

GNOSALL PARISH COUNCIL

(including the Wards of Moreton and Knightley)

Duties in relation to Crime and Disorder

The Parish Council works closely with PCSOs who are in regular contact with the Clerk to update on crime issues within the Parish. We have representation on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and one member of Council has been appointed to Stafford Borough Council's Safer Neighbourhood Panel which was set up by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire. Neighbourhood Watch Alerts from the Police are immediately posted on the Council's website and Facebook pages. The Parish Council encourages dialogue and participation in policing issues from parishioners and held a public open forum with police officers present in order to understand the needs of the community.

A guest speaker at a previous Annual Meeting was Matthew Ellis, Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire who gave a 40 minute presentation on his vision for future policing and how he intends to reduce crime by working together.

The local police post is based within the Grosvenor Centre, which is owned by the Parish Council, and whilst not manned on a daily basis, the public is encouraged to remain vigilant and to report all crime using the 101 service. An update on police matters is included as a regular item in the Council's GMK Newsletter published 3 times a year and circulated to 2,000 homes; an electronic copy is also placed on the website.

The aim of the Parish Council is to reduce crime within the parish and wherever possible the Parish Council applies for external funding in order to be able to provide CCTV, gates and other items as a means of deterring, managing and monitoring crime.

As an example of collaborative working, there was an instance of serious crime in the village that was investigated by the police who confirmed that, due to insufficient evidence, they were unable to charge anyone but if the Parish Council wished to request a case review it could do so. The Parish Council asked for the review and the outcome was very different; the case was referred to Crown Court, the perpetrators pleaded guilty and were sentenced.

The Parish Council is determined not to tolerate vandalism in any shape or form and we hope that the outcome of this particular case gives a strong and clear message that we will take all steps necessary to stamp out crime and work towards keeping our environment a safe place to live and work.