

Rowlands Castle Parish Council

Lisa Walker
Clerk

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Ms D Jones - Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner
Office of the Police Crime Commissioner for Hampshire
St George's Chambers, St George's Street
WINCHESTER
SO23 8AJ

11 August 2021

Dear Ms Jones

Anti-social Behaviour in Rural Parishes

At a recent meeting of representatives from 3 local parishes with officers and members of East Hampshire District Council the subject of anti-social behaviour was raised.

All representatives reported that such behaviour is on the increase, not only in our parishes but reportedly throughout the wider area. We write to ask what action you, as newly-elected Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, intend to take on this matter now that Lockdown restrictions have been removed.

We appreciate that there is a lack of police resourcing, exacerbated by the pandemic. Anti-social behaviour adversely affects the whole community, especially as it often occurs in and around public spaces. At our local Recreation Ground we have experienced vandals climbing on the pavilion and damaging the roof, starting fires in bins and against buildings and deliberately defacing public WCs.

When residents write to us about such incidents we encourage them to report them to Hampshire Police's on-line reporting tool or 101. However, there is a degree of cynicism as to the effectiveness of this system, even though we have emphasised the importance of data-gathering in guiding police actions.

In common with other parishes, speeding is another major issue which concerns our residents and has done for some time. Speeding is not only anti-social but also dangerous. Up until now Hampshire Police has taken very limited action on our roads, mainly on the grounds that speed enforcement is not one of its 8 priorities. We would like to see measures to reduce speeding on rural roads prioritised much more in the future.

We do have a local Speedwatch Team that conducts regular sessions on some roads within the Parish, however, other roads are considered too dangerous for them to monitor, which in itself confirms the problem. With more major development planned for the area it is vital this issue is tackled as a matter of urgency.

We look forward to hearing from you and understand you may well be invited by EHDC to attend a future meeting with representatives from the 3 parishes of Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Walker, Clerk
On behalf of Rowlands Castle Parish Council

CC: Malcolm Johnson – District Cllr for Rowlands Castle Ward
Marge Harvey – County Cllr for Catherington Division (incl Rowlands Castle)
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