Minutes of multi-agency meeting to reduce anti-social driving and motorbike riding and associated dangerous activity in the Chew Valley

Weds 3rd September 2025

Present: Steven Read, Chair Chew Stoke Parish Council
Chris Kingdon, Lead member of CSPC Road Safety Working Group
Jon Mitchell – West Harptree Parish Council
Emma Weatherill - West Harptree Parish Council
Hannah Colton - West Harptree Parish Council
Heather Clewett – Vice-chair Stowey Sutton Parish Council, Chair of Chew Valley Forum
Teresa Betton - Stowey Sutton Parish Council
Edward King - East Harptree Parish Council
John Darvill - East Harptree Parish Council
Paul Shipman – Compton Martin Parish Council
Vessie Ilieva - Compton Martin Parish Council Clerk
Paul Cornelius – Chew Magna Parish Council
Dave Harding – Chew Valley Ward Councillor
Simon McCombe - Mendip Ward Councillor
Anna Box - Chew Valley Ward Councillor
David Boardman – B&NES Highways
Ade Humphreys – Avon & Somerset Police
Inspector Stuart King – Avon & Somerset Police
Sergeant Rob Turner – Avon & Somerset Police
Inspector Jo Hayward-Melen - Avon & Somerset Police representing Claire Moody, Police & Crime Commissioner
4 local residents
Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James – Chew Stoke Parish Council Clerk

1. **Welcome** - Steven Read (chair of CPSC) welcomed those present.
2. **Opening remarks** – SR clarified the aim of the meeting, to reduce anti-social driving and bike riding and associated dangerous activity in the Chew Valley. He asked that those present acknowledge limitations of the agencies present and asked for a constructive discussion.
3. **Introductions**
4. **Issue overview** –

- 2 year increase in activity in high performance cars and motorbikes meeting at Heron's Green, and using the straight stretch of road as a racetrack.
- Many villages in the Chew Valley are now 20mph zones, issue with chronic speeding in built up areas.

- There was a fatality involving a motorbike at the Herons Green site on 3rd August 2025.
- Witnesses noted bikers regularly doing 'wheelies'
- The activity is affecting residents of the Chew Valley and visitors to the area, by avoiding the road and taking longer routes. This is evidenced by an increase in reporting to A&S Police via 101 and 999.
- Intimidation by the bikers and car drivers is an issue at Herons Green layby
- Evidence of nitrous oxide use
- All parishes around the lake are affected by cars/bikes using the roads around the lake as a racetrack, using the loop on roads in Chew Stoke, West Harptree, Bishop Sutton villages. This involves the above Parish Councils and Compton Martin PC.
- Evidence of a larger loop from the lake up onto the Mendips and back down to Chew Valley.
- Peak times for meets and racing are Fri-Sunday 4-9pm (this is evidenced by reporting to A&SP).

5. Avon & Somerset Police update –

- Data shows 600 calls were received by A&SP in the last 6 months from the Chew Valley. 165 were road related. This is 37% and includes activity around the lake and onto the Mendips. The B3114 (Herons Green) accounts for 5% of all calls, a major location.
- An increase in activity in the CV is the result of road closures in Cheddar where meets also take place.
- Issue with registration plates being removed from the front of motorbikes

6. Suggestions and planned action:

A&S Police

- request that residents report all anti-social activity, dangerous driving, intimidation. Information about how to report to be provided to Parish Councils to share with residents.
- To use Section 59 Order – *A Section 59 warning is given by police under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 in the UK to a driver when a motor vehicle is used in a way that causes, or is likely to cause, alarm, distress, or annoyance to the public. This warning, which lasts for 12 months, signifies that if the antisocial use of the vehicle is repeated or continued, the police have the power to seize and remove the vehicle.* To issues Section 59's, evidence is needed including registration plate. Dashcams etc valuable evidence.
- A&SP to check bikes and registrations, insurance status, modifications, if bike is legal. This has been expedited in August.
- Sgt Turner to liaise with Police Team in Cheddar.
- Using open-source information, eg social media
- Encourage reporting from the public. 999 if there is a threat to life, eg speeding. 101 or online or via Crimestoppers for anti-social behaviour. (Online reporting is logged

and allocated to action by Patrol Plan, but online can take up to 12 hours to be triaged). Use 101 or 999 if urgent. Urged residents to be careful about capturing intelligence, do not put oneself in danger or post to social media.

- Attendees of this meeting to email Rob Turner in addition to reporting, so that he can action/target issue.
- If anyone unsure how to report incidents encouraged to ask for help.
- Sgt Turner to send information about how residents should report incidents to Clerk for disseminating to parishes.
- The Speed Camera Police motorbike has recorded 860 speeding offences in the Chew Valley in the last 3 months. There will be an increased presence in the CV to address chronic speeding in the villages.
- A&S Police to use Section 35 Dispersal Power, *A Section 35 warning, or dispersal order, is a power given to police in the UK under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, allowing them to direct a person to leave a public place and not return for a specified period (up to 48 hours) to prevent harassment, alarm, distress, crime, or disorder. Failure to comply with the direction can result in arrest. A Section 35 warning can also extend to a direction to surrender any item reasonably believed to have been used in such behaviour.* Can be used on any highways or private land. Can be applied to an area or a person. Last for 48 hours.
- Community Speedwatch - A&S Police offered to send out a Police Officer and a PCSO to assist with residents monitoring. Reducing the speed limit at Heron's Green to 40mph would allow CSW to operate around the area (with caution). Suggestion to create a valley wide CSW group, to monitor different parishes to the one where residents live.
- Consider use of PSPO's – Public Space Protection Orders.
- Patrols to be sent to the area at the peak times. Teams from Keynsham or Radstock to attend. These will be Special Constables from the Roads Policing Unit.
- Discussed speed cameras – these are expensive, A&SP and B&NES to discuss options and funding available. Also unlikely to be effective with anti-social driving and racing as many registration plates are cloned/removed from front of bikes.
- A&SP to discuss issues internally and speak to other forces that have experience of racing and meets, to seek how resolved.
- Weather – coming to end of the summer so activity may diminish, (there may still be meets even if less racing). A&SP to put time into devising a plan for spring 2026.
- Potentially increase engagement with riders and drivers of the performance cars and bikes to influence attitude and behaviour. To aim to contact meet organisers (also meets at Cheddar and Clifton Down).
- To involve Vehicle Standards Agency to support police operations. Spot checks.
- Police staffing in the CV to improve in November. Local stations able to bid for increased policing, (eg for CV road issues). Due to have 4 Police Officers and 4 PSCO's in CV. 70 Officers in A&S Police being moved into Neighbourhood Tasking Teams

(NTT), part of rebuilding Neighbourhood Policing. A& S teams can request resource from the NTT's to help with any issues, such as anti-social driving and/or drug issues.

- Autospeedwatch cameras – advised PC's not to purchase at present. Create too much data but can be used to create heatmaps for sharing with police forces to target areas. PCC to investigate politics behind their use.
- Near misses – please report these, eg danger to pedestrians, noise, speeding.

B&NES Suggestions –

At Heron's Green there is no street lighting (road across lake which is a nature reserve, SSSI), this reduces options for traffic calming measures. Potential options include:

- Build outs
- Narrowing lanes (but busy route for farming vehicles)
- Reduce speed limit to 40mph (this would enable CSW to monitor the area, but unlikely to improve racing behaviour)
- Double white lines to stop overtaking, (especially on brow of hill)

Final Comments –

- Jo Melen assured ongoing PCC involvement
- A&S Police were thanked for coming to meet with local Parish Councils and the coordination between key parties was very positive.

Next steps –

- A&S Police to arrange bi-monthly Teams meetings with Ward Councillors & meeting attendees to keep track of progress.
- To arrange follow up meeting of agencies and Parish Councils in Spring 26.

Steven Read thanked everyone for coming, appreciates high involvement and the ongoing work in communities.

Meeting closed 9.30pm