

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	6 December 2018

Executive Report: Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio as set out below.

2. Community Safety

Fleetwood Action Week

- 2.1** Our officers have recently supported Lancashire Constabulary's Fleetwood Action Week which took place the week beginning 12 November 2018. Officers spent an evening with the police engaging with young people congregating in known anti-social behaviour hot spot areas and waste enforcement officers carried out a joint operation with the police actively looking for individuals involved in the illegal disposal of hazardous waste and stop and checks for vehicles transporting waste without being a registered carrier. The illegal disposal of waste causes a blight on communities throughout the borough and in order to prevent this occurrence members of the public must only employ licenced waste carriers to remove their waste, or it could end up being fly tipped, which they may be held responsible for.

Strategic Assessment

- 2.2** The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Lancashire to undertake a strategic assessment of long-term issues and threats from crime and anti-social behaviour. These assessments are produced on a three year cycle. Lancashire's latest assessment, and an assessment for Wyre, has recently been released.
- 2.3** The top crime and anti-social behaviour categories impacting across the county are: violence against the person, domestic abuse, sexual offences (including child sexual exploitation), burglary and road safety.

- 2.4** Whilst 93% of residents in Wyre were found to consider their local area to be safe, the community safety issues most important to the public in Wyre are quoted to be cyber-crime, residential burglary and vehicle crime.
- 2.5** Key facts for crime in Wyre provided by our local assessment include: that alcohol was a factor in 29% of violence against the person crimes and 14% of all crime; during a one year period police recorded 635 victims of domestic abuse; 35% of residents of Wyre feel dealing and using drugs is a problem and in terms of road casualty fatalities, Wyre remains third lowest of the 14 Lancashire districts with record lows recorded in 2016 and 2017. Since the last strategic assessment was completed, Average Speed Cameras are now live along the A588, Head Dyke Lane, east of Preesall. Early evaluations of this intervention are highlighting that this has had a positive impact in terms of speed compliance and casualty reductions.
- 2.6** The information provided by the strategic assessment will be used to guide the activity of the Wyre Community Safety Partnership to combat crime over the next three years.

3. Wyre Beach Management Scheme, Flood Protection and Winter Preparedness

- 3.1** Computer modelling and baseline reports are well underway to develop the business case for the beach management scheme. This has included updating the coastal area models with the latest monitoring data including beach profiles, wind, wave and extreme water level data.
- 3.2** A Radar data capture system has been deployed at Chatsworth avenue, Fleetwood. This allows real time data capture of currents, waves and beach topography which is currently being analysed over two week tidal cycles. The data is also being used to verify the computer modelling and can be used to analyse a variety of parameters including beach usage and bird numbers. A proposal for a project to have a network of radars along the North West coast is currently being developed.
- 3.3** A consultation website has been developed and the first two meetings of the “Coast Watchers” group have been undertaken. They were very well attended and demonstrated the significant interest communities living by the coast have for the changes that are occurring to the coastal zone. The initial meetings have demonstrated how a sequence of images taken from a mobile phone can be automatically turned into a three dimensional model of the beach and coast defences. Officers are working with Lancaster University on a project to measure the accuracy of Citizens Science. It is hoped the project will be extended to the full Wyre coastline and also include capture of waves, storms and dunes. What is certainly being achieved is an engaged and actively participatory community who are gaining an understanding of what the proposed coastal scheme is aiming to achieve.

- 3.4** The council have also been working to support the Environment Agency in promoting a new flood risk management scheme at Hambleton which will better protect properties from flooding from the River Wyre. A well-attended drop-in event took place on 15 November, supported by Councillors and officers from Wyre together with partners from United Utilities, Lancashire County Council, Hambleton Parish Council, New Ground and the Environment Agency.
- 3.5** An excellent multi-agency Prepare for Winter Event took place on 10 October. The event was well supported by the Environment Agency, Lancashire County Council, United Utilities, NHS Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group, Churchtown Flood Action Group, Flood Hub together with officers and members from Wyre including the O&S Flooding Task Group, Engineering and Care and Repair.
- 3.6** A range of flood products were on show from flood sacks to full house protection systems. Visitors to the event were shown how simple measures could make them more resilient to flooding and other severe weather events. This included joining their local Flood Action Group (FLAG), signing up for weather warnings, preparing a flood plan and taking steps to make their homes more resilient. The Council's Flood Forum provides an important role in building community resilience and the council's website provides a useful resource to assist in preparing for and reducing the risk of the effects of severe weather. The council itself continues to invest in the protection of our communities and has purchased two large pumps to assist in the early stages of flooding and is developing pumping strategies and community emergency plans with the FLAGs.

4. Bathing Waters

- 4.1** Results for Wyre's bathing waters at Cleveleys and Fleetwood were received on 15 November. Both bathing waters received a good bathing water directive classification for the third year running. Together with the Seaside Awards for the beaches received earlier in the year distinguishes them as among the best in the country.
- 4.2** The Council has worked with organisations across the North West as part of the Turning Tides Partnership since 2011 to improve the quality of our bathing waters. A wide variety of methods are employed including infrastructure improvements, planning, campaigning, volunteering, educating and engaging to make sure everyone enjoys our beaches for generations to come.

5. Comments and questions

- 5.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with procedure rule 11.5.