

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

### **Introduction**

The Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council is committed to safeguarding the parishioners, and with this in mind it will commit to ensuring any decisions made are made with safety and crime prevention measures in mind.

### **Duty to consider crime and disorder implications.**

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the 1998 Act”), a local council has a duty to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment).
- The misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances in its area.
- Re-offending in its area.

### **The right to be consulted.**

The 1998 Act imposes a duty on district and county councils (in England) and county and borough councils (in Wales) to publish strategies that cover the above aims. The principal authority is required to consult with others, including “persons who appear to the strategy group to represent the interests of as many different groups or persons within the area as is reasonable.” This would include the relevant local councils.

### **Power to prevent crime.**

Section 31 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 permits a local council, in order to prevent or detect crime, to:

- Install and maintain any equipment.
- Establish and maintain any scheme.
- Assist others in installing and maintaining any equipment or establishing and maintaining any scheme.

“Equipment” could include:

- Security lighting.
- Alarms.

- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR).
- CCTV.

## **Current Council priorities**

### **Speeding**

#### **Mobile Vehicular-activated speed signs**

Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council have several Mobile Vehicular activated signs (MVAS) that are moved periodically to speeding hotspots, in conjunction with parishioner feedback the locations are decided with data downloaded, highlighted in the local 3 Views News publication and shared with our local County Councillor, Leicestershire Police and the local speedwatch Co Ordinator

### **Speedwatch**

The Parish Council supports the local speedwatch scheme and is hoping that this can be rolled out across all three villages, currently schemes have been held in both Donisthorpe & Oakthorpe with follow-up schemes completed and planned in Donisthorpe. Councillors volunteer to support the scheme and collect data.

### **Acresford accident hotspot**

Acresford is situated at the junction of the A444 and Measham Road, the junction is a hotspot for accidents alongside the crossroads on Measham Road with the junction of Acresford Road. The village also borders neighbouring South Derbyshire, as a result accidents often occur and due to policing dispatch anomalies go unreported, gathering this data is a key focus and the council is collaborating with the local authorities, police, and MP to get action taken.

### **Criminal Activity**

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

The parish is nestled in the Heart of National Forest, due to the rural nature of the area the villages have lots of open spaces and walkways that allow access to many areas owned and managed by the Parish Council, combined with limited lighting infrastructure the possibility of anti-social behaviour is high. To assist in the reduction the Parish Council supports local schemes that offer alternative provisions, allowing youths to meet away from the streets. Donisthorpe has a well-used Youth Club, and the Parish Council commit

to assisting with this asset where possible. The youth club has a parish council representative on the committee who reports back where required.

### **Theft**

Due to the locality of the A42 with easy access to the M1 & M6 car theft is prevalent in the area, alongside petty theft from dwellings and sheds. The Parish Council has a safety champion that supports the assistance & promotion of local initiatives in conjunction with Northwest Leicestershire District Council, where available shed alarms and personal alarms have been issued and signposting to relevant services is available via the Parish Manager.

The Parish Council also owns Orchard Wood within the site. An Allotment Society manages a small area of land. The council has taken back the management of the site boundary and has committed to replacing boundary hedging and fencing protecting the allotment site and preventing thefts from the plots and sheds.

Donisthorpe has a wide and active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and this again fully supported by the Parish Council, recently meeting with a Hinckley & Bosworth representative to discuss ideas on how to roll out the scheme further will help in supporting the creation of a larger scheme in Oakthorpe.

### **Drug related offences**

The Parish Council supports the county lines initiative, especially since being so close to major road infrastructure, supporting the youth club and police campaigns will assist this. Hotspots identified in Oakthorpe resulted in lighting changes being pursued and rectified allowing dark spots in the compound at Oakthorpe to be illuminated, this saw a reduction in youth congregating in cars in the area.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion the Parish Council is looking to develop ideas and assist local community groups where possible. Any decisions made to assist will consider the council's crime prevention priorities, new and developing policies or procedures will also consider the impact on the safety and wellbeing of parishioners.