

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Police Pushbikes

2nd June 2019

1. Introduction

CSNPC currently has 4 PCSOs which operate across the Parish by Police Vehicle, on foot and by bicycle.

The beat officers currently do not have any pushbikes. In late 2018 CSNPC were advised that whilst the revenue for maintaining the Police bikes is in place, the Police do not hold a capital budget to purchase new bicycles.

2. Report Details

The Parish as a whole is myriad of residential side streets, alley ways, cul-de-sacs and lanes, intersected with arterial roads and Dual Carriageways. It can become congested at key points particularly Bruce Street Bridges & the Moonrakers roundabout. Recent mitigation works have achieved little in reducing traffic flow and in turn the response time locally to Police matters.

Last year Wiltshire Police advised CSNPC that there was no budget available for the purchase of new Patrol bikes for the Parish. Whilst we have 4 dedicated PCSO's working in our area they were relying on either vehicle or foot to traverse the Parish.

In November 2018 CSNPC lodged our disappointment that the bikes would not be replaced when they reached the end of their life. We were advised that this was due to a reduction in the Police budget. The Parish holds a disproportionate amount of recorded incidents of ASB and low level crime in comparison to other areas of Swindon and it is disappointing that special consideration cannot be made by the Police to ensure this mode of transport is made available to officers.

This is compounded when you consider the benefits that Police bicycles hold. Their ability to navigate swiftly around an area the size of our Parish, avoiding obstacles, hazards, one-way systems and blocked off roads, particularly in Rodbourne & Pinehurst is hugely beneficial in apprehending suspects. The Parish is characterised by car-free areas, clusters of buildings with limited vehicle access, consistent congestion and heavy pedestrian addresses.

Whilst it is disappointing that the Police have removed funding for what appears to be a business critical mode of transport; it is of mutual benefit to the Parish Council residents and Police that local low level crime is dealt with as effectively as possible and that the Police have visible 'feet to beat' presence in more secluded areas. With this in mind a request for new bicycles to be provided by the Parish Council has reluctant merit.

The Police have requested a specific make of bike from Mitchells Cycles. The Police have requested two bikes, the cost of each bike with discount is £1,050 each. The Police have advised that they will maintain the bikes and provide locks.

If the request is accepted the assets would be the property of CSNPC.

Recommendation

That Parish Councillors consider the benefits of having Police officers equipped with bicycles and approve a payment of £2,010 for two new bicycles from the CEF 2019/20 fund.

That the Parish Clerk be asked to ensure the Police promote the investment from the Parish Council, the bikes are branded with our name in recognition, that the bikes are secure marked and that the Police maintain them accordingly.

If the bicycles are damaged or lost that replacement costs minus depreciation are sought from the Police.

That the bikes are stored permanently at Pinetrees Community Centre.