

1. Introduction

The PACT meeting (Partnerships and Communities Together) for the neighbourhood area of Trelewis and Bedlinog was held on Friday. Some nine members of the public attended in the upstairs room, Cllr Michelle Symonds hosted the session, and called upon PCSO Gareth Perry to deliver his report.

2. Police report

There had been 39 101 call outs last month with 18 in Bedlinog and 21 in Trelewis. Most were for minor disturbances, but one was for the theft of a farm tractor, another for motor vehicle damage and several for anti-social behaviour. An abandoned vehicle was reported near the Coed yr Hendre complex.

People often call 101 and the call may be for the fire service or for environmental issues. Car crime has dipped but there may be refuse or noise issues. ASB itself may cause or could lead to distress or alarm. There was mention of ice cream vans and their product range, such as hot food during winter months. Such matters were regulated by trading standards and environmental health rather than policing.

3. Community Council

ED introduced himself and agreed that anti-social behaviour was the top concern in the local area. In the recent past, police would be concentrating on juvenile nuisance and overnight break-ins. Things had changed and ASB was a major problem now. Other issues may concern drug use and dealing. This had become common place but was serious, especially with artificial substances often being very strong and capable of inducing ill-effects and addictions in young people, of which they may be totally unaware.

4. Dog fouling

The problem of dog fouling had worsened in some places. Several new dog bins had been provided by the Community Council recently. It has been stated elsewhere that these are not really needed since all bags now go into general waste for incineration to generate electricity. There were no banning orders for dogs off leads in this part of the borough. These might be extended if thought appropriate.

5. Drugs and drug dealing

It was said that drug use was increasing and was a public health hazard. The finding of spent gas canisters and nitrous oxide containers was unpleasant and perhaps should be reported. They were labelled Class C drugs if used for inhaling for psychoactive effect, which was an offence.

6. Fly tipping and litter

A significant problem locally was fly tipping, and this also seemed to be cyclical. The police were under powered to tackle this properly. It also involved public health and reports of it could be passed on.

7. Visibility of police

The sale of illegal substances was obvious after dark and even in daylight. In some areas they have found it useful to send patrol cars to such well-known locations, such as car parks and unused sites. The presence of a police car that appears and may stop for a time is helpful and though it may move the problem on can still be a deterrent. Better visibility by the police can produce worthwhile results.

8. Future of Neighbourhood Policing and service generally

The PCSO was asked about future arrangements. He would be leaving his post shortly but a colleague, Emily would take over the role locally. He was not 'leaving a sinking ship' but it was time to move on.

Manpower was at low ebb. There was a problem of recruitment and retention in South Wales, and this was mirrored in many other places. It may just be cyclical with numbers increasing over time. It was well known that morale was very low at present. This was partly due to public criticism and a general lack of understanding. ED said the police was a fine and honourable service and that the public should value them more. Michelle thanked Gareth for attending, as well as the public.