

Bicester Police Rural Resilience Group

Meeting held on Tuesday, 7th September 2021 at Piddington Village Hall

Present:

2 PCSOs from TVP

No TVP Officers present

Neil Francis, Community Safety Warden Team Leader (CDC)

Representatives from the following villages:

Piddington

Ambrosden

Caversfield

Middleton Stoney

Fritwell

Ardley

Launton

Merton

Weston on the Green

There are in fact 39 villages in the group, so not exactly a good turnout!

The main gripe from practically all villages present was traffic – speeding and volume. There are moves to purchase a Sentinel Speed Gun between villages and this is being encouraged by TVP. I didn't question the gun element – this is Sentinel's "Hair Dryer" type of device as opposed to the static camera on a stand that Islip have and share with WOTG (also manufactured by Sentinel). Salutary warning from Merton (might have been Ambrosden), where they'd set up a group to operate a similar device but then found it difficult to get volunteers to operate and record drivers breaking the limit. Some concern by their villagers that they might report people they know and thus cause friction between "friends and neighbours" !!!

Interesting to hear that Ambrosden, Merton, Piddington and Brill have been targeted as places to dump cannabis farm waste – bin liners full of decaying spent plants and equipment I think. This had been mentioned at the previous meeting in March but is still happening. No explanation as to why these villages are selected for its disposal – I wanted to say that it was being grown to supply the demand from Bullingdon Prison but thought better of it!

The most useful contribution was from Neil Francis, Community Safety Warden, Team Leader – who spoke about people looking for scrap metal (again something else that was discussed last March but a continual problem). He emphasised the need to ask these people to see their licence – it is mandatory to have the licence displayed on their windscreen. Unfortunately someone came out with a statement that inferred that all scrap metal dealers were "travellers" and was shot down by someone who obviously supports the rights of law abiding travellers.

The PCSO mentioned the mobile police office that can be brought to villages for short periods. They also mentioned the drastic reassignment of police officers to other duties and/or areas of responsibility and at the time of the meeting they themselves were not sure who was responsible for various areas that are of concern.

Hope this is helpful!

Bob Hessian

