



Independent Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Oxfordshire Local Command Unit

DATE Wednesday 10th June 2026
TIME: 1700 hours
LOCATION: HQ South & MS Teams

Attendees	Initials	Position and Area
Ben Clark	BC	Chief Superintendent - LCU Commander
Nick Perks	NP	Neighbourhood Chief Inspector
Beth Snowdon	BS	Sergeant – Staff Officer
Dave Hession	DH	Community and Diversity Officer - Oxfordshire
	DC	IAG member
	MTh	IAG member
	PC	IAG member
	MTa	IAG member
	SK	IAG member
	EG	IAG member
	AB	IAG member

1. Welcome & Introductions

- BC noted CI Nick Perks will be stepping into Wendy's role.

2. Previous Minutes & Actions

- Minutes agreed.

Outstanding actions from previous meeting

1. BC to bring Project Vigilant presentation re VAWG – complete input happening in this meeting (can be discharged)
2. BC to speak to MTh – complete (can be discharged)



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3. Chair & Deputy Chair Election

- After discussion, group agreed:
 - **DC appointed Chair**
 - MTh appointed Deputy chair

PC – willing to stand for deputy but deferred if others wish to.

4. LCU Updates (Critical Incidents & Crime Picture)

Presented by Ben Clark

1. 4.1 Community updates

BC explains that it has been very busy for policing the last couple of weeks and explains some of the incidents that have been going on.

- **Southampton Incident (Henry Nowak):**
 - Update provided by BC.
 - Confirmed that no first aid could have saved the individual due to an internal arterial bleed.
 - Initial reports suggested a racial attack, leading to detention of Henry Nowak.
 - TVP supported neighbouring force with public order officers.
 - Two officers sustained minor injuries.
 - Arrests made; both offenders received custodial sentences.
- **Upcoming Event at the Oxford Union, Oxford:**
 - Tommy Robinson attending Oxford Union next week.
 - Clarification: Oxford Union is independent of Oxford University.
 - Disorder assessed as unlikely.
- **Belfast Disorder:**
 - Serious incident leading to large-scale disorder.
 - Suspect charged and remanded in custody.

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- **National Disorder Outlook:**
 - Anticipation of a potentially busy summer nationally.
 - Serious disorder in Oxfordshire considered unlikely.
- **Flag Flying:**
 - BC has submitted a statement supporting County Council injunctions.
- **Internal Welfare:**
 - A police officer tragically died by suicide last week.
 - Ongoing support and management within the force.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Reading Festival approaching.
 - Ongoing operational planning.
- **Performance Update:**
 - Performance remains steady.
 - Key issue: response times to Grade 1 incidents.
 - Government target:
 - 90% attendance within 15 mins (urban) / 20 mins (rural).
 - Current force target: 80% (more realistic interim goal).
 - Gradual improvement noted.

5. Community Feedback

- **Police Station Access Concerns:**
 - Perception that Banbury and Chipping Norton stations are “closed.”
 - Suggestion to improve communication clarifying they remain operational but without front desks.
- **Knife Crime Perception vs Reality:**
 - EG raised concerns following a stabbing in Blackbird Leys.
 - BC response:
 - Knife crime down by 50% in Oxfordshire (lowest recorded level).
 - Strong proactive work via:
 - Disruption Team
 - Harm Reduction Unit
 - Neighbourhood Policing

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- 45% of stop and searches for weapons result in finds.
- **Community Confidence:**
 - Perception remains that knife crime is increasing.
 - Importance of improved communication highlighted.
- **Community Engagement Channels:**
 - TVP Alerts, Instagram, and Facebook highlighted as key communication tools.
 - Neighbourhood Watch also used for dissemination.
 - Concern raised that Facebook may not reach all demographics.
- **Blackbird Leys Community Trust:**
 - Noted lack of trust in policing within the Black community.
 - Suggestion to engage via:
 - Schools
 - Colleges
 - Community leaders
- **Communications Strategy:**
 - Suggestion to broaden engagement beyond social media.
 - Engagement already ongoing with Oxford University confirmed by DH.
- **Future Meeting Structure:**
 - DC proposed setting clear agendas in advance with key topics.
 - Agreed by MTh.
- **Community Events:**
 - Mary requested local events be shared with IAG members.

6. Op Vigilant Input

Presented by LG (DI Laura Garland):

- **Overview:**
 - Op Vigilant focuses on improving public safety, particularly for women and girls.
- **Related Operations:**

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- Operation Yeomanry – targeting repeat RASO suspects.
- Operation Vedette – addressing unidentified suspects.
- **Key Themes:**
 - Behavioural awareness of offenders (hunting and targeting methods).
 - Focus beyond night-time economy.
 - Identifying vulnerability and intervention opportunities.
- **Legislation & Awareness:**
 - Street harassment (e.g. whistling) now considered an offence.
 - Ongoing work to shift societal attitudes to public safety.
- **Operational Challenges:**
 - Use in nightclubs limited due to surveillance authorisation requirements.
 - Development of “Vigilant Communities” to:
 - Train staff
 - Improve awareness and reporting
- **Engagement & Reception:**
 - Public response to Vigilant is positive.
 - High levels of engagement when discussed directly.
- **Concerns Raised:**
 - Sentencing concerns in serious offences (raised by PC).
 - LG noted judiciary receives the same training.
- **Suggestions:**
 - Targeted communications during Freshers’ Week (EG).

7. Summary of Agreed Actions

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	DH to email details of upcoming community events to IAG members	DH	September Meeting
2	Speak to PS Rosie Campbell regarding engagement in Blackbird Leys	BS	September Meeting

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No.	Action	Owner	Due
3	DH to obtain further information regarding the recent stabbing in BBL/ Westgate	DH	September Meeting
5	Organise a follow-up session with LG for IAG members (extended Q&A).	BS/LG	September Meeting

8. AOB (Any Other Business)

- **Youth Representation:**
 - Proposal to include IAG members aged 18–24.
- **Membership Review:**
 - Consider reviewing inactive members.
- **Feedback on Presentation:**
 - LG's presentation was well received.
 - Request for more time for detailed discussion in future sessions.