

# MEETING REPORT

**Meeting:** Council – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
**Agenda item:** 23/078  
**Report subject:** Updates & Information  
**Report author:** K Elliott-Turner, Town Clerk

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## Councillor updates, conference & events

Cllr Dredge – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 - Councillor Advocate seminar on violence at Exeter Racecourse

Cllr Dredge – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – South Hams Councillor Advocate meeting (Teams)

Cllr Dredge – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Meeting with Internal Auditor

Cllr Dredge – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – DALC AGM & Conference at Exeter Racecourse

Cllr Dredge – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 – Devon & Cornwall Transport Forum (Teams)

Cllr Dredge – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Plymouth Freeport SHDC meeting (Teams)

Cllr Spencer (and Town Clerk) – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – South Hams Mayors & Clerks Meeting

Cllrs Dredge, Hladkij, Weeks – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – ASB Policing Meeting

Cllr Dredge (and Town Clerk) – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – SHDC (Teams) Briefing on Totnes & Ivybridge Freeport (copy of presentation slides to be circulated)

Cllrs Spencer and Abbott – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 - CVS AGM (Now called Community Action) (copy of AGM report and contents of meeting attached for information)

## Town Clerk's Report

### FOR INFORMATION – Anti-Social Behaviour Policing Meeting

On 18<sup>th</sup> October, an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policing Meeting took place at the Town Hall.

Present were: Inspector Ben Shardlow, PCs Rob Pike and Dave Tungate from the Neighbourhood Policing team), Ellis Norton from Youth for Christ, Cluna Donnelly, Councillors Hladkij, Weeks and Dredge, and the Town Clerk.

- All agreed that ASB in the town has dropped significantly, and the police statistics support that – in the last two weeks they received 3 police reports, and none of those related to young people ASB.
- The bridge project hasn't noticed any issues recently.
- The police are currently focusing on their Business Crime Week and local businesses have confirmed that there are lower levels of shop lifting and ASB. The garage opposite the Watermark has also confirmed that they have noticed ASB dropping off since May this year.
- The police think that the current cohort may now be focusing on their education with a view to moving on, have got jobs, or have girlfriends who may be turning their focus elsewhere.
- The current issue seems to be disposable vapes. The number of NOS<sup>1</sup> cannisters littered is dropping off. It was reported that some young people are using vapes which have spice in them (a type of synthetic cannabis), which you can't smell as it is disguised by the smell of the flavoured vapes. Users appear to be in a zombie-like state.
- The police have been working with the CSP and SHDC to issue Community Protection Warnings, which seems to also have helped to reduce ASB. It was acknowledged that there are multiple reasons why ASB has been reducing.

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<sup>1</sup> Nitrous Oxide

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- We discussed the possibility of installing a shelter near the bridge project. This is something that has been brought up before and the Police are supportive of the idea, particularly as it would be close to their station and they would know where potential cohorts might be located, if not in the bridge project. Cluna and Cllr Weeks are also keen to support. I explained to the meeting how well this had worked at my previous council, where young residents worked with youth workers/provider to put together a project plan, decide what they wanted/actually needed, source funding, permissions, etc and then saw the project through to the end – this gave them ‘ownership’ of the facility and helped to self-police it. This land is owned by SHDC, so something to consider further and make enquiries.
- We briefly discussed the anniversary of the young resident who tragically died last year on the railway line and the upcoming anniversary. An action for the police was to review staffing levels for that day, around the station and at the rugby club, which coincides with their fireworks night event.
- Finally, Inspector Shardlow advised that he wasn’t able to continue to keep resources focused on these meetings, but would of course be monitoring ASB reports. It is very important that people continue to keep reporting ASB so hotspots or emerging problem areas can be identified. All agreed that the police do not need to continue to attend ASB meetings, until such time that ASB increases, and a meeting will be called.
- The rest of the ASB Policing group will continue to individually monitor ASB, and a monthly email will be sent to all in the ASB meeting group to seek views on levels at that point. If all collectively agree that it is necessary, we will ask the police to return to meetings. A summary of our discussions/findings will be provided to Inspector Shardlow.