



# DOG MERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Report from Police and Crime Meeting, 11 February 2021

### Graham Chisnall, Chairman Dogmersfield PC

Myself, councillor Anne Fillis and a good turnout of residents attended a meeting with our MP Ranil Jayawardena; the police sergeant with responsibilities for community policing; County Councillor Tim Davies and District Councillor Ken Crookes to discuss rural crime and policing in Dogmersfield Parish. It was held in Winchfield Village Hall, for which thanks go to Meyrick Williams for enabling use of this.

In my opening remarks, I thanked our guests for giving the time up to visit and discuss our issues and then took them through our local priorities and concerns. Maintaining our rural environment from encroaching and infill development was emphasised along with road safety, traffic congestion and the absence of visible policing in the Parish. I also stressed the need for much better and more regular communications between the Parish Council and police.

Ranil in response outlined that Hampshire as had the largest per capita increase in police numbers approved over the last year of anywhere in England (over 600 new officers) and that when they have been recruited and trained there should be a marked improvement in the effectiveness of policing generally. He accepted that the communications between rural communities and the police had suffered due to the cuts commencing in 2012 but he was confident that the extra numbers now authorised for Hampshire will allow more attention to be paid to this. He also accepted the general criticism of the police 101 phone line for complaints or reporting.

Martyn Evans, the police sergeant, then took the meeting through how 'Intelligence Led' policing works, particularly for rural communities, using the large-scale police raid in our parish last October, as an example. He made clear the importance of each and everyone in such communities reporting concerns or issues to the police (see link below for this) as this not only goes into their database that seeks to make links between reports but also is used by HQ in determining resourcing plans regionally (ie. no or few reports means resources are allocated to other areas showing a higher level of reports). He stressed that a nil response to a report should not be taken as a sign that nothing has been done with that report; all reports go into their intelligence database and often result in action later on as a result.

Traffic congestion and speeds were much discussed and it was clear that Ranil had been well briefed on the current chaos in Chatter Alley.

Dogmersfield residents asked a number of questions during a general discussion before the meeting was closed.

A valuable meeting giving us the chance to throw a spotlight on our concerns with our MP and community police involved. The need for more regular police attendance at Parish Council meetings was generally accepted and I shall pursue this further. Also, traffic speeds and congestion were discussed and our plans for tackling some of these issues outlined too.

In terms of reporting to the police, as an alternative to the 101 phone number, an online link was suggested which is [bit.ly/hants101](https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/) - <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

Thanks to all who participated.

**Graham Chisnall**  
Chairman