

DATE **Tuesday 25th June 2024**
TIME: **19:00 pm**
LOCATION: **Online via MS Teams**

Attendees

Init	Position and Area
ET	IAG Chair – Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
AC	TVP - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA Commander
PB	Community Organisation
SP	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
PD	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
MWG	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
MGS	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
WS	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
KC	TVP – Bracknell & Wokingham LPA Neighbourhood Administrator

Apologies

Init	Position and Area
HB	TVP – Bracknell Neighbourhood Inspector
PA	Community Organisation
TMB	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
KD	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
RB	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
PR	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
ES	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
DL	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
MS	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA

Others

Init	Position and Area
GA	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA

1. Welcome and apologies:**IAG Chair**

ET welcomed the attendees. The list of apologies / attendees is above.

2. Introduction:**IAG Chair**

IAG in the LCU (Local Command Unit)

ET advised there had been some clarification around the IAG as it moves forward into the LCU, currently due to take place in May 2025. There are going to be 2 ½ LPAs (Local Policing Areas) moving in into one LCU. The Bracknell half of the Bracknell & Wokingham LPA is moving into the East Berkshire LCU, along with the current Slough and Windsor & Maidenhead LPAs. Similarly, the three IAGs associated with these LPAs are moving into a single LCU IAG.

ET sent a draught of the way the LCU is going to operate to members in March. One of the things that really irritated him was that despite attending a meeting in November where there was a lot of feedback about the draught, it had not moved forward at all. He was particularly disappointed by the fact it recommends an IAG membership size of 9; if you consider that three IAGs are effectively merging into one LCU IAG, this means three and a third people per IAG. So he had more than a few strong words with senior members of the PCC and any senior officer who would listen and it has now been amended to say the membership size of the IAG will be down to the LCU IAG Chair. ET thinks this is better, but it could still be put at 9 or 10, which would be very disappointing. We're going to have to fight for every member's place on the LCU IAG. This is one of the reasons ET introduced the idea of Member's initiatives. During the initial discussion in summer last year, he asked IAG members which burning issue they wanted to address by becoming a member of the IAG. Everyone had different reasons for wanting to join, so he thought about tapping in on those and having Member's initiatives so that when the selection process for the new LCU IAG comes into being, at least everyone has something which they can say "*I have done this and that's why I should be a member of the LCU IAG.*" You would be in a good position with a good track record to make your case to be a member. Hopefully, taking that forward through the three meetings we have scheduled prior to the implementation of the LCU, we can really make some progress on each Member's initiative (assuming that you want to continue being members of the IAG.) From a Bracknell perspective, we do not want bigger towns to dominate what we in Bracknell want for our community, so there's a lot of discussion about that. You are really adding value to the fact that you're a member of the IAG, so that will be noticed and when ET speaks to the new LCU commander, he will be promoting everybody in the IAG to go forward into the LCU IAG.

To help towards the transition and ensure members are more aware, ET is setting up monthly meetings with AC to ensure they stay up to date with issues and from those meetings he will send emails to everyone so they are aware of what's going on and how it affects you or your particular area going forward. ET advised he is not putting himself forward for the LCU IAG Chair for East or West Berkshire, as he plans to retire at that point. ET will advise the members as soon as he has any further information regarding the selection process.

3. Minutes and actions from previous meeting**IAG Members**

The minutes from the meeting on 20.02.24 were reviewed and accepted with the following actions either completed, amended or ongoing:-

B&W LPA are 6th out of 11 in the TVP LPA crime table.

ACTION: ALL - How are our communities feeling about this level of crime?? And what should we, as IAG Members, be doing to feed back this information to the police. **Ongoing**

Race Hate Action Plan

ACTION: ALL – Are Members aware of anyone from the black community who may be willing to be involved? Respond to KC with outcome. **ET has approached 2 people without success. AC reported that the Race Action Plan is in delivery and his intention is to provide an update in the September meeting. Ongoing**

MWG mentioned that DL, a member of this group also represents a large diaspora in the Bracknell Forest area. PB advised he felt Bracknell Forest was fortunate to have an Interfaith Forum and they do an important job in terms of community cohesion.

PB suggested inviting AY, who leads on community work and specifically reaches into some of the seldom heard communities, to a future IAG meeting.

ACTION: PB & KC - Approach AY to come in and speak to the IAG.

Neighbourhood Watch

PB asked whether PA could send him information around local NHW groups as part of the Thriving Communities initiative which is about how we empower communities to take more responsibility within their own communities.

ACTION: PA – Liaise with PB regarding local NHW groups. **PB confirmed he has been linking in with PA and they attended the community engagement partnership to look at how they can work better together in terms of the kind of cross communications.**

Completed

Binfield: ASB

PD advised there had been an increase of antisocial behaviour seeming to come from four youths, based around the Fox's den, the parish council offices, and the estate.

ACTION: PD – PD to send the details of the issues to AC and he will get someone to make contact and look at putting something in place to manage what's happening there.

PD confirmed he had reported the details and continues to report ASB which currently involves a local lad riding an e-bike very quickly on the back wheel. MWG advised this is also happening in the town centre and underpasses. Ongoing

Great Hollands firearms incident

ES asked whether there would be an opportunity for members of the IAG to go and visit one of the Control Room centres.

ACTION: AC – Speak to Control Management regarding the possibility of visits by IAG members. **Completed**

AC advised the Control Management Centre in Abingdon can be visited. It was suggested that the next meeting scheduled for 10.09.24 be used for a visit. Members to confirm their interest by emailing KC.

ACTION: All Members – Email KC to confirm their interest in visiting the Control Management Centre in Abingdon.

ACTION: AC – Feedback from ACC's around the Great Hollands firearms incident. **Ongoing**

MS mentioned that Arlott Green repeatedly has high levels of violence and sexual offences (every month). Is this domestic and being tackled as it has gone on for over a year? It leads to skewed data for the whole of Crowthorne.

ACTION AC – Look into the figures and get back to MS. Ongoing

4. Overview of crime and policing issues

LPA Commander

Force Review

TVP Priorities for next 12 months

Critical Incident Review (if any)

Key Local Concerns

Community Engagement

AC presented the TVP Strategic Plan 2024–2025. There are four areas, or pillars, to the plan: serving victims, fighting crime, building trust and valuing our people. As the LPA commander, AC is charged with delivering against these measures. These are the key things the Force is trying to achieve and it's AC's job to direct, put plans in place around the areas he has influence over. For example, he has no influence over call answering times as these are under the control of the police inquiry centre and control rooms. Something that is actionable is looking after vulnerable people, around risk of exploitation and domestic abuse.

The key thing he wants to achieve is good investigations. He wants officers to be good at investigating crimes and ensure they've done everything they can to find out what happened and arrest suspects. Ultimately, officers should be able to provide timely attendance and a good quality of service to victims of crime and do their best to investigate. He expects his officers to look for evidence and where they can find it, secure it, and then review it and see if it helps in terms of investigating. So this is what he has fed back in helping create this plan in terms of his views from an LPA local policing perspective (the command AC sits under) and plays a big role in this. The LPAs have helped shape this, but ultimately it is the Chief Constable who decides what this looks like and it also links into the PCCs crime plan. Those two things kind of dovetail together to create the collective plan. Operational control over what we do is down to the Chief Constable and discharged through the command structure as to how we actually do the policing and the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account for delivering the plans.

There's ongoing work with TVP's Assessment Investigation Unit (AIU) which is where a lot of the bulk crime goes in: shoplifting, criminal damage, vehicle crime and TVP is striving to get that structure better around investigation. The take away for IAG members is that AC is asking his officers to do good investigations. If they're doing good investigations, they're doing a good job and that's what the public would like and expect them to do. He will deal with officers when it falls short and will support and help them which is about valuing them because sometimes people have got to learn.

AC advised in the last year TVP recruited 522 officers, 42% were female and 6.1% of new recruits were from ethnic minority backgrounds. TVP are seeing more people from ethnic backgrounds joining than there has ever been. In some of the recruitment, it was around the 20% mark.

In the last 12 months, TVP had nearly 1,000,000 contacts from the public, these were made up of 999 calls, 101 calls and online reports which have increased significantly. People are more comfortable reporting online than ever before and they can do at a time which is convenient for them. TVP made 33,000 arrests and just over 9000 were domestic abuse arrests. That's just fractionally down.

Bracknell & Wokingham LPA covers approximately 180 square miles, from the Surrey border to West Berkshire, up to Reading to the borders of Henley, then across to Ascot and touching into the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. So it's a huge area. Just over 302,000 people live on the area, which is an 11 1/4% increase since the last census. The biggest increase in terms of demographic is between ages 20 and 39. It's not all just about people that may have been born in this country, there's a growing population of people from overseas and refugees from various conflicts. This creates another challenge for officers because some people from different countries don't understand how Britain's policing works. Some people have zero trust in the police from where they come from, as they may be corrupt and not seen in any good light whatsoever. So TVP faces challenges to manage things with that community. In the last year, there's been 40,294 instances in Bracknell & Wokingham, around 21% (8645) of those were Grade 1 meaning a response within 20 minutes.

AC presented figures around missing people which is a huge demand on TVP. The number had decreased from 5712 missing reports in 2022-23 to 5701 in 2023-24. The number of high risk missing people found rose by 11% to 638 in 2023-24 and the number of missing children (under the age of 18) increased by 6% from 2634 to 2785. AC advised many of these are looked after children and social care providers have a big challenge around how they manage them and the difficulties that creates. MWG asked whether the numbers included unaccompanied children that have come to this country either legally or illegally and are resident here or are being fostered in this area, even if it's temporarily. AC offered to take away an action to speak to the missing person team to add a bit more detail around the children's information.

ACTION: AC to speak to the missing person team around more detail for the children's information and figures.

ACTION: KC to include instructions on how to find and contact local officers with the minutes.

5. Members Initiatives

IAG Members

Communications

ET

ET advised he had been looking at improving communications for quite some time and believed it is paying dividends. Originally, there was a lot of negativity towards the police on social media - words or phrases like chocolate teapot came up quite frequently or even more derogatory comments. Most of that has disappeared and the beautiful thing about it is that a lot of other people who are not associated with IAGs or ET are supporting the police when someone says something derogatory about them. They are coming back and saying, no, you're wrong, this is what's happened, this is what you need to do and this is how to do it. So that's really good. He's also pleased to see a lot more communications being done by TVP itself, across both elements of the LPA, a lot of really good information going out. Thames Valley Alert is putting out a lot more information as well which makes it really easy to just copy and paste the web address and then send it out on social media. ET uses next door, but if members wanted to do the same thing, it's very easy. Just get on to the Thames Valley Alert Home page and then it will give you all the information, all the messages that are being sent out and you can copy and paste the web address into it. ET advised he is really glad to see that a number of people have taken on the idea of Members initiatives and even though they're not here tonight, they are starting to push forward on it which will help when the IAG becomes part of the LCU. It's good for you, it's good for the community and it's good for TVP because you'll be a voice to be reckoned with within the new LCU.

Reporting ASB in Warfield area parks, including car meets
& e-scooters

MWG

MWG advised that as she was involved with a lot of sports clubs that use local parks, it seemed a good idea to encourage them to make reports to the police of antisocial behaviour and events that were adverse in any way. She felt that the more people made those reports the fewer incidents there would be going forward because they would be tackled by the police. Especially given that car parks are being used for illegal car meets and e-scooters are being misused in open green spaces along with quad bikes and other motorised vehicles. Sadly her own experience was less than positive as after a 54 minute wait on 101, the TVP call handler was disinterested in her report of an ongoing incident and simply agreed to pass it onto the local neighbourhood team to deal with when convenient for them. The lack of urgency to send police to attend the location even though the incident was still ongoing, was dismal. MWG was not sure many members of the community would be prepared to hang on the line for 54 minutes.

6. Any Other Business

IAG Members

There was no feedback at this time.

Next meeting dates:

10.09.24

19.11.24