

Police Update March 2021

A meeting took place on 4th March between Cllr Pearce, Cllr Turton, Katharine Harrod, Gill Claydon and PC James Timmis, a summary of which can be found below:

Second Home Reports:

Hundreds of second home reports have been received – this is up 330% across the whole of the South Hams. Second Home breaches are classed as routine calls.

Every call that comes in is logged and allocated to a unit. Police talk with the occupants and then carry out checks on where vehicles are registered to/insured. ANPR cameras are also checked to ascertain the time/date when vehicles travelled to the area.

All the information is then considered against key dates and a decision is then made as to what action, if any, to take. Fines are issued where appropriate and the occupants are directed to leave. Properties are visited a second time and if the occupants haven't left they are fined again (at double the rate) this continues until they leave. It was noted that some properties have received multiple fines.

One third of all tickets across the whole of South Devon have been issued in the South Hams, 40% of all engagements are located in the South Hams.

Cllr Pearce asked for the numbers of people being fined. ACTION: PC Timmis.

Cllr Pearce stated it would be useful for the police to join in with SHDC as part of a communications campaign prior to Easter to try to dissuade people from coming to their secondary properties. PC Timmis will speak with the Communications Department.

The impact of the increased routine calls has led to resourcing issues, additional resources have helped pay for dedicated Covid response vehicles plus officers to cope with the new workload.

Peak Season Discussion:

Many places appear to be fully booked for the season and most of the moorings are heavily booked for summer too.

PC Timmis was not aware of additional support being made available to them over the peak season although it is anticipated that additional funding bids will be made when possible.

All present thought it was essential that planning is in place for regular night patrols in the towns following the issues experienced last summer.

It was strongly suggested that Cllrs Pearce & Turton and Parish/Town Clerks Harrod & Claydon need to communicate with the PCC to request the funding and resources continue to be available over the peak season.

G7 Summit:

- The summit takes place between 11th – 13th June 2021.
- Planning has been taking place since September. There are expectations of significant protests.

- Assistance has been requested of every other force in the country.
- This will be the biggest policing event this year.
- Up to 5,000 additional officers will be based in the South West for that time, some of which will be in the South Hams.
- The end May is the half term holiday and it will be especially busy, it is essential that no police are removed from the area for this period.

Post Meeting Note, the following has been posted on social media since the meeting by Gull Perch:
It's been a busy three weeks with ongoing police investigations, visits from the Counter Terrorism Police due to the sensitive Police Tetra relay equipment on the bunker mast and the security preparations for the G7 Summit where the Police and Border Force are monitoring sites on the coast where potential terrorist activities may become a threat.
Security at the bunker has been upgraded with many thanks to Grant Marshal Smith for all his input.

Later in the year, the Climate Change Conference takes place in Scotland (dates TBC), there may be some migration of officers from across the UK during this period.

Additional Information:

- Two drug warrants have been executed in Kingsbridge (which have affected people from Salcombe), there are prosecutions pending in respect of these. This will positively impact on the safeguarding of young people in the area.
- Some positive work has been ongoing with the youth in town – following engagement with the school etc.
- No issues are being reported with the local fisherman
- Engagement with publicans and licensees will take place about trading responsibly. Antisocial behaviour issues are a concern – particularly in respect of groups of young people coming into the area as per last year.
If there are issues with drugs the police have closure orders that they can use.
- The Councillor Advocate scheme was discussed, those present will arrange for the relevant people to sign up.