

Notes of Meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr John Campion

Held at The Cock Inn Function Room, Hanwood on 24th September 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman- J Percival John Campion, PCSO Bradley, 14 public, Shropshire Council Roger Evans, Liz Wydra (PCC Secretary), R Turner (Parish Clerk)

Cllr. Percival welcomed Mr Campion to the meeting.

Cllr. Evans summarised the problems in Hanwood re speeding. A feasibility study had been done by SC to look into traffic calming in 2016 but funding for such projects had ceased at SC. In the meantime, Hanwood has experienced significant growth and the problems are now more acute due to increased traffic volumes. Accidents occur due to the shape of Edgebold roundabout and speed on it and traffic coming off a 70mph road (the A5). A 50 Speed limit between Edgebold Roundabout and The Old Dairy is needed and police support for this is needed. A pedestrian crossing is going in close to Caradoc View on the A488. Hanwood is a Linear village – Hanwood Bank speeds up, over railway line, double white lines – vehicles overtaking within 30mph area including near entrances to side roads

The village has 4 VAS and a light controlled crossing by the shop and there is a history of red light jumping and near misses/accidents involving pedestrians at the crossing. There are also speed problems outside the school at the Pontesbury end of Hanwood.

Community Speed Watch in Hanwood – was active – have to put signs up when in operation but this alerts people to the checks – Cllr. Evans queried why do signs still have to be put out to say when volunteers are measuring speed, if the village also has permanent warning signs saying it is a speed watch village? A member of the public has also sent feedback to state that *“The pre warning signs that the check was in operation that had to be posted at either end of the village completely skewed the number of people speeding, nevertheless there were also double figures reported each time we were out. There was no support or interest from the local police. There was no feedback at all from West Mercia police when we reported our results, which resulted in us all becoming disillusioned with the exercise. There was no increase in police speeding checks as a result of our report.”* SC Highways have agreed that could erect permanent community speed watch schemes and it was asked if the parish could do this?

There have been a number of requests for a fixed speed camera – Cllr. Evans asked how the parish could get one?

The clerk highlighted the narrow pavements make the A488 road unsafe for pedestrians to walk along yet it is necessary to do so to access key facilities such as the school

A resident highlighted concern re speeding near school – near misses near crossing. Telford have better safety and have PCSOs more regularly outside school

Cllr. Evans said evidence has been supplied to SC re Hanwood being an accident hotspot. Speed calming scheme scrapped as was the CIL Local request rejected.

John Campion spoke re the above:

Role is governance not operational. Holds resources, £225 million per year, sets tax, Police & Crime Plan. Highlighted that are operational dimensions to the concerns but his role is to assist in getting answers.

This is a generally safe area. Speeding is a form of anti-social behaviour. Village has grown and car use has grown out of pace with village growth. Enforcement never the sole answer to speed. Parts of road

are not like a 30mph zone and it needs to be made to feel more like it is. Community Speedwatch – he agreed to get an answer re signage from the constables. Raising awareness is key and he also believes if average speed is too high there should be enforcement. Need more speed monitoring to collect data.

Fixed speed cameras are out of fashion as too easy for motorists to avoid them but average speed cameras being tested more. Looking to pilot a scheme in West Mercia.

Policing team – have been under capacity had illness and will be looking to get people back in posts. Will look at what is being done to backfill the vacant post here. Will work with PCSO to answer detailed local questions

Accidents – his view is something terrible shouldn't have to happen before something is done. Should be evidence based – keen to record data. He believes the long section of reduced speed in a village such as Hanwood may aggravate the problem here. Potential options include lining, signage, VAS and making it look like a lower speed area. The PCC has a pot of funding to help with smaller schemes. Never funds 100% would contribute towards it e.g. 50% towards VAS, village gates. Has to be locally driven ideas wise, happy to be partner that helps get them done.

Encouraged locals to make use of things such as Dashcams to report data – in West Mercia there is a scheme to upload the footage and it is reviewed by police officer, known as Operation SNAP.

Public questions

- *Is there evidence that rumble strips together with VAS work better?* Evidence shows they have an impact but longevity not ideal but cause noise. Generally now not used in built up areas.
- *What evidence has been collected?* Central data and local data. Doesn't show clear accident spot. PCSO Bradley data collection between Hanwood Bank and church – August 2019, speed bike coming in soon as was an enforceable issue.
- *Lady representing Minsterley (Susan Lockwood) – continual problem along the A488, can there be a collective programme to address this problem?* PCC agreed with this idea. Have started Roads Focus programme to improve driver awareness, hoping to modify driver behaviour especially locally. Average speed cameras can assist and possibility of a scheme for the A488 stretch of villages (Hanwood, Pontesbury, Minsterley) was raised.
- *Dangers from uncut verges etc*
- *Evidence – drew attention to data collected in feasibility report.* Shropshire Council said now out of date but housing has made it worse. Chair had asked about having camera partnership measure data at a different point.
- *How to get a fixed camera and funding?* West Mercia do not install new fixed speed cameras, use mobile enforcement. Where evidence shows 85th percentile is high, would want appropriate enforcement action. Funding – has to be appropriate to the area. Use surplus from the Speed Awareness courses for road safety schemes. It was agreed that speed monitoring kit needs to be deployed in Hanwood.
- *Visibility just before the railway bridge – sun through portals of the bridge blinds motorists exiting the lanes (Mill Lane)*
- *Thoughts on encouraging parking on main road* – PCC is a fan of these approaches but residents generally aren't.
- *Agree its predominantly locals speeding from within Shropshire*
- *Recruitment going up for the area – is PCC happy that numbers will be adequate?* PCC felt that have enough even at lowest ebb but things we worry about aren't things that cause us more

harm e.g. online crime more likely than physical crime. Hopes will be more capacity for community priorities. Government committed to extra 20,000 police officers and seems to be national drive to deliver this.

- *Question re crime re Localism Act – pecuniary interest not being registered offence.* Monitoring officer must refer to police but police do not take matter forward as not in public interest. What is PCC view on this? Govt took sledgehammer to crack nut by making a pecuniary interest offence criminal. Police have to focus on high harm and this is essentially an admin issue but police have to investigate it proportionally. Person put forward suggestion for template warning letter to Superintendent but idea dismissed. PCC said the law is proportionate and needs to be enforced proportionately.
- *30mph signs were on the road but were burnt off by SC as apparently makes it illegal and unenforceable.* According to DfT. PCC to feedback re this.
- *20mph? Caradoc area – is it enforceable? Will West Mercia enforce it?* PCC believes 20mph zones are for specific purpose but not blanket. To get true 20mph zone need a lot of engineering works in order to get the TRO. If there is a TRO police will enforce it.
- *Can we use funds for design from PCC pot?* The PCC said he would want to see how the money will be used. Possibly relook at feasibility study and come up with wish list and then go to PCC or do 2 bids – one for design, one for actual scheme.
- *Are there county lines issues in this area?* Exploitation of vulnerable people locally – selling of drugs via local franchise. Is a problem everywhere. Also about tackling addiction and better rehabilitation.
- *On national level, should we not be educating young people about speeding.* This is done at present and also initiatives such as Crucial Crew. There is also a scheme for rising 17 year olds – hire a space and have a week's engagement can access range of vehicles and learn how to be responsible.