

HAILSHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION GROUP (CSAG)

25th MAY 2021

I attended the Hailsham CSAG, with Jackie, on 25th May 2021

Like the Planning Focus Groups, the Police have divided Wealden into Parish CSAG groupings and we come under the Hailsham Group.

While the CSAG is organised by the Hailsham Town Clerk, it is lead by an Inspector (Kendal Wells) from Hailsham Police. He is new in post but seemed to be proactive and aware of the problems. While most of these concern the larger conurbations, there are, obviously, areas that do or might impact on us. Not least of these is traffic.

CRIME

Overall crime figures are down on last year – probably due to Covid restrictions - with burglary statistics are lower than the national average. However, all crime is likely to increase as restrictions are lifted.

There have been a number of “scams” against the elderly in rural areas mostly taking money to tarmac drives and offers to buy cars.

The Hailsham crime statistics are attached.

COVID

The progression through the steps of the Covid roadmap have gone smoothly with no issues with pubs reopening. However there is concern that if the measures due on 21st June are delayed, or if there is a further lockdown, there may be some public unrest. Any demonstrations are a huge drain on Police resources.

PCSOs

It was suggested that we invite our PCSOs to any suitable events to meet parishioners. The Flower Show and Big Lunch are possibilities in due course.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

There is an initiative, backed up by Home office funding to ensure the safety of women and girls in public places. “Safe spaces” (pubs/restaurants/cafes) should be identified for those who feel threatened, especially at night, where women and girls can take refuge until help arrives.

OPBLITZ

This is an initiative to tackle anti social behaviour and the contact number is on the Police website.

TRAFFIC

There was a lot of discussion on speeding and parking which seems to be a District wide problem. Minutes of the previous meeting, attended by Jackie, had agreed to raise the matter of a traffic survey in Rushlake Green to quantify the problem. I am chasing it.

MARIJUANA

Concern was voiced about the availability and sales of “Edibles” in schools and colleges.

Edibles, in this case, are marijuana laced sweets, packaged to look like Haribos. The Police were investigating. Marijuana “vaping” is now also a problem.

The next meeting is scheduled for 13th September 2021.