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Horsham District Monthly Update – What we did in September 2015

September 2015 has seen some significant change for my teams in Horsham as a result of the proposed timeline launched earlier this year under the Local Policing Model. Officers from Adur and Worthing district will be joining with those from Horsham district to take responsibility for a wider policing area; moving to a model known as a policing hub. Officers will continue to work from their relevant locations but in order to assess where the greatest need is across both areas they can now be deployed further afield.

We have begun our merger process this month with consultation through joint meetings to determine what our intelligence led priorities should be and where our resources should go. We have already carried out joint activities such as executing drugs warrants with positive results. A date has yet to be agreed for this formal transition however I will keep you all updated with progress.

Crime and Community Safety

A selection of September Court Results from Sussex Northern magistrates, sitting at Crawley and Horsham.

Darion Bates, 48, of South Holmes Road, was fined £55, with a £20 victim surcharge, and £85 costs. He had pleaded guilty to possessing a Class A drug (crack cocaine).

Christopher Taylor, 23, of Fishers Court, Horsham, was banned from driving for two years, with a one year conditional discharge, a community order, a £60 victim surcharge, £85 costs, and a £150 criminal courts charge. He had pleaded guilty to driving while unfit through drink at Hop Oast, near Horsham, and to assaulting a police constable.

Tye Blackledge, 18, of Wallis Way, Horsham, was sentenced to six months in a young offender institution, with an £80 victim surcharge, and a £180 criminal courts charge. He had pleaded guilty to breaching a risk of sexual harm order by being in contact with children, breaching a conditional discharge for possessing a Class B drug, and breaching a suspended sentence for making indecent photographs of a child.

Gavin Hart, 28, of Coombe Hill, Billingshurst, was banned from driving for two years and four months, and given a community order with a £110 fine, a £60 victim surcharge, £85 costs, and a £150 criminal courts charge. He had pleaded guilty to drink driving, driving without a licence, and driving without insurance.

Alex Ansermoz, 27, of Abbotsbury Court, Horsham, was fined £220, with a £20 victim surcharge, £85 costs, and a £150 criminal courts charge. He had pleaded guilty to common assault and resisting a police officer.

John Gibson, 25, of Gorrings Brook, Horsham, was given a community order with 80 hours of unpaid work, £50 compensation, a £60 victim surcharge, £85 costs, and a £150 criminal courts charge. He had pleaded guilty to common assault.

Nathan Payne, 38, of High Street, Partridge Green, was banned from driving for 18 months, with a £600 fine, a £60 victim surcharge, £85 costs, and a £150 criminal courts charge. He had pleaded guilty to drink driving.

Tony Clark, 43, of Cripplegate Lane, Southwater, was fined £290, with a £29 victim surcharge, £85 costs, a £150 criminal courts charge, and six penalty points added to his licence. He had pleaded guilty to driving without insurance, driving without an MoT certificate, failing to stop and give details after an accident, failing to report an accident, and driving without a licence.

Hove man to repay £225,000 pound drugs profits from Small Dole cannabis production

A Hove man who has already received a prison sentence has now been ordered by a court to repay a nearly quarter of a million pounds in drugs profits from a cannabis production operation he ran near Henfield.

Dennis Tanner, 57, of Meadow Close, Hove, had been sentenced at Chichester Crown Court in October 2013 to three years and four months imprisonment for cannabis production at a company he ran which specialised in restoring classic cars and making kit cars, at an industrial estate in Small Dole.

Following enquiries by expert police financial investigators, Tanner appeared at Chichester Crown Court on Monday (7 September) this year and was ordered to repay £225,000 profits under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). He was given six months to pay and if he fails to do so is liable to an extra six months sentence and will still have to pay.

His arrest followed an intelligence-led operation by local Horsham officers who executed a drugs warrant at his workshops on the Mackley industrial estate in Henfield Road, Small Dole, in January 2013. In two upper rooms at the main workshop officers found 1500 plants, in various stages of growth, with an estimated street value of £120,000.

In court Tanner admitted that he had been engaged in drug production for a sustained period.

Funds seized by the courts through POCA confiscation or cash forfeiture orders go to the central Government exchequer. However a proportion of this is returned to law enforcement.

POCA-derived funding is distributed equally between the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable. Sussex Police receive 50% cash back from cash forfeitures and 18.75% cash back from confiscation orders such as this.

The force currently employs an extra six Financial Investigators and two Financial Intelligence Officers from part of these funds to help continue work in seizing criminal assets, with the remainder being used to support crime reduction and diversion projects.

Detective Inspector Mick Richards of the Sussex Police Economic Crime Unit said; "This was a painstaking and complex financial investigation that unpicked the business accounts and extent of Mr Tanner's criminal enterprise. This highlights the value of financial investigations and the pressure we can bring to bear on criminals by taking their illegally obtained assets."

Drugs warrant executed in Spierbridge Road, Storrington:

Officers from Adur, Worthing and Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Teams along with the Crime and Operations Team and Local Support Team executed a warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in Spierbridge Road, Storrington on Wednesday 30 September. One man was arrested at the scene and has subsequently been bailed pending further enquiries.

Operation Vanquish



Operation Vanquish was held in Storrington during the morning of Tuesday 9 September.

Officers from the Sussex West Roads Policing Unit were assisted by members of Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Team and representatives from the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) were also present.

Op Vanquish is an enforcement operation run by roads policing officers with local officers in conjunction with partner agencies. These operations are set up in response to concerns from the local community and from intelligence gathered by local policing teams.

The purpose is to conduct high profile operations in local communities in order to improve awareness and compliance with road safety legislation and to reduce the number of casualties on the roads of Sussex.

Results of the operation:

17 people were issued with tickets for seat belt offences
6 people were given verbal warnings for seat belt offences
2 people were issued with tickets for mobile phone offences
16 speeding offences were detected by the camera team
The DVSA also issued two people with prohibitions on their vehicles.

New legislation makes it illegal to smoke in a car if under 18s are present:

From 1 October 2015, private vehicles must be smokefree if they are enclosed, there is more than one person present and one of them is under 18.

So it will be an offence:

- for a person of any age to smoke in a private vehicle that is carrying someone who is under 18
- for a driver (including a provisional driver) not to stop someone smoking in these circumstances

The rules don't apply to e-cigarettes.

Both the driver and the smoker could be fined £50. The law applies to every driver in England and Wales, including those aged 17 and those with a provisional driving licence. The law does not apply if the driver is 17 years old and is on their own in the car.

Why the law is changing:

Every time a child breathes in second hand smoke, they breathe in thousands of chemicals. This puts them at risk of serious conditions, such as meningitis, cancer and respiratory infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia. It can also make asthma worse.

Second hand smoke is dangerous for anyone, but children are especially vulnerable, because they breathe more rapidly and have less developed airways, lungs and immune systems. Over 80% of cigarette smoke is invisible and opening windows does not remove its harmful effect.

The law is changing to protect children and young people from such harm.

However, the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) says it will not be issuing fines while public awareness of the change builds.

"As the existing smoke free law extends to vehicles, police forces will be taking an educational, and advisory and non-confrontational approach when enforcing the new legislation. This would see people being given warnings rather than being issued with fines," said a spokesman.

"This is based on experience of implementing the current smoke free legislation and the Department of Health's proposal that this approach should be adopted for a minimum of three months to help build a high level of compliance."

Police give advice to students at Collyer's fresher's events:

On Tuesday 22 and Thursday 24 September members of Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Roads Policing Unit attended Collyer's Sixth Form College, fresher's events.

This year the police worked with West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and the Sussex Safer Roads team to promote safer driving amongst new drivers. The students were able to see the effects of driving whilst texting and driving after drink and drug use by using a driving simulator, as well as getting advice on driving safely.

Over 100 students signed the Brake Pledge where they promised to drive Slow, Sober, Secure, Silent, Sharp and Sustainable. The Pledge is intended to get people to do simple things to protect themselves, people around them and the planet. The team also took the opportunity to promote New Driver Awareness.

Over the coming months the police, the Fire Service and Sussex Safer Roads team hope to do more work with the college to help educate the new drivers to keep them and their passengers safe.



Public Confidence

E-mails/Letters of thanks

1/ Letter of thanks received for PC John Burt CB517 of Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Team and DC Richard Slaughter CS370:

Dear Sir

Please may I take this opportunity to provide some extremely positive feedback regarding PC John Burt.

You may be aware of my very close proximity to the tragic crash at Shoreham Airport / A27 on Saturday 22 August.

John Burt in my opinion went above and beyond the call of duty, demonstrating immense understanding and empathy to my position later that evening. In addition he facilitated extra communication with other more senior officers and provided transport to my home.

During all of this John provided reassurance and support to the troubles endured. Indeed John has continued to do so since, by follow up texts and telephone calls providing further support.

He is a credit to the 'Uniform and the Badge' and you are lucky to have him within your team.

Can I also add my thanks to the Detective Constable Richard Slaughter who conducted my witness interview in a compassionate manner.

A big thank you to you both.

2/ Message of thanks received for Horsham Officers PC Alexander Brown CB051 and PC Katherine Watson DW085:

On 15 September, our son went missing from our house in Horsham and we thought he was in a vulnerable, possibly suicidal state.

He finally called us at midnight. We picked him up, and called the police to let them know that he had returned.

The two officers involved; PC Alex Brown and PC Katherine Watson who dealt with this case were absolutely outstanding. We were so impressed with the professional yet caring manner they showed to not just my son, but to us as a family.

They couldn't have worked harder to try to help my son and I wish them to know how grateful we are to both of them.

They are a shining example of how police officers should be and I would be pleased if you could pass my thanks on to both of them.

Value for money

Horsham Police has donated £250 to Rudgwick Parish Council to help purchase new chairs to be used in the village hall. Barbara Kenward, Clerk to Rudgwick Parish Council said: "Rudgwick Parish Council are very grateful to PCSO Tracy Field for securing the donation, which will be put towards buying new chairs for Rudgwick Hall"

The donation comes from the Police Property Act Fund (PPAF), made up of monies received by the police from property confiscated by order of the court and then sold. Police Community Support Officer Tracy Field said: "It is great that the PPAF enables us to support local organisations and help local people. The new chairs will benefit so many user of the Rudgwick Hall."



Pictured: PCSO Tracy Field presenting the PPAF cheque to Barbara Kenward, Parish Clerk, Rudgwick Parish Council.

Regards

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