

## Public accountability meeting 27 February 2018 – Local policing priorities

### Question 1: – DRAX – SELBY

Dear Julia, Many of our local villages are experiencing a tidal wave of petty crime. Thefts from oil tanks, vehicle break-ins and random thefts from houses, sheds and gardens happen on a sickeningly regular basis.

These are not serious major crimes, but there is such a high level of them at the moment that many folk are in despair – " what has happened to our previously peaceful life in our lovely village" is a common response.

What are the police doing to return some safety and stability to our lives ??

Regards

### Question 2: RIPON – HARROGATE

Dear Madam,

Following your email I recognise and can relate to the topics that the community have raised. I also have the following questions which I would like to raise for discussion.

Do you feel that the communities concerns regarding anti-social behaviour are as a result of a draw down in Police and PCSO presence on the street, with Police moving to vehicle borne reactive tactics instead of community policing and foot/bike patrols? Do you see this as an issue and are you looking to address it?

I see many early teen aged groups loitering in kids play areas and on the streets, most of these areas are poorly lit and offer cover for smoking of recreational drugs and alcohol. How are you working with local authorities as part of a prevent strategy to create dedicated spaces and activities for the younger generations to enjoy positively rather than turning to anti-social behaviour and is there a desire to light areas which currently offer a safe haven for drug taking.

I have seen an increase in Mobile speed camera van presence in North Yorkshire over the last few months. It seems the placement of these units are aimed at high offender areas such as motorways rather than high risk areas such as 30mph zones, schools etc. What can you do to reassure the public that you aren't looking to increase funds for the service through fines over the priority of increasing safety in built up areas and could the funds dedicated to these units be better used by putting more versatile traffic officers on the roads?

Update:

Thank you for your reply. I live in Ripon, which is where the antisocial questions refer to. I do however I travel across the county and my question regarding speed enforcement refers to the county as a whole.

From my observations, Harrogate Road. McDonalds to the bridge and the park Borrage Green Lane/Harrogate Road. I hope this helps and I appreciate your interest.

Kind regards,

**Question 3: CITY OF YORK**  
Policing in the City of York

My question is how many times should people have to report drug dealing from a location before the police take any action.

Additional information:

The drug dealer next to my office (we are at xx Bootham) which we have reported three times and the police couldn't care less. When there were police raiding another flat the other day I asked if they could pop in afterwards, which of course they didn't.

**Question 4: PCC**

Dear M/s Mulligan,

The best you can do for our police service is to get rid of your position and all your staff and use the money to fund more policemen on the street. All your workshops, drop in sessions and questionnaires are just useless froth. You are wasting every body's time and money.

Yours faithfully,

**Question 5: WISTOW – SELBY**

Policing in villages

Hi Julia

We are a small village near Selby and we are becoming extremely frustrated by the number of vehicles that park on footpaths, causing obstructions to pedestrians.

This issue has been reported to the local police but nothing seems to happen. You as the commissioner for the county need to take this matter seriously and put in place a policy which will work. It's only a matter of time before a serious incident occurs.

Regards

**Question 6 EASINGWOLD – HAMBLETON**

Local policing?

Further to your request for feedback, especially with respect to local policing needs being met:

I write in my capacity as Chair of 1st Easingwold Scout Group. For some time now the Scout Hut in Chase Garth is a congregation point for youth in the area after dark. They persist in damaging signage and depositing litter, bottles, cans, and who knows what else in our car park. This facility is used by very young children who we do not want exposed to alcohol and possibly syringes, drugs. Residents complain to us about the state of the gardens, litter and damage yet there is little we can do without local police support on patrol. I rarely see any police officers or Community Support Officers ever in Easingwold. I would like to know how you can help us to resolve our problem please?

**Question 7 – A65 – RATHMELL – CRAVEN**

Road safety in Rathmell

Apologies.... wrong number.....should be A65 throughout!

1:00pm. Wednesday, 21 February, 2018

As I write, the Air Ambulance has just set off to hospital carrying the latest victim of a serious road traffic accident on the A59 between Settle and Long Preston. As you may be aware, accidents on this stretch of road are frequent, often serious, and sometimes fatal.

The A59 carries lots of traffic and, as usual, the accident brought this heavy traffic to a standstill. I could plainly see all this from my garden in Rathmell on the other side of the valley. The next step on these occasions, is that A59 traffic approaching the scene of the accident from east or west is diverted along the minor road through Rathmell. As anticipated, shortly after the incident the whole of the A59 traffic began to flow through Rathmell village in both directions. I am not complaining about this - using this minor road is the only sensible way to keep traffic flowing - but the nature of the road does need to be appreciated particularly where it passes through the village.

Here, the road has narrow sections, an awkward T-junction with limited visibility, a number of residential entries onto the road where sight lines are poor, and no pavements for the many pedestrians who use the road. The speed limit through the village is nominally 30mph and, occasionally, traffic conforms to this.

Paradoxically, in some respects the road is safer when a heavy flow of A59 traffic is passing through the village since the sheer volume of vehicles can result in slightly lower speeds. This respite is offset, however, by the increased probability of residents being squashed against the wall by a heavy goods vehicle - HGVs are not normally allowed on the road. Today, the A59 traffic seems to be a little lighter than usual - an unfortunate feature since this results in much of it routinely exceeding the 30mph limit.

Regardless of whether the A59 is closed or open, the problem and dangers of traffic speeding through the village is long-standing..... very long-standing, and the Parish Council and individual residents have for years sought to have this problem resolved. Other villages with apparently fewer dangers, seem to benefit from speed cameras, camera signs, smiley-face signs, traffic police and so on ..... but Rathmell gets no attention despite its frequent pleading.

Perhaps action on this issue will only occur when we have had a fatal accident in the village. If this is the case then please let us know.

Yours sincerely

NB - 3.00pm, A59 traffic still passing through the village

### **Question 8 – SCALBY – SCARBOROUGH**

Vehicles Parking on Pavements

Vehicles parking and partially parking on pavements re Highway Code, is being tackled in parts of England.

When is this going to happen in North Yorkshire.

Additional information:

Thank you for replying to my comments regarding parking on the pavements.

It was a general comment regarding Scarborough. Cars can be parked on the pavement in most parts of Scarborough and in the National News it has been stated a few areas in England were beginning to be policed to stop them.

Hay Lane around the corner onto High Street Scalby is the area I am particularly concerned about.

Recently, after having had a back operation, I attempted to work down Hay Lane to find 2 cars parked together on the pavement – the only way pass was to go onto the road – cars travelling towards you from behind. This felt very uncomfortable and unsafe particularly when trying to concentrate on balancing.

### **Question 9 – BYRAM – SELBY**

Illegal and dangerous Parking

When are the police going to take action against the people who park opposite road junctions and on bends on Sutton lane Byram instead of just driving past them and ignoring the hazards and potential accidents they are liable to cause

### **Question 10 CAMBLESFORTH – SELBY**

Ok so. I live down a cul-de-sac in camblesforth and have noticed lots of different vans coming up and down the street turning around in front of my house as i live at the turning circle end. I have a horse box which is tucked in my garden in front of my garage and my very trusted german shepherd (thankfully she doesn't miss a trick) however i still feel extremely vulnerable at the moment especially on a night when my husbands at work and i'm left with the boys. especially after last night incident in barlow and the fact i'm now recovering from tendon and ligament damage after a heavy fall.

My question is please can we have the street lights back on over night? (i really feel for the vulnerable people of our villages, they shouldn't be living in fear)

### **Question 11 – RYTHER – SELBY**

Hi Julia

I am a resident of Ryther. Despite the best efforts of our Parish Council with 95 Alive Road Safety, concerns from villagers regarding speeding motorists, particularly motorbikes, are increasing.

As part of the development of the Police and Crime Plan, Ryther would more than welcome some form of Police visibility during the summer months in an effort to improve road safety. Weekends and mid-week Wednesdays are particularly bad.

I hope you will consider this request which i and all residents consider to be vital if casualties caused by speeding traffic are to be prevented. It can only be a matter of time.

### **Question 12 – CROFT – RICHMONDSHIRE**

Thank you for the opportunity to raise a question regarding local policing.

My Question is:

When will action be taken against the operators of croft circuit for their lack of control when holding events.

Last year there were a number of events/activities which created dangerous driving during arrival/departure from the circuit (captured on video).

During the Boxing day rally, cars were parked (abandoned) on both sides of west lane which is classified as a 60mph speed limit, because the circuit did not have adequate parking due to weather conditions, reducing the road to single carriageway. These are on going problems for residents of west lane.

### Question 13: STOKESLEY – HAMBLETON

Please can you let me know the time of the meeting.

The only point I want to raise is, can the police do more to prevent vehicles speeding in Stokesley and particularly on Tanton Road

I look forward to receiving your reply

### Question 14: STOKESLEY – HAMBLETON

FAO Julia Mulligan

The two email messages below are self explanatory. My point is that training, or validation of Police training, appears to have been inadequate in this case. As NHW members, we spend a lot of effort to get people (the public) to be involved and to report such matters to the Police; to receive this sort of response from the Police is lamentable.

Why did the training fail?

I look forward to your explanation,

Dear All, this appeared on the potto patter facebook page today, along with some images of the two men involved. The incident happened in broad daylight which indicates how bold these guys are. (The white van was found to have false number plates, DL04 EDF, as advised by Stokesley police.)

Today at 11.52 a white van drove past our house (Swainby) then reversed back to outside the gates, which were locked. One man got out and looked through the hedge at the side of the gates. The other man looked over the gates and then rang the buzzer, no one answered the buzzer so the other man climbed through a small gap in the hedge next to the gates while the other kept look out. The man walked down the driveway and looked around until someone working at the house saw him and spoke with him. He said he was looking for scrap and that we had told him it was ok for him to take some things. He was challenged on entering through the hedge when clearly no one was in and the gates were locked and when told to leave he persisted to ask for scrap. Will be reporting to police with images of the two men and van registration.

Images of the top of the van ( a Ford transit type) and two men were captured and given to Stokesley police. A comment was made on potto patter that "they (the police) said they didn't recognise the men and weren't bothered about having these pictures on their records". I find that a strange comment to make but perhaps we can discuss it with Sgt Ross at the next meeting, Tim? It surely makes people question what's the point of reporting anything if it's dismissed so readily. We need to foster the idea that what people report is taken seriously, as indeed I hope it is.....!!

Thanks for this. I have identified the incident this relates to and spoken with the aggrieved. I now have the images which are recorded on the occurrence. I will speak with the officer who attended and it is unfortunately a decision made from inexperience (independent patrol for less than a week) and I am fully satisfied not any other reason and that the report was not dismissed or not taken seriously.

The males involved have been identified with one wanted for two substantive offences and the other charged with them and appearing at court later this month. They were also prosecuted by NYP for an offence back end of last year.  
Kind regards

### Question 15 – RYEDALE

#### Poachers on the river

I am the river keeper for the Ryedale Anglers Club Ltd. When I contact the Police to report poachers on the River Rye the usual response I get is that they will follow it up later !! I have friends who are gamekeepers and they get very quick response from the Police when there are dog men in the area. So my question is, when are the Police going to take angling offences seriously ?

Regards,

### **Question 16 – KIRBY MISPERTON & POLICE PRECEPT**

1. Since Sep 2017, almost £1m of taxpayers money has been spent on policing the fracking operation at Kirby Misperton KM8.

Upwards of 50-60 officers have been routinely deployed from all over N Yorkshire and elsewhere, removing a significant number of officers from front line policing on a long term basis. Given the full range of criminal activity these officers have been stopped from policing to instead police non violent, peaceful protest from a limited number of people, could you please tell me precisely whose decision it was to prioritise manpower and funding in this way. It would also be helpful to include the evidence that Operation Kingfisher would be proportionate, affordable and sustainable in terms of manpower and funding.

2. What direct impact will the cost of Op Kingfisher have on proposed increases to the NYP precept for council tax increases due from 1 April 2018.

### **Question 17: NORTH STAINLEY – HARROGATE**

Dear Mrs Mulligan, I should be grateful if you would ask the appropriate police officer, how closely or if at all, trail hunting is monitored in North Yorkshire. I have heard local reports, from reliable people, of foxes being chased, 'accidentally' or not, and very possibly caught and killed. Only a few weeks ago the hounds of a local hunt rampaged through the village of North Stainley in pursuit of a fox. Elsewhere, in January, hounds of the Romney Marsh hunt, in pursuit, invaded a private animal sanctuary and several elderly animals remain missing probably dead. This is 'anti social behaviour' and should be treated as such by the police. Hunts seem to be cocking a snook at both the Hunting Act and reasonable behaviour.

### **Question 18: HUBY – YORK**

**Subject:** Neighbourhood Watch

Quite some time ago, I applied to be NW coordinator for Kingsway, Huby. Received the sign, but NOTHING else, despite several phone calls to ask about regular updates, e mail addresses (or at least contact with others in Huby so we could combine knowledge.. We even thought of having a dedicated Facebook page for anyone to report on, something I would have discussed with other coordinators in the village.

Imagine my surprise therefore when in the 'Village News' a plea for a new coordinator for this area was asked for as 'the person doing the job no longer feels capable'.

As I know nothing about this, my question is 'what is going on?.'

### **Question 19: HELMSLEY – OP OWL**

From Facebook

NO .... What they did yesterday in Helmsley Square was disgusting!!

Targeting Tourists who come to the area telling them what they believe is going on in Rural North Yorkshire within Shooting Estates and Grouse Moors and Birds of Prey!!

All this will do is drive a deep wedge between the public and people who live and work on estates.

Shooting here in Yorkshire is worth millions to the local economy and many families depend on it!!!

I thought North Yorkshire Police had set up their new head quarters in Helmsley there where that many!!

With the report that's just come out it's time you sorted real crime out and how you deal with it !!!

## **Question 20 – CRAVEN**

Dear Mrs Mulligan

One of the items mentioned which you will be looking at is road safety.

Along with other residents and in line with the North Yorkshire Police Speed Watch Scheme, monitoring has/is taking place on Cononley Lane between the A629 and the level crossing in Cononley. Personally, I think this scheme is a strong step in the direction of supporting road safety and the NY Police in the days of overstretched police resources. I have two questions:

Is there data to show how well this scheme is working across the local area?

Is there a scheme which might be able to apply to parking? It's only a matter of time before there is an accident at the level crossing at Cononley with cars parking on the double yellow lines and inhibiting the flow of traffic, causing understandable exasperation.

## **Question 21: HARROGATE**

Cycling on pavements in Harrogate.

On a number of occasions I have been frightened by cyclists who race alongside of me on the pavements in Harrogate.

I always thought that pavements were for pedestrians but it seems that pedestrians now have to look out for cyclists as well as mobility scooters.

Why are cyclists allowed to ride both on and off pavements as well as in pedestrianised areas.?

The local police helpers have no power over them. As cyclists have no registration documents I cannot report them if they knock me over.

2.No police in evidence on the streets of Harrogate. In my opinion this lack of law enforcement leads to further bad behaviour in and around the town.

3.Young people leaving litter on and around the cenotaph, especially on sunny days.

Again a police presence would stop this anti social behaviour. No one ever enforces the law so people feel they can get away with anything.

## **Question 22: CRAVEN**

Road safety is a major concern for Cononley. Cononley is treated as a rat run for morning commuters because Station Road and Colne Road in Crosshills are congested. At morning 'rush hour', it is not unusual to get up to 200 vehicles an hour whizzing through the village in order to get to Skipton via the back Skipton Road or beat the congestion by joining Keighley Road. The same volume of traffic returns via Cononley in the evening.

Most of Cononley is within a 20 MPH zone. NYCC Highways are unable to offer improved signage, infrastructure enhancements or speed cameras, so residents have been running a Community Speed Watch group for the past 6 months. Our speed data has confirmed that there is a speeding problem through our village. My question is :

**What do we, as residents need to do in order to apply for one of North Yorkshire Police's mobile speed vans to operate in Cononley?**

**Question 23: HAMBLETON**

Aiskew Leeming Bar parish

Hello,

I represent Leeming Bar ward of Aiskew and Leeming Bar Parish Council and have a couple of policing concerns.

My first concern is following the opening of the relief road the traffic flow through Leeming Bar and Aiskew on the A684 has decreased but I feel the speed has increased.

I know myself and several residents have expressed their concerns through 95 Alive but we all feel we are not being taken seriously.

Also the issue of illegal lorry parking in Leeming Bar again concerns have been expressed with the relevant bodies but we are not informed of outcome.

**Question 24: CRAVEN**

Policing in Grassington

FAO Julia Mulligan, Police and Crime Commissioner

At a meeting of the Grassington Chamber of Trade concerns about the lack of police presence in Grassington were raised. Even at our major events, i.e., Dickensian Festival and 1940's we have only had the presence of Community Officers. Up to 2015, we had PC Simon Crossley. He was our Village 'bobby'. One who we could always turn to for help and guidance and was always there when assistance and reassurance was required. Simon was more than just a number on a role call he was a friend to countless numbers of residents and visitors not just for the Grassington Community but for the whole of Wharfedale and beyond.

Simon was always very much in evidence in the village, he made himself known to everyone and was hugely respected. His presence was very reassuring to residents and businesses alike. We are aware he was moved to Skipton for operational requirements but we feel like we have not only lost a valuable asset to rural policing but we have lost our friend. His move was a loss to the village and The Dales. His move has been detrimental to the Policing of our communities. Your manifesto outlines the importance of Protecting the vulnerable and The importance of Rural Policing yet without Simon's valuable presence it seems unfair that our nearest Police Officer is over 10 miles away Skipton. We are aware that North Yorkshire Police have a 'presence' in Grassington of two PCSO's but these officers are limited as to their abilities. Not being able to deal with confrontational occurrences or respond to emergency situations. You, as a resident within a rural village, must understand the importance of rural police officers in rural villages and communities. We miss Simon and want him back as we feel we are getting second rate Policing from North Yorkshire Police yet we pay the same, if not more, than those living in Towns or Cities.