

Police Meeting with New Sergeant

Sergeant Canning met with Cllr Laity (Town Mayor), Cllr Dredge (policing advocate), the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk on Thursday 11 February 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

Sergeant Canning has replaced Sergeant Wilson who has now moved to Totnes. This appointment was relayed to officers who have since been on sick leave and retired, so there had been a delay in the information being disseminated.

The issue of non-attendance at policing and Council meetings was raised. Sergeant Canning confirmed it was a force wide decision to step away from meetings, however advised that his door is always open and if something needs to be addressed he is accessible, and likewise if he required information from the Town Council he would not hesitate to contact them. He advised that there is a lot of information on the website, including crime figures, and is often a quicker route to accessing information rather than the lag when attending meetings.

Local issues discussed:

- Construction lorries speeding on Exeter Road were raised following a complaint from a member of the public. Sergeant Canning was not aware of this, although stated that speeding is an issue around the South Hams. In most cases it tends to be by residents rather than visitors to the area.
- Anxiety on social media regarding dog thefts. Sergeant Canning was aware of this, but confirmed there have been no dog thefts in the area, and they were aware of the reports of offers to purchase dogs, the intention being to purchase them as pets rather than for any other use. He does however plan to liaise with the individuals concerned.
- There have been several dog attacks around the South Hams. They tend to be on livestock and mostly by very placid household dogs who become excitable at the sight of lambs moving quickly. The police are working with Dartmoor National Park and are in the process of producing some posters to get the message across. These will be in the form of a QR code to intrigue the visitor into scanning the code, rather than words which don't tend to be as impactful.
- Sgt Canning has been liaising with the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer at South Hams District Council regarding the arson attack on the Glanvilles Mill toilets. The toilets are acting as a magnet for the youths to gather inside in the evenings. The police would need to stock 20 pence pieces to check on the toilets, and there is no reason for them to be open at night in the current situation, therefore the decision has been taken for them to be closed at night.
- Western Road works appears to be making good progress, and the new crossing was noted and welcomed.

Sergeant Canning confirmed that crime in Ivybridge is low. Violent and sexual crime is very low and any reports are generally domestic. Drugs tend to be recreational, and Ivybridge does not have the wider drug problems as in Torquay.

He was unable to indicate whether the new policing quota would affect staffing in Ivybridge. There are currently 5 sections based in the town doing 24 hour shifts.

He confirmed that the pubs not being open has enabled them to focus on other aspects of policing which is usually taken up when pubs are closing around 11pm, and the conflicts that generally ensue from drinkers. When they do re-open he would like to re-shape how this is managed.