

SUPPLEMENTARY UPDATE TO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN WETMOUTH TOWN CENTRE

Summary

An increase of rough sleeping on public land, mainly Lodmoor, coinciding with the good weather, and two incidents of small traveller encampments. Action has been taken to clear sites. Heightened public/media concern about begging and street drinking post the introduction of the Public Space Protection Order (see below).

Crime & ASB Statistics

Melcombe Regis quarterly statistics;

	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2
Environmental ASB	26	19	17	9	25	
Nuisance ASB	416	451	212	244	378	
Personal ASB	41	33	26	28	40	
Total ASB	483	503	255	281	443	
Total Crime	466	561	424	444	626	

2018-19 Q2 available for next meeting.

Issues

Town Centre Policing - Key points;

- high visibility evening & night patrols focusing on licenced premises hot-spots
- evening & night tactics to be deployed in daytime economy for trial period, focus on increasing visibility in daytime hot-spots
- targeting of repeat offenders and use of dispersal powers & Criminal Behaviour Orders
- execution of drug warrants & disruption of drug County Lines activities
- PC Chris Meade deployed as Melcombe Regis Development Officer
- focus on responding to reports of ASB from street drinkers. Response will be dependent upon threat; risk & harm assessment and policing priorities

Youth ASB – Multi-agency work continues to show benefit and incidents remain low. Increase in August likely as a result of school holidays.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Number of reported incidents	13	31	5	45	10	10	6	16

ASB Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) – Order came in to practical effect on 20 August 2018;

- confiscation of alcohol from individuals behaving in an anti-social manner
- restriction on begging
- restriction on feeding of gulls
- change on cycling restrictions (allowing limited cycling on The Esplanade)

Street drinking – recent media coverage around a core of street drinkers (approx. 10) gathering at Esplanade shelter causing ASB. Some individuals are known to agencies (Police; Council; outreach services) and are very difficult to engage. When Police attend behaviour largely satisfactory. Agencies reviewing approach and will report to Scrutiny & Performance Committee on 4 October 2018. CSAS patrol officers will have a positive impact in reducing ASB.

Rough Sleeping & Begging – Good weather boosted the seasonal increase in rough sleeping and tents on public land. Removal action taken and numbers now decreased. Rough sleeper left belongings can now be removed after 1 hour rather than the former 3 hours. Rough sleeper outreach continues with Julian House as service provider, 19 at last count. 7 clients, all former rough sleepers, on Bus Shelter with further potential clients being assessed. Annual national rough sleeper count planned for November 2018. Quarterly count proposed to provide better data through the year. This year's periods of Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) have been evaluated and were found to have worked well. Voluntary agencies are at a preliminary stage of identifying resources to enable a church-based 'winter shelter' to be implemented this year.

Begging under scrutiny following the introduction of the PSPO. There are 6 regular beggars currently in the town centre. Due to the vulnerability of some who beg, the council and Police will take proportional action to the nuisance or harm being caused. We will always seek to engage vulnerable beggars with support agencies but those who are problematic can expect firmer action including the use of PSPO powers. The CSAS patrol officers will be a front-line resource however there has been a delay in deploying these officers (see below).

Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) – Officers deployment delayed due to training and equipment issues, will be patrolling from September 2018. Focus will be town centre; railway station; Rodwell Trail/The Marsh. Now recruiting more officers for evening & night time periods.

Rodwell Trail – Following contact from the Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), Cllrs Byatt and Kerby (chair of Dorset Community Safety Partnership) inspected the town section of the trail. As a result of this and a subsequent letter from Cllr Kerby to members of Management Committee, a community safety audit is taking place led by Dorset Police's Crime Prevention Officer. Recommendations will be reported including an assessment of the benefits of increased lighting and CCTV.

ASB briefing

The council's ASB officers led a briefing to councillors on 2 August 2018 explaining their role and working relationship with the Police to tackle Borough safety and ASB issues. The presentation has been circulated to all councillors.

Scrutiny & Performance Committee – At their meeting on 4 October 2018 the committee will be reviewing the council's role (& partner agencies) in supporting people with drug and alcohol dependencies and dealing with the consequences of their behaviour. This will include street ASB etc.

Other issues

Cllr Byatt has met with the PCC and representatives from Weymouth Compliments; Complaints; Observations & Suggestions Facebook Group. A range of issues were discussed, actions for all identified and a follow-up meeting agreed in 6 months.

Partners are exploring the viability of establishing a multi-agency hub in the town centre as a local base for agencies delivering town centre services. Police; Weymouth BID; CSAS officers; Town Centre Manager; Street Pastors are all examples of how a shared space could be utilised.

Graham Duggan
10 September 2018