

Date 16 January 2025



The group met at Buckley Town Hall in Mold Road, where the Mayor of Buckley, Cllr Emma Preece joined fellow Councillors Dave Ellis, Ian Peters, and Lorraine Rathbone to outline their concerns around ASB and to give examples of instances where vandalism and other forms of

abusive behaviour had taken place. The group then went on a walkaround of the town centre, shopping precinct, and sites such as the toilets next to the public car park behind the precinct, to view areas that had been damaged or experienced ASB.

The councillors spoke of an increasing sentiment that ASB was escalating in the town and that many residents were unwilling to report issues due to a feeling that no action would be taken. Both the North Wales Police Officers and the PCC reiterated how important it is that people report incidents of ASB and not to be put off by any perception that no action would be taken, as this would not be the case.

Across Buckley, the current reported ASB figures are reduced from last year, moving from 390 to 355, a decrease of 9%. Most crime figures most show a reduction from last year with an almost 20% reduction overall, which is the highest in the Flintshire South district.

However, in spite of this positive data, the Police and PCC are mindful of community concerns and Bistre East ward, which covers the town centre area, has benefited since the end of April last year from additional funding for Operation Restore patrols. Between April and August this equated to an additional 119 hours of foot patrol in this area, which is the highest figure in the whole of the Eastern division. This has resulted over the same time period in 49 stop searches, 174 stop and accounts and 13 intelligence submissions, which are also the highest figures in the Eastern division and some of the highest across the whole Force.

PCSO Darlington also outline additional measures and outreach projects that he hopes to progress with over the coming months to build community links and offer additional opportunities for members of the public to report crime.

Andy Dunbobbins, Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales, commented: "When I heard about the concerns of local residents in Buckley around ASB, I was determined to come and meet them as soon as possible. No one should have to feel unsafe in their own community and this behaviour is unacceptable. While I was disappointed to hear the residents' experiences, I was also reassured by the response of the local officers, and North Wales Police more generally, at their determination to continue combating ASB in the area.

"I shall continue to work with the Police and the local community over coming months to ensure Buckley continues to be a safe and welcoming community for all. We should cooperate to ensure the issues that drive some, mainly young, people to cause these problems are addressed, and appropriate interventions made. But we should also ensure justice for the victim and that society sees that crime has its consequences for those who commit it."

Mayor Cllr Emma Preece said: "Residents of Buckley have expressed their growing concerns over antisocial behaviour in our community, and the Town Council is committed to working closely with the local Police to address these issues. By collaborating on initiatives, we aim to create a safer, more supportive environment for the community. In one such initiative, we are encouraging more people to report crime and anti-social behaviour. That way resources can be aimed at the right areas, backed up by the reports."

Cllr Dave Ellis commented: "I would like to thank PCC Andy Dunbobbin for attending Buckley Town Council and for his ongoing support to stamp out antisocial behaviour in Buckley.

"Speaking from personal experience, and due to recent issues around the town, despite Police figures indicating antisocial behaviour is on a downward spiral, I believe that it is more than evident that this has reversed and gone the opposite way.

"Residents are taking to social media to vent their frustration regarding the lack of action to reduce this and members of the public are looking to Buckley Town Council to arrange a public meeting with the Police to discuss the antisocial behaviour that is happening around the town."

Sergeant Kerry Nash of North Wales Police said: "We're aware of concerns locally around antisocial behaviour in Buckley and have regularly enhanced and targeted patrols to deter incidents and offer reassurance to residents.

"Based on the latest data, patrols across Buckley have had a tangible effect in limiting the impact of offences within the town, with a noticeable drop in reported incidents. I encourage anyone who has witnessed antisocial behaviour to report it to us so that we can act where necessary. The only way we are able to act is if incidents are reported directly to us. The information from reported incidents is used to direct our patrols to prevent and deter crime.

“I would like to reassure residents that we take antisocial behaviour seriously; it is unacceptable in our communities and won’t be tolerated. However, we are unable to act if we do not know about it. I would also urge parents to ensure they know where their children are, and what they are up to.”

“The neighbourhood policing team are looking at additional ways to assist the residents of Buckley to report these incidents to North Wales Police. However, in the meantime there are several available options, 999 if the incident is ongoing, 101 for a non-urgent matter or via web chat.”

To learn more about how to report instances of ASB go to: www.northwales.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour

Reporting an incident via webchat can be done at: www.northwales.police.uk/police-forces/north-wales-police/areas/live-chat