

Hetton Town Council - 15 March 2021

Item 12: Complaint to Northumbria Police

During Item 6 at 15 February 21, Cllr M Hopper raised ongoing concerns about the lack of action against the perpetrators of a burglary in January 2020.

This report provides background information for Members.

Incident: 18 January 20

A robbery was committed locally, where goods were taken from a locked building. The victims of the robbery believe that they have been let down by the Police, who they consider have failed to properly investigate the crime.

This matter has previously been raised at Town Council, leading to requests that Town Clerk seek further information and explanation from Northumbria Police (NP).

In response, NP advised that this matter did not go before the CPS for decision, based on other factors and to liaise with the officer in charge.

An in-depth call facilitated by Town Clerk between Cllr Hopper and the investigating officer revealed that despite providing detailed information comprising: video and photographic evidence of the suspects leaving a property, entering and robbing a property and returning with the stolen goods to a property, positive I.D. information, and addresses, no arrest nor contact was made with the suspects.

It could be considered that this represents a fundamental flaw in the approach by Northumbria Police in this case.

Town Council is asked to consider making a formal complaint to the Chief Constable, requesting a detailed explanation for the perceived failures and seeking assurances about the robustness of investigative policies and procedures to enable the community of Hetton le Hole and district to have confidence in the ability of Northumbria Police to effectively tackle crime at all levels.

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