

Windermere and Bowness Chamber of Trade

Meeting date: 14th May 2019

Present:

Scott Keenan (chair)

John Saunders (Mayor)

Sgt Bill Nolan

Barry Butler

Sandra Lilley (Deputy Mayor)

Peter McCall, Police and Crime Commissioner

Adrian Faulkner, Secretary/Treasurer

Steve Bavin, resident

Jenny Borer, Windermere Town Council

Lisa Hodgson, Police and Crime Commissioner's Office - note taking

There was a brief discussion regarding the issues that were raised earlier in the day at the surgery that the Police and Crime Commissioner held at Booths in Windermere. Mr McCall advised that the issues raised were in relation to dog mess; parking and the night time economy in the town. There was a discussion regarding the local policing hub, being of a multi-agency nature where all parties should be focused together to deliver a combined response to local issues.

Mr Faulkner noted that as a chamber, they work closely with Windermere Police.

Mr Saunders wished to note that he was proud and pleased of the police service currently received from Windermere Police. It was noted that he has seen a shift in the last 5 years with regards to classical pubs and cafes becoming nightclubs, which attract a different clientele.

It was noted that Insp Paul Latham has advised he will make every effort to get additional officers out on patrol in the town, and it was noted that this has already been recognised.

There was a discussion with regards to CCTV cameras being monitored by the police. Mr McCall advised that he is keen to support the CCTV but noted that there has to be a policing need in order for the police to support and monitor it locally.

Mr Butler asked whether staff numbers would be increased at Police HQ, Penrith to monitor further CCTV. Mr McCall advised that there is scope as currently there are camera slots available to be monitored within the current workforce.

Sgt Nolan advised that there are legal requirements which must be met in order for CCTV cameras to be placed for recording purposes. However, it was noted that CCTV could also be a good preventative tool.

Mr Saunders advised that in the past, licencing enforcement hasn't been used as it should be. New councillors are realising that this tool can be used and are now starting to do so. Mr Bavin noted that CCTV could be used to show if licencing was being violated.

Sgt Nolan advised that it can sometimes be difficult to determine who is responsible if someone leaving a premises is the cause of ASB on the street as providing they left the pub/nightclub sensibly and quietly, it is not their responsibility if they then appear to cause a disturbance further down the road. Sgt Nolan added that Becky (new member of staff within the force) now visits ever new licensee in the area. Sgt Nolan noted that they are currently looking into how well door staff are trained. Door staff currently have powers to carry and use handcuffs if required. It was noted that there has been 4 incidents so far where door staff have used handcuffs and there has been no illegal enforcement currently.

It was noted that Barwatch is still ongoing, this is no longer a list as it is all now electronic.

Mr McCall advised that reporting all incidents such as these is important. The Police can only act upon the information and intelligence that is provided to them.

Sgt Nolan advised that there is a formal monthly meeting at the Local Focus Hub and advised that all present in a professional capacity are welcome to attend. Agencies such as the County Council, District Council, Housing Association and the Police will be in attendance.

There was a discussion regarding the 101 telephone system, and sometimes having to wait to be connected. Mr McCall advised that when callers make contact via 101, they are connected to an officer therefore in a lot of cases the incident can be dealt with immediately. Mr McCall advised that the 101 wait times are published daily by Cumbria Police on Twitter.

Mr Saunders noted that the town does not have the resources to cope with 30,000 people for four months of the year, and additionally on weekends. It was asked whether licencing could be looked at as a more serious issue. It was noted that licencing is granted as per the relevant licencing act. District Cllr's may have the powers to change the licencing laws. It was noted that people are no longer enforcing people drinking on the streets, Sgt Nolan advised that there is no longer legislation to enforce it.

Ms Borer noted that underage drinking has been clamped down on, but young people have now moved on to drug taking and dealing. There was a discussion about the new pro-active officers, and it was noted that the police need to know if anyone sees any drug activity to enable them to progress the matter. Mr McCall added that there will always be a market for dealers if we don't solve the problem for those that are purchasing. This matter has to be dealt with jointly and the messages need to be passed to younger children. There was a discussion regarding the County Lines, and the fact that Cumbria is seen as a target area. It was noted that the schools will assist in getting messages out to younger children and the mini police/PCSO's can be used to educate in an age appropriate manner. It was agreed that the thought process needs to be changed for our next generation. It was noted that the Brewery Arts Centre are doing an experience based on decision making. This is in relation to

the County Lines and has so far had great feedback. This is an educational experience of kids talking to kids.

Mr Saunders advised that one of the difficulties as a town council is letting people know what work is being done, as is the Police - the perception is that there should be a 'bobby on the beat' it was noted that the police should explain why and what the additional council tax precept is being spent on. Mr McCall provided an explanation regarding this, it was noted that Mr McCall will do the right thing for Cumbria, he is committed to maintaining Cumbria as being one of the safest places to live and maintain officer numbers.

Mr Saunders advised that the PCC shouldn't underestimate how much extra people are willing to make for policing, but, they need to see it. It was noted that the public can see the work that has been delivered by the PCC by reading his annual report. Sgt Nolan advised that he is noticing a huge improvement with the additional police officers when there is an issue. Mr McCall added that he is constantly battling with central government with regards to additional policing and funding and this is something that he will continue to do.

There was a discussion around the Newsletter system and Police Facebook groups that members of the public can join to be kept up to date with the latest news in their area.

The meeting ended at 20:00.