas of Hundon, Clare and Stoke By Clare. One of our SNT priorities is to reduce the number of burglaries across the area: a new way in which we are pro-actively trying to tackle this is by setting up routine road checks at various different locations throughout the villages we cover during hours of darkness. Since the beginning of the year we have conducted a series of these road checks at Thurlow and Clare. Predominantly our focus is on vehicles potentially being used in burglary offences, however it is also another effective method of catching drink drivers, defected vehicles, road related offences and intelligence gathering.

We cannot stress enough the importance of security around your homes and outbuildings. Consider exterior lighting, alarms, padlocks and CCTV in and around your properties to make them less appealing to burglars. Lock all windows, doors and gates even if you are at home or only popping out for a few moments, keep all valuables and property out of sight. Property marking and the noting of serial numbers for expensive electrical items and garden machinery is always worth doing in the case they are stolen as it helps trace items and aides in our enquiries when such crimes occur.

On Tuesday 7th January we had a report of a silver new shape Ford Focus with one male occupant described as white male, in his 30's of average height, medium build with blue eyes, wearing a wax jacket and spoke with an Irish accent touting for gravel sales in Hundon, then on Thursday 9th January we had a similar report of a silver focus I/M YR63 YBT touting for gravel in Depden at around 11am. If you have anybody turn up at your property touting for sales of any kind which you have concerns over how legitimate they may be then please do not hesitate to call 101 and report it to us, and hopefully we will be able to get officers out to the area to check out the vehicle and persons. If possible try to make a note of the registration plate and as much detail as possible for a description of the vehicle and occupants.

We had a yellow flatbed truck I/M DU02 FLE (which actually comes back as a blue Vauxhall Astra) reported as acting suspiciously in the area of Water Lane, Denston at around 1pm on Wednesday 8th January. No description of driver or occupants: also a white lorry I/M KF51 GGJ driven by an Asian male acting suspiciously at around 3pm on Friday 10th January in the Calford Green area. Any sightings of these or any other vehicles/persons acting suspiciously in any of our areas should please be reported to 101.

We recently held our Safer Neighbourhood Team priority setting meeting on the 3rd December. As a result of those residents from our villages that attended and the issues and concerns highlighted our priorities for the next 3 month period are as follows:

- * Illegal parking in Kedington, particularly around Westward Deals and Kings Hill.
- * Speeding vehicles along the B1061 corridor (running through Bradley, Thurlows and Wratting) and also in the village of Kedington.
- * Burglary - To reduce the number of burglaries throughout the Rural South Area.

The next SNT Priority Setting Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th March 2014, 7pm at Bury St Edmunds Police Station.

Heating oil thefts are a crime we see very often out in the rural areas. A male was recently arrested in Withersfield after being disturbed at someone's property. We urge you all to keep regular checks on your oil levels, consider installing tank alarms and please report any suspicious activity or behaviour in your area. You know your local community better than anyone else, you know the comings and goings of individuals and vehicles. If you see something that isn't quite right, out of the ordinary, or that rings alarm bells please report it to us straight away. We would rather be made aware of something that turns out to be genuine, rather than it go unreported and potentially result in crime in your area.

Kind Regards
Sophie

Sophie Mitchell
PCSO 3265
St Edmundsbury Rural South
Safer Neighbourhood Team

2. Borough Councillor's Report

2014 January Report for Hawstead

Shared services. Now that we have a single team in place we have to move forward to transform the way the Council works in light of the constrained financial position. Priorities mean that the Council must become more commercial and more flexible in its approach to working and the delivery of its services, and, we hope, more in tune with its customers.

West Suffolk Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy. This joint strategy is to be discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees of both councils on January 22nd. It will set out how the councils will deliver their shared ambitions for the next two years. The O&S committees will then meet separately to decide what to recommend to their respective cabinets. This will come before Full Council meetings in February for budget setting purposes. The overall aim is to put us in the best possible position to manage our finances in these challenging times.

Economic growth is a priority and SEBC needs to work closely with its partners in SCC, also with the wider New Anglia LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP in order to get our fair share of funding and to plan and deliver jobs and economic growth.

West Suffolk Families and Community Strategy. This developing policy will provide the framework for reshaping the relationship between the Council, its communities and their families. The aim is to foster resilience in local communities and seeks to address the dependency culture that can build up when the Council is seen as the first port of call for any issue. This change is being brought in in order to help address the ongoing financial cutbacks which still have to be met.

A Families and Communities Team has been created as part of the Leisure, Culture and Communities restructuring. The team will provide a locality officer to give ongoing support to councillors across both councils and the officer for Chedburgh Ward is to be Gemma O'Shea who will be making contact as the strategy is implemented in the forthcoming weeks.

New Homes Bonus. The New Homes Bonus is a grant paid by central government to local councils for increasing the number of homes and their use. It is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use. There is also an extra payment for providing affordable homes. The New Homes Bonus is paid each year for 6 years and SEBC will receive £871,794 per year under this scheme.

Westley Railway Bridge. You may be aware of the traffic lights that have been put in place to reduce traffic on this bridge on Newmarket Road which has been

found to be structurally unsafe. SEBC are concerned that disruption will be ongoing for many months and are requesting SCC to ensure a speedy conclusion of the works and to minimise disruption to the town.

Gypsies and travellers. SEBC have obtained pre-emptive injunctions on all of our car parks in Bury and on open land at Moreton Hall so safeguarding these areas from occupation. A temporary tolerated stopping site has been identified for the family that have been in this area for over a year. They can stay there until the end of March and will pay a weekly fee for temporary toilets and waste collection.

Vision 2031. The Inspector has begun the process of examining the documents and the Public Hearings are set to begin at the end of this month in both Bury and Haverhill.

Development Control. Steven Wood has now been appointed as head of Planning Services, taking up his position in February. The joint planning policy with FHDC is now working. I hope the meeting for parishes on Monday was helpful.

The master plans for the major development to the north of Bury has now received outline planning consent as has the new relief road joining Moreton Hall to junction 45 of the A14.

Angela Rushen

January 2014