

NOTES	OPEN MEETING The	Shires 17 June 2025 7.30-9:30pm		9:30pm
PREP'D BY		BG		
Guest speakers	Simon Foster Sgt Chris Gallon	West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Hall Green Ward Neighbourhood Sgt		
PRESENT	Jane Harvey Sarah Jeffrey Tom Russell Becky Greenhill Jill Adams Steve Chilton	Chair Vice Chair Secretary (via Teams) Minutes Secretary Safeguarding Lead Treasurer		JH SJ TR BG JA SC
APOLOGIES	Radley Russell David Isgrove John Gorman Yas Yeahia Elizabeth Dhokia Sam O'Mara	Social media and web Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Web Content Officer Committee Member	osite	SJ DI JG YY ED SO
ITEM				ACTION
1	WELCOME Welcome by Chair JH, we were delighted to see so many new faces in the audience.			
2	APOLOGIES As noted above.			
3	PRIVACY NOTICE Was read by SJ.			
4	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEET Open meeting 29 April 2025. No actions arising for this meeting			
5	TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurers report given by SC. The current bank balance is £1,37 normal (room hires, printing etc) is We are looking for opportunities for 1. A retiring collection 2. Monitoring the position with (BCC) 3. Alternative grants etc We are setting up a webpage for meantime our bank details are available.			

6 POLICE and CRIME COMMISSIONER

Talk by Simon Foster West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner. Policing, community safety, criminal justice and crime is a matter of concern to all residents of West Midlands.

The Commissioner is an elected role, it focuses on governance, scrutiny and accountability role of policing, including setting the council tax police precept.

Police and Crime Plan

The Commissioner has a statutory duty to prepare a <u>Police and Crime Plan</u>. The Plan sets out the needs, priorities and objectives of the people of the West Midlands in relation to policing, crime, community safety and criminal justice. It is used to hold the Chief Constable and the police service to account.

This Plan (amongst other matters) aims to:

- 1. Continue to re-build community policing with the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.
- 2. Tackling violence, in particular violence against women and girls, youth violence and knife crime.
- 3. Reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads. Half the number of people seriously injured / killed on our roads by 2030, reduce to zero by 2040 through investment in roads policing including road crimes and harm teams, targeted operations such as Op Snap, more speed vans, community speed watch, average speed camera enforcement across the area expanding the network of cameras. SF also chairs the WM Road Safety Group, which has a launched a Road Safety Plan.
- 4. Improving the investigation of crime
- 5. Bringing more offenders to justice
- 6. Ensuring compliance with the Victims' Code

The building blocks:

- 7. Prevention is a key.
- 8. Partnerships in policing
- 9. Building trust and confidence in police
- 10. Rights and welfare of victims
- 11. Rehabilitation

Funding

Policing in the West Midlands remains significantly underfunded.

There is a shortfall of police officers (there are c.8000 officers in the West Midlands, if we had the same funding/staffing as Greater Manchester Police there would be 700 more police in the West Midlands).

The Police and Crime Commissioner invests £175mn in West Midlands policing raised through the council tax police precept.

Statistics

Notwithstanding the challenges:

- 12. West Midlands Police (WMP) has one of the best 999/101 services in the country.
- 13. WMP increasing speed of response to a 999 / 101 call.
- 14. WMP have increased response hubs from 8 to 23.

- 15. WMP are arresting more people in 2 years monthly number has increased from 3,800 to 5000.
- 16. WMP are bringing more people to justice in 2 years the monthly number of offenders being charged has increased from 5% to 13%.
- 17. In the last 12 months WMP have cut recorded crime by 5% this is across a large proportion of crime types.

My Community Fund

The Police and Crime Commissioner runs the My Community Fund, £330k funded by proceeds from crime for grassroots / community organisations. Grants of up to £5K available. This is funding being put back into communities that have often been the victims of crime themselves.

7 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Road safety

Q: Concerns raised about road safety, anti-social driving and a perceived lack of action.

A: The public can play their part by uploading footage on Operation Snap – dash cam evidence / photos / videos. Feedback to those who submit evidence has recently been modified to comply with GDPR. Op Snap has been very successful.

Q: People would like to see a more visual presence in Moseley policing road safety, parking junctions / pavements / right turn at no right turn / jumping red lights etc.

A: There is a new neighbourhood policing structure for Hall Green, based out of Woodbridge Road police station.

Sgt Gallon has overall responsibility for neighbourhood policing in Hall Green. Hall Green is divided into three areas with the following staffing:

- Sparkbrook 1 neighbourhood Sgt, 2 dedicated officers and 6 local action team (who can be called off to priority 999 calls outside of area)
- Moseley / Kings Heath 1 neighbourhood Sgt, 2 dedicated officers and 6 local action team officers
- Hall Green and Springfield 1 neighbourhood Sgt, 1 dedicated officer and 11 local action team officers.

This new structure will go live on the WMP website by end of the month (MF will post details).

The role of local action team officers is to support neighbourhood officers unless demand/priority takes them elsewhere. Local action team officers are typically taken off most days.

SF advised that there are a number of new internal management tools which will measure operational policing including local action team abstraction rates and the impact of neighbourhood policing.

Woodbridge Road police station is now a response hub, ensuring police can follow and intercept vehicles – not all police in cars can undertake pursuits.

Q: Grooming gang scandal – how can change police culture so it doesn't happen again?

There is a national enquiry and lessons to be learned. It is important that all agencies collaborate to build trust and confidence in the justice and social

services systems. Perpetrators need to be held to account through the justice system. The rights and welfare of victims needs to be prioritised. This is not exclusively policing, lots of different agencies have let down vulnerable people. At a meeting of full council today (17 June 2025) there was cross party support of the national enquiry.

Q: Can police exert any influence on highway design for road safety?

A: This is not in scope of the Police and Crime commissioner.

At the last ward meeting, it was noted that BCC highways engineers aren't always following the adopted road harm reduction strategy, this is because of the need to balance the needs of all road users.

- Q: The outcome rates for vehicle crime in Kings Heath and Moseley is low why is this?
- A: 'Outcome rates' record where a crime results in a charge / caution. The nature of vehicle crime makes it more difficult.
- Q: Neighbourhood officers haven't turned up to our residents meeting despite confirming they would. We have problems with ASB.

 Sgt Gallon will follow up with the neighbourhood officer and confirm attendance.
- Q: Who decides on the neighbourhood policing objectives?

 Neighbourhood objectives are being set by Sgt Gallon building on local knowledge, data and community/councillor's feedback. The objectives are dynamic, they can and will likely be reformed, they will be publicly viewable on WMP neighbourhood pages.
- Q: There are positive noises regarding neighbourhood policing accountability and value to us but how do we really know if it is working?

 A: There has been investment in management reporting, this enables more monitoring and accountability. The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel meets 6 times a year. Agendas and reports are published on this website a week before each meeting. Meetings are live-streamed and available to watch using the webcast link published on each agenda. Meetings are open to the public to listen to the discussion. The venue is specified on the agenda for each meeting. At each meeting, there is the opportunity for members of the public to submit a question about the panel's role in holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account.
- Q: The policing wards don't align to council boundaries, could this be changed?
- A: This is something that could be considered.
- Q: Paving is for pedestrians not cars.
- A: Parking on pavements is a civil enforcement not a criminal.
- Q: How many noise monitors in West Midlands to record noisy cars?
 A: No one knew of any monitors; noise enforcement is undertaken by environmental health.

8	Any other busine None arising.					
9.	FUTURE MEETINGS					
	DATE	VENUE	OPEN/CLOSED	TOPIC BCC waste and recycling		
	Tues-29-July-25	Exchange	AGM			
	AUGUST	NO Meeting				
	Tues 30 Sept 25	TBC	TBC	TBC TBC		
	Tues 28 Oct 25	ТВС	TBC			
10.	Close of meeting The meeting closed thanking guests an		round of applause for goming.	uests and JH		



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