

COLD ASH PARISH COUNCIL
CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 – SECTION 17
(Reviewed & Adopted 12th September 2023)

1. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act imposes a duty on all local authorities to consider the impact of their decisions on crime and disorder in their local area. The Act introduces a partnership approach to local crime reduction and the consideration of community safety. Practical guidance on how councils should reassess and consider their powers in the delivery of local services is given in a pamphlet produced jointly by NACRO and the Countryside Agency, copies of which have been passed to all Members. Link is at the bottom of this page.

2. The Act requires that councils create 'an audit trail' when discussing crime and disorder by noting within minutes factors which have been taken into account.

3. The Council are advised in the NACRO and the Countryside Agency pamphlet to adopt an evidence-based, problem-solving approach on the assumption that appropriate solutions are most likely to be identified locally. Section 17 lays on councils a duty to adopt a proactive stance in which the local community is consulted to identify crime and disorder. 'Do not wait for reports but go out and seek information on what has happened with a view to identifying common traits so that priorities can be established and solutions devised and implemented'. Targets are then to be set and monitored.

4. In general terms, the Council needs to ensure that all future discussions consider the effect, for good or bad, on crime and disorder and secondly, that these factors are minutes and taken into account in subsequent decisions. The Council also needs to decide how it is to launch its public consultation. It is not sufficient under the terms of the Act to wait until acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour are reported.

<https://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/uploads/s17-crime-disorder-act-1998.pdf>

Next review date September 2025