

I attended the PCC public meeting held at the Eye Town hall at 7pm on 02/05/17. The meeting was chaired by PCC Tim Passmore and the police were represented by Insp Mark Jackson, the SNT Supt and PC Andrews-Pearce.

When the meeting was opened for questions from the audience, the police did not receive an easy ride due to a couple of district councillors airing grievances, but a couple of subjects were mentioned which I thought may be of interest to the Occold Parish Council.

1. Community Speedwatch scheme. Insp Jackson spoke about the scheme and (because I am aware of local interest/concern about speeding in the village) I asked him a question about any local schemes and who a point of contact would be for finding further information. Because of this I am expecting a call from Rod Gardner from the police who is the liaison/training officer, and I spoke after the meeting with Ray Pym who is the Eye Community Speedwatch Team Co-ordinator. Ray has offered to let me/someone else from Occold attend one of their sessions to learn what is practically involved.

At this stage I am aware that for a Community Speedwatch scheme to operate, there must be a minimum of 6 appropriate volunteers who will be trained by the police and the scheme must be endorsed by the Parish Council. Any equipment must be purchased independently of the police, and the speed gun costs in the region of £1,000. Ray told me that the Eye speed gun had been funded 50/50 by a resident and the Eye Parish Council. From speaking with Ray, if this were something that Occold Parish wanted to participate in and could provide some volunteers, Occold could potentially be added to the Eye Community Speedwatch schemes locations to operate in.

The following is a link to a leaflet explaining the scheme:

<http://www.suffolknwa.co.uk/news-archives/suffolk-csw-leaflet.pdf>

2. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. I am aware of NW signs around the village but it is a scheme that is no longer operational and the signs haven't been removed.

I am aware from posts in the Residents of Occold Facebook group that there are local concerns ranging from dog mess, to suspicious persons, to anti-social behaviour but at present there does not seem to be anyone acting as a conduit for these matters between the residents and police. I spoke with Brian Sivyer who is based in Lowestoft and who is the NW scheme secretary for Suffolk; he stated that the NW is intended to be anything from purely a police liaison scheme to an all-bells-and-whistles fundraising community scheme. If the scheme would be of interest to the parish, I would suggest the former would be the scheme to operate.

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