

Notes on Durham City PACT Meeting of 8th November 2017
Held in New Elvet Police Station

1. The beginning of University academic year coincided with some problems of call-handling in which callers were wrongly advised to call DCC (Environmental Health) to report noise. The situation is as last year that residents should report undue noise and other ASB, especially after 11pm, to the police by ringing 101. Police will respond as soon as possible and callers should always be given an incident number.
2. There was a rise in the number of bicycle thefts following the return of students to the City. In many cases these bicycles were not secure and students were advised to take care of their property.
3. Police were called to a number of noisy parties and these calls resulted in first warnings being served on 161 persons (about 20 premises) and second warnings to three premises. More details were given of a party in Hawthorn Terrace which took place over three adjacent properties where the landlord had removed the party walls at the rear allowing a large open air area to be used for over 100 people with amplified sound and a DJ.
4. Warning notices were also given to landlords/ letting agents where it appeared (as in 3. Above) that their actions had contributed to the disturbance.
5. The University had noticed an increase in the incidence of mental illness among its student body. Student counselling services are under pressure to respond. This was also true of young persons in the general population.
6. The police would welcome a contribution to the cost of overtime especially at the beginning and end of term and for incidents like the one in 3. above.

There had been a confusion over the date of the previous PACT meeting mainly because of recruitment of new administrative staff. The next meeting is confirmed as 13th December.

Ann Evans