

SMITH, Hannah (C8653)

From: COPPINGER, Barry (C8513)
Sent: 29 June 2020 13:53
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] LEWIS, Richard (p2688)
Subject: RE: Eston Hills

Thanks [REDACTED] for your note earlier, I was going to ask for a meeting of the Eston Hills multi-agency task group to be set up in the next few days, if that could be arranged, and I'll also discuss with Richard Lewis when we meet tomorrow.

Regards
Barry

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 June 2020 13:39
To: COPPINGER, Barry (C8513) <Barry.Coppinger@cleveland.pnn.police.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Eston Hills

Good afternoon everyone,

I'm sure you are all aware of the latest incident on Eston Hills over the weekend whereby approx x20 motorbikes and x9 Quads / Beach Buggies arrived at Flatts Lane NHS car park apparently from Bradford.

As you can imagine I was inundated with messages via phone / email and social media over the weekend requesting help from the Police.

Several persons have informed me that they rang the Police, and on such person, [REDACTED] who is a co-founder on the Friends of Eston Hills was told by our control room that "We have more important things to do" which has left her very disappointed, especially as she also approached several of those persons who turned up making them aware that they were not allowed on the Hills, and although not directly threatened in her words said she felt very vulnerable and intimidated.

I appreciate that there may have been more important on-going incidents at the time, and I have explained to several of the members the reasons why their calls would be down graded, which they do understand.

Social media was extremely busy, and thanks to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] actions most of the more extreme posts were taken down, and certain members banned for the page indefinitely. Both ladies were also aware that all of those who turned up were of Asian backgrounds aged between 20 – 30 years, and believed that should the local community become aware of this it may have caused further problems, and to their credit kept this under wraps.

One of the other regular members put a video up on social media of the quads and bikes and apparently received a lot of threats, which again were taken down and persons banned, although it has apparently left him very shaken.

Local MP's and Councillors have also been informed, and are saying they want action, and that a group should be set up to tackle these issues, however they have been made aware that such a group already exists (chaired by the PCC)

Its also claimed that the local security guard at the NHS building refused to close the gates, allowing such vehicles to enter, which has been an issue in the past and one we thought had been resolved.

As you'll see from the attached photo's these were not simply locals turning up with trailers, but with lorries and flatbed trucks, as well as transit vans. The vehicles used were of a high value and spec, and although the transporters were checked and insured etc should maybe been stopped from unloading the Quads, Bikes and Buggies.

This has had a real impact on those who have worked with the police over the years, and its more than likely going to be hard to regain their confidence in the near future.

Like I have mentioned the Friends of Eston Hills to their credit kept things from potentially becoming worse, but I feel they do deserve an explanation as to why things didn't go as they would have hoped. I have spoken to both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] this morning, and although they're very disappointed I have tried to smooth things over. They do appreciate the work that Cleveland Police do for them, but they are finding it difficult to relay this to their members and the local communities who have been very supportive in the past few years of the actions we have taken to combat this issue on their behalf.

Some supporters even went up the hills yesterday evening do a litter pick, as they are that passionate about their area.

I have been asked by them all to pass on their concerns to you all, and I'm aware that they have already contacted the OPCC, but I'm sure we can still be proactive in our work around the hills, they just think that a great opportunity has been lost, however I'm sure that if such a thing was to happen again in the future we could maybe have a procedure in place to tackle this should it happen again.

I appreciate that the Police have other more high profile issues to deal with at the moment, but maybe we could support them more in the future, as it is me they turn to and expect action from

Regards