



**Devon and Cornwall Police and Salcombe Town Council Meeting
Cliff House 5 May 2024**

Present: Inspector Benjamin Shardlow, Sergeant Charlie Wilkes
South Hams District Cllr Mark Long
Salcombe Town Cllrs Kizzy Sims-Stirling, Christine Milton, Jasper Evans
Salcombe Town Clerk Sara Jones

Kizzy Sims-Stirling

We are interested in your plan for the coming year and how we can support that.

Ben Shardlow

○ *Resources*

I manage four stations across the South Hams. The Neighbourhood Support Team is based in Kingsbridge and will manage Operation Flowton this summer. I would like staffing to be stronger. We don't have officers in every post. PC Rob Irving is not with us any longer. In Kingsbridge we have Sergeant Charlie Wilkes plus two full-time officers, PC Simon Cooper and PC John Lonsdale. The plan is to move an additional officer from Totnes to Kingsbridge on a permanent basis. Kingsbridge manages multiple issues, with the ability to flex and respond across the South Hams and South Devon. There is not capacity to have one individual officer dedicated to Salcombe.

We are able to tap into additional resources including volunteer special constables and water-borne officers who work with the Harbour Authority (**HA**).

When there is increased demand, for instance Regatta fireworks, we will utilise the Kingsbridge team and four other Neighbourhood Support Teams in South Devon to engage with the public and deal with anti-social behaviour (**ASB**). We can bid for overt or covert resource to build intel on drink drivers, ASB, public houses, drugs. The more intel received, the more resources I can bid for. We compete for resources with Torbay and other places.

○ *Harbour Authority*

We have a good relationship with the HA and Cam Sims-Stirling, Harbour Master. They have a lot of local knowledge. Working with the HA enables us to allocate our resources more efficiently and ensure a dynamic flow of intel. Police officers can also access the HA Whitestrand office.

Mark Long: Have in mind the recently changed structure of the Harbour Board.

- *Operation Flowton*

This is now a legacy operation, we have a good understanding of key areas of demand, including in parks, alcohol related, ASB, the main pinch points where people funnel through, such as Island Street and Victoria Quay. Charlie Wilkes will look at last year's operational order and bring it up to speed to help decide where we should focus resources and flex where needed.

- *Drink driving*

There have been significant drink driving casualties in this area, two or three deaths during the last month. Sharing information prevents incidents. If you are there and then when drink drivers get behind the wheel, dial 999. Give the car registration, the police will deploy. If the driver is local, the police can go to their house and speak to the individual.

Christine Milton: Local residents are the biggest issue, visitors tend to leave their cars.

- *Under-age drinking, fake IDs*

Early conversations with licensees including the Co-op are key, with enforcement to follow. Police licensing officer Rebecca Barker is to visit licensed premises. We will never stop it. We do what we can to prevent the law being broken and make it difficult for potential offenders. There is a balance to strike.

One ID one drink policy at licensed premises is the right approach. Using a fake ID is fraud. Licensees should confiscate fake IDs and say, "We are giving it to the police, you are not getting it back". Take fake IDs to the HA and the police will collect them, but don't say to the individual that their fake ID is at the HA. If people kick off, a home visit by the police may be proportionate. We will also look at naming and shaming offenders.

Christine Milton: One of the biggest issues is kids asking adults to buy booze for them from the Co-op or Spar. Parents don't take it seriously. During the summer, the KA confiscates up to 20 fake IDs a night. Youngsters come in groups and show no respect when challenged.

- *Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)*

Mark Long: PSPO signs should be more obvious about what we are asking people to do. Claire Birch is looking at new visible, adhesive signage attached to litter bins.

Ben Shardlow: This year we will carry out early morning checks, e.g. have they stashed drink, and involve localities officers.

Sara Jones: Gary Frogmorton, localities officer, would be happy to liaise with the police.

Mark Long: South Hams officers can issue notices for dog related issues not for alcohol related.

We are looking at the feasibility of improved lighting and installing CCTV and related signage at Cliff House Gardens, for live monitoring linked to the Harbour Office, to help identify who is responsible for offences, deterrence, and to move people away from the town centre.

- *Reporting*

I meet with my Commander at 8.15am every day and have to explain my rationale for officers being in Salcombe. When demand in Salcombe is minimal - ASB, broken glass, alcohol related – there may be six to eight logs a week, compared with 60 to 80 logs each night in Paignton or Torquay. Reporting and intel builds that rationale, biddable resource for the team, looking to the future not this moment in time. If nothing is reported nothing gets done and you do not get the resources.

Reporting affects speed of allocation for the police response. An immediate response if risk to life. Less urgent logs get pushed down, potentially by several hours.

A new online policing app has been launched to allow the public to report crimes and incidents and find out information about local policing teams, <https://www.police.uk/>.

Charlie Wilkes: For non-emergencies call 101. If you are happy to do so, report online, kingsbridge@devonandcornwall.police.uk. I look at that daily. We build intel about what is happening and where.

The key issue is to protect the source, if in doubt use Crimestoppers, <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>. They are a gatekeeper for intel, we don't know who it comes from, very anonymous. If the police need evidence, Crimestoppers will ask the person who reported, provided they have given their contact details.

We can take face-to-face statements online for domestic abuse where getting out to see the victims can be an issue.

- *Regatta*

Christine Milton: I have asked the Regatta to create more signs that no glass should be taken outside by customers, including to Whitestrand car park.

- *Field of Light*

We don't know how many people will come. The main event will be on 5 October when the lights are turned on, the music festival will also be happening then. In the run up to Christmas and on weekends until 10 January 2025 when the event finishes. It is in our calendar.

- *Crabfest*

Christine Milton: While it is lovely to see police officers at Crabfest, there were grumbles in 2023 about officers being in groups of four or five. It is people's perception.

Ben Shardlow: Young officers and volunteer special constables cannot go out alone, the rules are that they have to stay together or be with officers.

- *Force Support Group*

The FSG is tasked to deal with specific issues, they struggle with community policing and may come across this way. They are a useful resource for specific situations, and it is better to have them than not. Don't be afraid to challenge them if necessary.

- *Salcombe Primary School*

Kizzy Sims-Stirling: Henry Everitt, head teacher at Salcombe Primary School, would very much like communication with the police. I will send his contact details.

Ben Shardlow: I run a 'Key Individuals Network', for the education sector, NHS and businesses. The quarterly agenda is to communicate what the police are doing.

- *Salcombe Town Council relationship*

Sara Jones: To build up the relationship with STC, consider weekly or fortnightly Teams calls and sharing information. Police related enquiries to STC in 2023 were mainly about noise and drink driving.

Kizzy Sims-Stirling

This was a very positive meeting. I will ask the HA and Caroline Flage from The Young Salcombe Centre to join the next meeting.