

# **Police update**

## **Frodsham Town Council Meeting**

### **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

#### **COVID-19:**

Throughout these difficult past 4+ months I have been patrolling and talking to people if I think they are doing something that is against the guidelines. If there has been a problem we have been trying to resolve it by communicating clearly and encouraging people to behave responsibly. As a last resort we have been enforcing the coronavirus law by taking people home and by fining them. Thankfully in Frodsham this has been kept to a minimum.

The same will apply to the new guidelines for face coverings, meaning myself and colleagues will be applying the four 'E's - **Engage, Explain, Encourage, Enforce**.

#### **Bike Marking:**

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June we held a bike marking event in the bus park at Helsby High School. This allowed members of the public to have their bikes (whether new or old) marked with bike register. We managed to mark 26 bikes in the 4 hours we were there and could have marked a further 10 bikes had we not run out of bike marking kit. We are currently in the process of obtaining funding to purchase more kits to enable us to hold further bike marking events in the near future.

#### **Chester Police North Rural Football Tournament:**

The planned Football tournament for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June had to be postponed this year unfortunately due to COVID-19. I am hoping that we may be able to hold an event sometime next June.

#### **Traffic related issues:**

Thanks to the continued support of Frodsham Town Council, Frodsham and District Community Speed Watch Group are now the proud owners of a new Smiley S.I.D device. My thanks go out to the councillors that supported the funding bid for this device which I feel will further enhance the good work the Community Speed Watch Group already do. The plan is for the new device to be deployed by the group on a daily basis Monday – Friday at varying locations that have been highlighted as issues by residents.

Furthermore both myself and the Community Speed Watch Group have been out with both enforceable and non-enforceable speed devices since Lockdown eased and traffic increased.

Social Media has raised some debate as to roads that I in particular favour to do my weekly enforcement. Just to explain the process, The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire has set out a pledge that Ward PCSO's will undertake certain tasks, one of which is at least an hour of traffic enforcement per week. I currently have 5 roads that I am able to use the enforceable speed camera and try where possible to do a different road each week over a 5 week period, therefore not favouring 1 road over another.

The Community Speed Watch Group have also been back out in force after a period off. They have had some new recruits joining the ranks and are continually looking for further recruits. Again we try not to stick to one or two roads when using the non-enforceable speed device, however due to the

activity being undertaken by volunteers we do allow them where possible to choose the road they would wish to deploy on each week.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):**

During the initial period of lockdown we saw the streets, play areas and other areas extremely quiet with the majority of residents both young and old adhering to the Government guidelines. This has obviously changed quite a bit since the easing of lockdown and we have seen an increase in ASB issues at the Memorial Field/Frodsham Hill, Castle Park, Townfield Lane Park and Saltworks Playing Fields.

Mostly this has been larger groups of young people (teens/early 20's) gathering and being noisy, drinking alcohol, using Nitrous Oxide, drug taking, criminal damage and littering. Whilst efforts have been made to patrol these areas we have seen an unprecedented use of the areas mentioned the likes of which I have not witnessed in my 8 years covering Frodsham.

Unfortunately due to the fact that we can't cover everywhere all the time, we rely on members of the public to contact us via 101 as and when issues are occurring in order that we can deal with the issues in a timely and robust manner. We have not been getting the levels of calls that I would have expected with people preferring to either comment on Social Media platforms or to simply email myself. I am obviously extremely keen to sort out these issues but emailing me is not the best way of sorting these issues out and I strongly urge people to ring 101 if and when they feel that ASB is taking place.

Noise issues and littering are dealt with by Cheshire West and Chester Council so calls will need to be made to them for those types of ASB.

### **Frodsham Youth Association:**

I had the pleasure of going out with Nic from Frodsham Youth Club last Friday night to help promote the upcoming Frodsham Youth Association Summer Events in Castle Park. We visited Saltworks Playing Fields and engaged with young people to encourage them to sign up for this wonderful free event that will commence on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August and run on a Thursday and Friday for 3 weeks finishing on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. All food and drink are being provide free through the youth club and the hard work of Nic and her team. I will be looking to support as usual when possible.

### **Saltworks Playing Fields:**

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July I had a meeting at Saltworks Playing Fields with Steve Christie the Streetscene and Environment Officer from Cheshire West and Chester Councils Environment and Communities Department Community Safety Warden Rich Jones following a complaint from a resident about ASB in the area. An agreement was reached with Steve Christie that the hedge at the front of Saltworks along Ship Street will have 3 foot cut from it making visibility into the play area/skate park easier and hopefully safer for everyone using the area. We are also hoping to have some of the trees running alongside Weaver Vale Primary school cut/thinned out to make it less attractive for young people to hide away in there.

### **Top Road Field:**

Last Thursday (23<sup>rd</sup> July) I attended Top Road Field with my colleague PCSO Makin from the Rural Crime Team to promote good dog ownership and to encourage dog owners to put keep their dogs on leads when walking through fields containing livestock. The wet weather meant unfortunately we did not meet many dog walkers but we are looking to do a further event in the near future.

**Police surgery:**

At long last I am able to start holding police surgeries again although for the time being there will be less of them and will look and feel slightly different due to the pandemic. My first surgery will be a street surgery this Thursday (30<sup>th</sup> July) outside the old Barclays Bank building on Main Street between 11am and 1pm. The Community Speed Watch Group will be there prior to this promoting the excellent work they do and looking to sign up new members.

I will then be looking to do further surgeries over the coming weeks/months and hopefully at some point get back to how/where I was holding them prior to Lockdown.

**Finally:**

Apologies that I can't join the meeting tonight but I hope this update gives you an insight into what I have been up to over what has been quite a challenging period for us all.

I look forward to catching up with all of you very soon.

Regards

PCSO 20619 Neil Flanagan