

Social Cohesion Report – November 2018

Members: Stephen Henderson, Stephanie Exell, Des Moffatt, John Ballman, James Yeowell, Javes Rodrigues.

This report comes by common consent of the committee.

Salamander Project:

The Police are developing an academy scheme to work with young people through the Salamander Project. This enterprise offers a tailored development programme designed to promote empowerment in a positive environment whilst also encouraging team work and the supporting of others.

The primary aim of Salamander is to work with young people and provide them with experiences that will help them to learn new life skills and gain confidence. They will work with a variety of organisations across the public, voluntary and private sectors.

Salamander's key objectives are to:

- Establish links with the community and partner organisations.
- Project a series of messages regarding aspects of safety.
- Enhance the image of the support services within the community.
- Gain feedback from participants on their attitudes to matters of society risk.
- Encourage a more diverse range of people from disadvantaged backgrounds to develop self-esteem and confidence in their ability to achieve more than they thought they could.
- Develop skills amongst service personnel in dealing with the community.

The Parish Council have previously committed to supporting the SALAMANDER project. Discussions have taken place over whether the Parish Council would consider financially supporting one or more young people who live in the Parish to participate. The Fire Service were again made aware of this potential commitment and will get back to the Parish Council early in 2019.

Community Event in the Spring 2019:

The police are asking us to consider supporting a Community awareness event in Pinehurst on the same lines as the one set up for Penhill earlier in the Summer. The event in Penhill was set up by the Community where various community groups and agencies could come together to network and pass on the work they were doing with the local community. Given that there are no similar community groups in place around Pinehurst it was agreed the Parish would not only participate but pump prime this years event. In future years it was hoped a community group would pick up the event.

Service Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour

- There has been increased police resources in Pinehurst that has co-incidentally resulted in a reduction of antisocial behaviour and criminal activity in Pinehurst. There may be associated factors contributing to this reduction e.g. Change in the seasonal weather conditions etc.
- The police have been seizing mopeds and reduced the nuisance the riders of these vehicles bring to the community.

The Police provided no statistics at this stage although comparable impact statistics will appear in time as the Parish will ask to see these as part of this group.

For the Parish Council and our partners, it is important to identify and recognise a number of key learning points. For the Tactical Working Group to be successful it needs to also think strategically but act locally. The Parish and group need to intervene in local problems that involve more than one agency, the Police cannot do this work alone.

The Working Group also recognised that the new Parish Council will play a key role in all future matters of this type.

Our knowledge of the local area and our communities is a valuable resource. In relation to anti-social behaviour, we are in an ideal position along with SBC Housing to help Police identify local hot-spots and ASB issues for our community, we can also part fund local schemes to address anti-social behaviour problems such as SALAMANDER in our own area.

The Parish Council can also consult with local people to prioritise activities to reduce anti-social behaviour and help deal with problems in our local community. For example, the current ASB Word Mapping work the Parish Council is about to take part in.