

**Wokingham IAG Meeting minutes**

**DATE** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
**TIME:** 19:00 pm  
**LOCATION:** MS Teams

**Attendees**

<b>Init</b>	<b>Position and Area</b>
ET	Wokingham IAG Chair – B & W LPA
TS	TVP - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA DCI
JG	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
MWS	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
MM	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA and Community Organisation
PA	Community Organisation
KC	TVP – Bracknell & Wokingham LPA Neighbourhood Administrator

**Apologies**

<b>Init</b>	<b>Position and Area</b>
AC	TVP - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA Commander
JLJ	TVP – Wokingham Neighbourhood Inspector
US	Wokingham IAG Deputy Chair – B & W LPA
AK	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
LH	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
TW	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
MP	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
WS	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
MJP	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
DM	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA and Community Organisation

**Others**

<b>Init</b>	<b>Position and Area</b>
SRK	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
RM	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA

SA	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
AP	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
NN	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
PC	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
RK	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
SW	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA
JD	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA and Community Organisation
RS	Wokingham IAG – B & W LPA and Community Organisation
SK	Wokingham IAG B & W LPA and Community Organisation

**1. Welcome and Apologies:**

**IAG Chair**

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

**2. Introduction:**

**IAG Chair**

ET advised Detective Chief Inspector TS would be providing the Overview of crime and policing issues to the attendees.

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

**IAG Members**

The minutes from the previous meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were reviewed. Updates were provided with the following actions either completed, amended or ongoing:

**ACTION:** MJP to write a short article about good results stemming from his Member's Initiative to be passed to TVP's communications department. MJP has written the article which has now been forwarded to TVP's Neighbourhood Communications Officer. **Ongoing**

**ACTION** - AC to look into reports from Jennett's Park Facebook page that a young man was following a little girl and taking photos of her. Pictures were posted of the potential young man. According to the poster, the school have reported it to the police. TS advised she would look into this matter. **Ongoing**

**4. Overview of crime and policing issues**

**LPA Detective Chief Inspector**

DCI TS introduced herself and provided an overview of her 27 ½ year career with Thames Valley Police. She joined the Bracknell & Wokingham LPA at the start of May as the DCI, which is also the Crime Manager Role, transferring from Slough LPA. She explained her role means she is responsible for direct supervision of all the investigative teams which include CID, the Priority Crime Team and the investigators that sit under them. The management of crime is exactly what it says on the tin: TVP's performance, how we're getting on in relation to our crime investigations, what systems may need tweaking a bit, how we could do better and

working with both the LPA Commander and Deputy Commander in order to make that happen and implement changes for our investigative and frontline teams; so quite a challenging role.

TS advised she was aware that most communities are really concerned about the lack of visible police presence on the streets. And it's fair to say that there have been challenges with keeping the levels of neighbourhood police officers up to strength, and that certainly hasn't been easy to rectify. We're under a lot of scrutiny because that's what the communities want to see and we understand that. There's been a lot of efforts to try and fill those posts and bolster the numbers on neighbourhoods and she is really glad to say that TVP should be well on route to delivering that. There are two separate neighbourhood teams on the LPA, one covers Wokingham and the other covers Bracknell. Within the Neighbourhood teams is a safeguarding team of three PCs who look at the more vulnerable children and adults to see what they can do to protect them. They hold lots of strategy meetings with our partners for information sharing and core safeguarding work. In addition, there are two problem solving teams (PSTs) which work closely with the neighbourhood teams and each PST is made-up of 1 Sergeant and three PCs. These teams are really effective and they work on long standing issues i.e. venues that are causing demand, problems or ASB, and those people that are causing recurrent demand or are attracting demand due to potential vulnerabilities or substance misuse. The sergeants on those teams both bring a completely different skill set and are really passionate. One has experience in Youth Justice and problem solving, and the other has previously been on a proactive team in Windsor & Maidenhead.

We are planning to send our students and new officers into the town centres which helps them learn their trade and also helps to increase visibility and deal with shoplifters. Hopefully, you'll see them in and around your communities.

Broadly speaking, the neighbourhood team are almost twice the size that they were and our websites have been updated with staff that work in the areas. The priorities are on the website and there are also e-mail contact details for the neighbourhood teams. The only thing I'd say in relation to that, is if you're going to report a crime, please don't do it that way. But if you've got long standing issues or issues such as you knew areas where there's E scooters that are causing particular concerns to the community, that's where you want to be reporting that in. I think it's a really good news story because we've been trying to fill those vacancies for so long and hopefully now we're starting to see a bit of progress.

PA advised it was very good to hear that the numbers are finally up, but even with the increase in numbers the police can't be everywhere. Did TS have any ideas or thoughts as to how to improve the perception? PA had an idea for holding more public events and setting up a gazebo some where the public can come and interact with the police.

TS commented that it's really tricky because the visible presence of police on your streets is what people want to see because it makes them feel safe. But the actual absence of visible police on the street can also indicate that you're safe because if there was a problem on your street the police would be there. TS advised she felt the police need to make sure we maximise the engagement we do have with the public when we have it and ensure we deliver as good a service as we can when people sadly become victims of crime. Making sure, for example, if it's a victim of burglary (someone who's not always in contact with the police) that they have a quality service. I'm not saying the police can solve all the crimes, but we need to keep in contact. We keep victims in the loop and be honest, and when we say we're going to call or update them that we do that. Public events, absolutely, and TS also thinks it's about social media posts. Whilst some of the older community don't watch or use social media, it's

about how much the police do in those public spaces around social media press releases because that's where we get heard and seen because like you said, we can't be everywhere. ET suggested more patrolling of the commonly used public spaces like the town centres or shopping centres where a lot of people can see the officers and it only takes a small amount of resource to do that. TS advised that hopefully, it will come in as part of the plan to send students and new officers into the town centres.

MWS asked about recent press around the release of prisoners back into the community. Was this going to be an issue for local police and is there any idea what kind of impact that might have on our area and will it stretch resources to be able to manage it if the numbers were going to be significant? MWS had been picking up on dialogue from people in and around her communities wondering what this really means on the ground and to ensure we don't have a big change in the crime figures.

TS advised the early release of prisoners is a bit of a concern for everyone because ideally we'd like to keep people in until the end of their sentences. Sometimes people get let out early on licence with conditions, and if they breach those conditions, we can recall them back to prison. The one thing about when people get let out early, is that we've got Integrated Offender Management teams (IOMs) who communicate really closely with probation and receive notification when people are coming out. What they'll do is communicate particularly with our priority crime teams because there's a weekly meeting. For example, XX is getting released from prison, this is their index offence (so, robbery, bribery, whatever that is) and these are their licence conditions. An officer or the IOM will be allocated to that offender and they will visit and engage with them. They try and do all the diversionary things around housing, drugs and alcohol, if that's an issue. Certainly having a really good relationship with the IOM team or another officer means that we are more aware if somebody's behaviour changes, which would potentially indicate a return to substance misuse or alcohol issues or a disengagement because they're starting to reoffend. So we've got to accept whether they come out now or in six months, they're coming out. And often if they're coming out early, it means their licence will last longer. So it's not ideal, but we have to accept that our prison establishment is nearly at capacity.

TS provided an update on the recent spate where a van was going around with a catapult shooting metal bolts and nuts at people. There were 19 individual offences reported over two days at the end of June. There were 11 assaults occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH), three attempted ABHs and five criminal damages, which is really significant over a two day period. The combined value of the criminal damage was just under £5000 and there were varying levels of injuries, with several of the victims needing hospital treatment. It was picked up by our Priority Crime Team, who did a really sterling job. They got as many officers as they could and started immediate CCTV enquiries. Through dashcam footage on a work van, they managed to capture an image of this van and registration number. They put a marker on the van and it was stopped the following day. The driver was arrested and the catapult that had been used was found within the van as were some of the metal nuts that had been used. The fact that we got them in the next day is a really good result. The van was seized and the driver interviewed. There are a lot of outstanding enquiries so he's been bailed with really tight conditions. What's really good is as soon as he was arrested, we haven't seen any reoccurrence. We've put out a press release. It's a good news story, but it's not finished. We are hopeful of a positive outcome with him.

TS provided an update on Op Purchase, TVPs response to the increase in shopliftings across the area. TVP are working with shops to try and get a much better response to shoplifting. Shopkeepers and businesses make a report and it goes to our Assessment and

Investigation Unit (AIU) who then send a link to the shop for the shop to send back the CCTV and they do enquiries. Once the initial enquiries are completed, the AIU allocates them to various departments depending on risk and frequency of offending. We are arresting, charging and the courts are remanding offenders. We are publishing those results to get that message back out to communities that we're not tolerating this and actually this is what happens when you start to shoplift. Year to date, which is from April to date, we've had 88 shoplifting charges on the LPA. So any links that you've got into the local businesses, if you could put some leverage on to say please start to have a bit of trust in the police around this, they really want to work with you and they really want to start stamping out the shoplifting. We would really appreciate it.

[Operation Purchase - Thames Valley PCC \(thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk)

JG mentioned he read somewhere that the Met is thinking of introducing a chat facility on their online reporting web page. Is that something that TVP are possibly considering?

**ACTION:** TS to check whether TVP are considering a chat facility on their website, AI or otherwise.

#### **5. Neighbourhood Watch – Introduction**

**PA**

PA gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Watch to the attendees, a hard copy of which will be included with the minutes. PA advised he is looking at some initiatives around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

**ACTION – TS to put PA in touch with the contact for domestic abuse at Wokingham Borough Council.**

#### **6. Members Initiatives**

**IAG Members**

MM reported she shared a post from the Neighbourhood Teams around reporting ASB for specific areas on groups she was a member of. She shared the team's posts and just wrote at the top that if there was any sort of antisocial behaviour going on in that area, that this was the link to use and it was actually quite well received and obtained a number of likes. Someone was posting about a particular incident where their child had suffered harassment, things being thrown at them, etc. and she included the link for them and advised the neighbourhood teams need this information to build up a picture of where the problem areas are. And that got quite a number of likes. She thinks it's quite powerful. People feel like it's targeted to them. So that seemed to go down quite well.

#### **7. Any other business**

TS advised the Commander asked her to ascertain whether the group would like to consider a visit to the Contact Management Centre in Abingdon for the next IAG meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> October. The purpose of the visit is to understand the demand that they're getting in, how they make the decision as to where they put police resources and why there's a delay on the 101 line. There is a limit of 6 people per visit.

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

**Next Meeting Dates:**



**Bracknell & Wokingham LPA  
Wokingham IAG Meeting**

**17.10.24**