Earlswood Multi-Agency Stakeholder Meeting – Minutes

Date: Friday 18 July 2025
Time: 2:00–4:00pm
Location: Earlswood Village Hall
Chair: Manuela Perteghella MP

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1. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting was convened by MP Manuela Perteghella, with representatives present from Warwickshire County Council, Stratford District Council, Warwickshire Police, Tanworth Parish Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), and Canal & River Trust (CRT).

Attendees:

Warwickshire Police

- Chief Inspector Simon Ryan
- Inspector for Stratford District Jake Kibblewhite

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

- Richard Long (Head of Policy and Partnerships, OPCC)

Warwickshire County Council

- Cllr James Crocker (County Councillor for Arden)
- Richard Fenwick (Director of Highways)
- Paul Taylor (Minor Works Manager)

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

- Sam Slemensek (Community Safety Manager)
- Cllr Natalie Gist (Law and Governance Portfolio Holder)
- Cllr Lynda Organ (District Councillor for Tanworth-in-Arden)

Tanworth Parish Council

- Cllr Mark Franks
- Cllr Ewen Cunningham

Canal & River Trust

- Gavin Passmore (Community Engagement Manager)

Local residents and representatives of community groups

The MP outlined the meeting's objective: to identify coordinated, enforceable actions in response to persistent ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) in the Earlswood area, particularly around the causeway.

- Residents and stakeholders were reminded to remain constructive to facilitate progress.

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2. Parish and Residents' Perspectives

Cllr Mark Franks and Cllr Ewen Cunningham highlighted:

- The ASB Committee was formed in response to worsening antisocial behaviour including noise, drug use, racing, and dangerous gatherings.
- Parish-led actions include:
    - Closure of Valley Road land to deter night-time activity.
    - Installation of CCTV in the Malthouse Lane car park.
    - Persuading Hickory's to install bollards.
- Emphasis on centralised ASB reporting via the parish website and better coordination with police.
- Residents proposed RFID-controlled barrier access to the causeway but were blocked by higher authorities despite legal exploration and supplier quotations.
- The impact on the community is significant and escalating.
- The Parish Council stated that they have consulted, compiled evidence, proposed practical solutions, and now need high ideal partners to match that effort, not with more theory, but with actual tangible action.

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3. Warwickshire Police Update

Chief Inspector Simon Ryan and **Inspector Jake Kibblewhite** reported:

- Operation Kaval has delivered **193 hours of dedicated patrols** since April 2025.
    - Engaged with 197 visitors and 72 residents.
    - Several vehicles moved on or seized.
- **Crime and Incident Data**:
    - **2024 Incidents**: May (19), June (17), July (27), August (14), September (9).
    - **2025 Incidents to June**: May (22), June (18). July data pending.
    - Key categories: Highways disruption (17), Nuisance (2), Suspicious circumstances (5).
- Noted the gap between anecdotal evidence and reported incidents; urged residents to use 101, Single Online Home, or Warwickshire Connected.
- Confirmed increased patrols and data-sharing with West Midlands Police, especially for cross-border issues.
- Police clarified limitations around ANPR and barriers under current legislation, but committed to co-ordinating regional intelligence and continuing Op Kaval.

4. Warwickshire County Council

Cllr James Crocker (newly elected) and **Richard Fenwick**, Director of Highways:

- Richard acknowledged legal and operational constraints, particularly the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) which cannot be applied solely for ASB.
- Experimental TROs were explored but deemed legally non-compliant.
- CCTV enforcement for parking is limited by law (only currently permitted near schools).
- County will target civil enforcement patrols (weekend presence), and review national legislation in partnership with MP who can liaise with DfT.
- Emphasised the need for national reform, noting the current legislation is outdated (1980).

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5. Stratford District Council

Sam Slemensek, **Cllr Natalie Gist** presented:

- SDC operates 24/7 CCTV monitoring from Malthouse Lane; 42 incidents logged, including drug use, ASB, and drink driving.
- Limitations: Cannot use CCTV for parking enforcement or PSPO enforcement unless breaches are sustained and repeated.
- SDC previously explored a PSPO closure of the causeway but this failed legal tests due to proximity to dwellings and transient offending patterns.
- Historical PSPO (2021–2024) lapsed due to no fines issued and enforcement challenges.
- ASB warning letters have been issued across regional boundaries; most offenders are from outside Warwickshire.

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6. Public Forum

Feasibility of Closing or Restricting the Causeway

- **Concern:** There was renewed demand to restrict access to the causeway, which residents argued is the main attraction for ASB, street racing, and car meets.
- **Response:** WCC explained that previous attempts to restrict access via PSPOs, ANPR barriers, and TROs had failed on legal grounds. However, WCC committed to reviewing partial land ownership options that may enable legal restrictions outside highway-controlled zones.

Functionality of the CCTV Camera

- **Concern:** A resident living near the Malthouse Lane car park claimed the District Council CCTV camera was non-functional or pointing in the wrong direction.

- **Response:** Stratford District Council firmly stated the camera is fully operational and monitored 24/7. They noted that it can only be most effective when incidents are reported in real time, enabling live coordination with police.

Police Visibility and Timeliness

- **Concern:** Residents stressed that police need to be present at peak times, especially in the evenings and weekends when incidents are most common.
- **Response:** Warwickshire Police confirmed that deployments are intelligence-led and will not be publicised in advance to avoid alerting offenders. Residents were encouraged to report timings and patterns to improve response alignment.

Delays on 101 Reporting Line

- **Concern:** Several residents expressed frustration about long waiting times when calling 101, noting that by the time they got through, perpetrators had often already left the area.
- **Response:** Warwickshire Police and OPCC acknowledged this issue and stated it is under review with the Chief Constable. Alternatives like the Single Online Home and Warwickshire Connected were promoted, but concerns about operational delays were noted.

Short-Term Action vs Long-Term Strategy

- **Concern:** Residents expressed frustration that while legal and regulatory feasibility explorations are ongoing, they see little immediate change on the ground.
- **Response:** Agencies reiterated their commitment to short-term visible enforcement, support for community-led tools like Speed Watch, and better information flow to ensure resource deployment matches resident-reported hotspots.

Use of Parish Council Incident Logs

- **Concern:** Residents asked whether reports logged via the Parish Council's incident form were actually used by the police or if only direct 101/999 reports were counted.
- **Response:** Police confirmed that parish logs are valuable and do inform operational planning, as they link into parish council's weekly meetings.

Restarting Community Speed Watch

- **Concern:** Residents wanted to know why the Community Speed Watch programme had lapsed and whether it could be reinstated to help deter dangerous driving.
- **Response:** Warwickshire Police confirmed their strong support for restarting the scheme, stating that training, vetting, and equipment would be provided. The Parish Council already has equipment and volunteers can be recruited immediately.

Speed Limits on the Causeway

- **Concern:** Residents raised serious concern that the current 60mph speed limit on the causeway is dangerous, especially given the high volume of pedestrians, cyclists, and ongoing antisocial driving behaviour.
- **Response:** Cllr James Crocker (WCC) took the action to exploring a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to reduce the speed limit.

Neighbourhood / Street Watch Schemes

- **Concern:** There was interest in reviving or launching a local Street Watch or Neighbourhood Watch programme, particularly given the persistent ASB.
- **Response:** The OPCC committed to exploring funding and support, and a local resident volunteered to liaise with the Police and Crime Commissioner to share best practice.

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7. Next Steps and Actions

Action	Lead Responsibility
Maintain and increase police presence over summer, based on intelligence reports	Warwickshire Police
Cooperate with West Midlands Police and share intelligence regularly	Warwickshire Police
Explore partial land ownership/privatisation option to enable ANPR outside Highways Authority scope	Warwickshire County Council (Richard Fenwick)
Re-engage DfT on potential legislative reform of TRO powers	Warwickshire County Council with MP support
Review feasibility and funding for Street Watch scheme	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
Liaise with Chief Constable regarding development of Street Watch (Neighbourhood Watch model)	Warwickshire Policy
Address call waiting time concerns with 101 service	Warwickshire Police and OPCC
Use parish council data (incident logs) as part of police intelligence planning	Warwickshire Police
Revive calls for volunteer recruitment for Community Speed Watch via parish communications	Parish Council with support from relevant councillors
Explore TRO process to reduce 60mph speed limit on the causeway	Warwickshire County Council Highways

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Meeting Close

Manuela thanked all attendees and emphasised the importance of having all relevant agencies present to tackle the issues facing Earlswood. She expressed hope that action would be taken swiftly, particularly over the summer, to ease the burden of ongoing criminal and antisocial behaviour on residents. She welcomed increased police patrols and highlighted promising community-led ideas such as Street Watch, noting that funding support from the Police and Crime Commissioner may be required. She also acknowledged that some solutions will require changes to national legislation and

reminded attendees that she had previously surveyed residents to gather their views on appropriate measures.