

# CHANGES TO SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITY GROUPS

## Background

1. Safer and Stronger Community Groups (known elsewhere as PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings) are organised and administered by South Gloucestershire Council.
2. There are 20 Safer and Stronger Community Groups (SSCGs) covering the whole of South Gloucestershire. The majority meet 4 times a year, though some meet more often. The boundaries of SSCGs are based on those of Police Beats.
3. All local authorities are facing intense financial pressures and are looking at ways to make sure that every pound of funding is spent wisely and effectively. This includes looking at how they are organised and provide services. As part of the Council Savings Programme 2014-2020 the budget for supporting SSCGs has been reduced by 50%.
4. The Police are facing similar financial pressures, and are unable to contribute to the cost of running SSCGs.
5. Therefore the operation of SSCGs needs to be amended in line with the available capacity.
6. Given that Safer and Stronger Community Groups (SSCGs) replaced PACT and involve the Police as well as the Council, arrangements are agreed jointly between the two organisations. The Police have confirmed agreement to the following:

## Principles for future operation

7. In reviewing arrangements the following principles were agreed between the Council and the Police:
  - There needs to continue to be coverage across the whole of South Gloucestershire
  - Boundaries should be based around natural communities and boundaries rather than Police Beats.
  - Individual SSCGs should as much as possible contain areas where issues are likely to be similar in nature (for example rural or urban rather than mixed)
  - Wherever possible Parishes should only be covered by one SSCG.
  - The cost of operating SSCGs needs to be reduced in line with the available budget.

## Future Arrangements

8. Through the following changes it is possible to continue to support SSCGs across the whole of South Gloucestershire, within the resources available.
- the number of SSCGs to be reduced to 14
  - SSCGs to meet no more than 3 times per annum
  - Individual webpages for SSCGs to be replaced with direct links to webpages run by the Police
9. The following table presents information on the current SSCGs, and how it is planned boundaries should be amended in order to meet the requirements described above.

Current SSCG	Average Attendance	Comments / Proposal
Downend, Bromley Heath & Emersons Green	25	No change
Staple Hill, Rodway and Mangotsfield	31	No change
Kingswood	20	No change
Hanham & Longwell Green	30	No change
Parkwall	25	To merge with Willsbridge Mill and with Bitton (excluding the village of Bitton which remains with Boyd Valley)
Siston and Warmley	28	To merge with Boyd Valley and Bitton Village
Boyd Valley and Bitton	25	The two areas have different characteristics. Boyd Valley to merge with Siston and Warmley Boyd Valley to merge with Cotswold Ege (south and east of the A46). Bitton (excluding Bitton village) merges with Parkwall
Yate	25	To be merged with Chipping Sodbury

Current SSCG	Average Attendance	Comments / Proposal
Chipping Sodbury and the Cotswold Edge	20	The areas have different characteristics and issues are very different. Chipping Sodbury and Yate SSCG to merge. North and west of the A46 merges with Ladden.Brook. South and East and East of the A46 merges with Boyd Valley.
Frampton Cotterell, Westerleigh, Coalpit Heath and Iron Acton	34	To merge with Winterborne, Hambrook and Frenchay.
Ladden Brook (Charfield, Cromhall, Tortworth and Falfield)	18	To merge with Wickwar and Rangeworthy, and with Cotswold Edge (north and west of the A46)
Wickwar and Rangeworthy	15	To merge with Ladden Brook and with Cotswold Edge (north and west of the A46)
Thornbury & Alveston	35	To merge with Severn
Severnside	40	Severnside to merge with Aust
Severn	14	To merge with Thornbury & Alveston, except for Aust which merges with Severnside.
Filton	24	To merge with area of Patchway south of the A38
Patchway	23	The A38 acts as a major dividing force in operation of the SSCG and the issues it deals with. Area north of the A38 to merge with Bradley Stoke. Area south of the A38 to merge with Filton.
Bradley Stoke	32	To merge with area of Patchway north of the A38
Stoke Gifford	25	To be enlarged to include UWE, Cheswick, Stoke Park development east of Harry Stoke
Winterbourne, Hambrook, Frenchay and Stoke Park	22	Winterbourne. Hambrook, and Frenchay to merge with Frampton Cotterell, Westerleigh, Coalpit Heath and Iron Acton. Stoke Park merges with Stoke Gifford

10. Based on these changes, future SSCGs would therefore be as follows:
  - i. Downend, Bromley Heath, & Emersons Green,
  - ii. Staple Hill, Rodway and Mangotsfield
  - iii. Kingswood
  - iv. Hanham and Longwell Green
  - v. Parkwall, Bitton, Willsbridge Mill
  - vi. Siston, Warmley, Boyd Valley, Bitton Village, Cotswold Edge south of A46
  - vii. Yate and Chipping Sodbury
  - viii. Winterbourne, Frampton Cotterell, Westerleigh, Coalpit Heath, Iron Acton, Hambrook and Frenchay
  - ix. Charfield, Cromhall, Tortworth, Falfield, Rangeworthy, Wickwar, Cotswold Edge north of A46
  - x. Thornbury and Alveston and Severn
  - xi. Severnside and Aust
  - xii. Filton, Patchway (south of A38)
  - xiii. Bradley Stoke, Patchway (north of A38)
  - xiv. Stoke Gifford, UWE, Cheswick, east of Harry Stoke, Stole Park

### **Future Arrangements**

11. It is not intended to carry out full public consultation on the changes to SSCG boundaries and operation. Extensive consultation was carried out to enable the Council to determine the resources to be devoted to supporting SSCGs. This stage concerns the operational changes needed to implement this decision.
12. Nonetheless if key partners including Parish & Town Councils, and members of SSCGs believe alternative boundaries would be more appropriate, please send these proposals to [Robert.walsh@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.walsh@southglos.gov.uk) and they will be considered as boundaries are finalised.

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