



MINUTES OF THE ASHTON PACT MEETING

Held at St Andrew's Scout Hut

On Wednesday 16th August 2023

Commencing 7.00pm

Present

Chair, Bill Raines;

Minutes Secretary, Chris Cox

Preston City Councillors: Robert Boswell, Liz Atkins

Lancashire County Councillor, Nweeda Khan

Police Representatives: PCSOs Sharon Noble and Ali Mirza

27 Ashton residents

Apologies

Cllr. James Hull

Address by PCSO Noble

PCSO Noble presented the crime figures for Ashton for the past 3 months and for the same period 12 months ago. She explained that the summer months are typically the busiest especially with regard to anti-social behaviour and burglaries.

PCSO Noble pointed out that the Ashton area covered by the police differs from the ward of Ashton. The police area is Pedders Lane to Stocks road and all the docks.

Burglaries	27/16	5 of the 27 were attempted burglaries; some were car thefts
Criminal damage	21/22	these incidents mainly occurred in the dock area.
Thefts	84/ ?	mainly shoplifting and bike thefts from gyms
Nuisance logs	90/102	begging accounted for a significant number of these offences

Two Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) have been issued to beggars behaving aggressively.

[Crime statistics for Lancashire can be viewed online here.](#)

[Crime Statistics for Ashton and the Docks can be viewed here](#)

[A map showing where crimes have been committed in Ashton can be viewed here](#)

Vehicle nuisance - especially young people on scooters and electric bikes remains a problem for residents. Police officers are not allowed to give chase or follow them with drones or even photograph them in action for fear this will prompt the offenders to leave the scene at high speeds and possibly kill themselves or others.

So ... the police rely on members of the public telling them where offenders keep their vehicles and, if possible, providing photographic evidence of the offenders riding their vehicle. The police have the powers to seize and destroy the vehicles.

ACTION: Members of the public to provide information to the police via one of the following ways:

- Calling **101**
- [Completing Lancashire's online reporting system](#)
- Calling Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**
- [Using Crimestoppers online form](#)

Calls to the police regarding vehicle nuisance are given out over the radio and staff will respond, if possible.

PLEASE CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY, IF

- Someone's life is in danger?
- Violence to a person or damage to property is imminent
- A serious offence is in progress
- A suspected offender is still at the scene of an incident or any delay in reporting the incident may prevent the offender being apprehended
- Serious disruption to the public is currently taking place, or is likely to take place

PCSO Noble explained that because of staffing issues there is no Community Beat Manager available to lock the Green Frog Car Park to deter car meets in the summer months. Because residents have complained about the noise issues the police have been in touch with council officers who have said a small amount of money is available at present and so a council worker has been asked to lock the gates.

One resident asked about the rise in the number of burglaries and how Ashton compares to other areas, whilst another asked about the clear up rate. PCSO Noble tried to reassure residents and said some of the increase might be accounted for by the fact that the police now record every instance of **attempted** burglary reported to them and gave a couple of examples. She explained that she and her colleagues do not have comparative figures or information about clear up rates.

Cllr Boswell stated that residents who wished to know about clear up rates could submit a **Freedom of Information Request**.

[Information on how to submit a FOI request is available here.](#)

At this point the Chair referred to the minutes of the last meeting about car nuisance outside Ashton High. The school is in the Larches police area and PCSO Noble agreed to pass these concerns to the relevant person.

ACTION: PCSO Noble

Residents raised the following concerns:

- **Speeding vehicles up and down Pedders Lane.**

ACTION: PCSO Noble to pass concerns to relevant person and to request a one day speed watch be set up. Offenders will “be educated” if stopped.

Cllr Khan explained that LCC have been asked on numerous occasions to introduce traffic calming measures on Pedders Lane. Their response invariably is to say that more evidence of the problem is needed. If a one day monitoring takes place then this could be useful evidence.

- **cars blocking the pavement throughout Ashton.**

It was established that parking on pavement where there are double yellow lines is the responsibility of **LCC**. [Report the problem online.](#)

Police officers are currently on immediate response – not neighbourhood duties which impacts their ability to respond to obstructions of the pavement. It was agreed that the parking issues around Waterloo and Wellington Road remain a cause for concern and LCC need pressing on this matter.

ACTION: Cllr Khan, PCSOs

- **Noise and ASB from certain HMO's in the neighbourhood.** Cllr Khan reported that both the Foxton and LCC had been contacted regarding noise nuisance. **The resident most affected** was urged to try and record the noise from next door to provide evidence of the problem.

It was noted that 144 Tulketh Road is currently being converted.

- **Drug dealing** had been observed outside front door of a resident on Tulketh Road. The resident was prompted to report the matter to the police.

- **Missed bin collections.** Residents on Bank Place? Regularly experience recycling bins not being emptied. The problem appears to be that the vehicles used on this round are too large to negotiate parked cars. This is not the fault of the residents and the council need to find a solution.

Residents were informed that in certain situations they can [request assistance to get their bins put out and returned.](#)

Residents can also [report a missed bin collection online.](#)

- **Uneven pavements and weeds.** It was agreed that there are problems with pavements throughout the ward.

Cllr Khan explained that lack of money and changes to pesticide use means LCC only do weed control twice a year.

There was general agreement that residents could do more to look after the area around their own homes.

Residents were encouraged to download the Love Clean Streets App and to report issues they notice. Contact a councillor if the issue isn't resolved.

- **an application for the change of use of an existing health service centre (Class E) to a dwelling house at 166 Tulketh Rd** for up to six young people living together as a single household and receiving care

"The proposal is to provide a change of use class E to Residential class C3(b) with minimal internal only alterations to provide accommodation for up to six young persons (16-25) to share the independent home each with their own rooms and additional shared facilities to aid their recovery whilst in a less formal hospital setting but also having the benefit of Professional care and support workers to assist with young persons mental health and recovery needs should they require it. The aim is to provide 2 ground floor bedrooms with two reception rooms to the front and a large open plan kitchen diner to the rear with a provision of a ground floor bathroom to the southeast side. On the First floor to provide 4 more bedrooms with an office to the front (southwest facing), a new study and bathroom to the southeast side and bathroom where the existing WC's are located in the north corner. The attic room will be storage only. The Cellar will provide a Therapy space, a chill out / games room along with a further storage room. Externally a new fenced bin store area will be provided to the rear of the property."

Residents expressed concern that there would not be full time supervision for vulnerable young people - and referenced the damning QCC report on the company's other initiative.

ACTION: Cllr Khan to raise the potential safeguarding matter with the relevant body.

- One resident thanked the councillors for pushing for **bus stop markings** at the stop on Egerton Rd - outside St Michael's - which had now been completed. He pointed out that **the 68 and 61 service provided by Stagecoach**, however, is poor. Buses are very irregular and the lack of frequency before 9.00am adversely impacts workers.

ACTION: ????

Those present were informed that Larches and Lea hold a Monthly Pact meeting for residents west of Pedders Lane and were reminded that **Larches and Savick Community Organisation (LASCA)** can be contacted with issues. They have a [Facebook page](#) and are on [Twitter \(X\)](#)

The councillors were asked what they thought about the proposals for Ashton Park.

Cllr Robert Boswell explained that elected councillors have a duty to the whole of Preston and not just their ward. Every Preston resident who pays council tax helps

maintain all of Preston's parks and so the councillors cannot just think about the proposals from the perspective of those who live closest to the parks.

Cllr Liz Atkins explained she was dismayed by the potential impact of the development on such a lovely green space and feels strongly about the need to speak up on behalf of residents in Ashton. She expressed regret that the council had not recognized the importance of the advice in the 'Football Foundation's' [COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT](#) re local community support.

Concern was expressed about:

the amount of parkland impacted by the plans. A number of attendees believed it was too much.

The health hazards of a 3G pitch

The impact of flood lighting and noise on near neighbours

The size of the car park and increase in traffic

The narrow focus on football

Preston Council's lack of consultation prior to submitting the bid

A number of residents welcomed development of the park but not at any cost. It was generally agreed that the plans needed amending and it was hoped that this was possible without scuppering the entire bid.

The meeting closed at 8.50