



LEISTON PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Leiston Community Centre on Tuesday 29 November 2016 at 18:30 hrs.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner), Melissa Turner (PA to PCC), Chris Bland (Chief Finance Officer) and Sheri Probert (Administrative/Secretarial Assistant).

Suffolk Constabulary

Steve Jupp (Temporary Deputy Chief Constable), Mark Jackson (Locality Inspector) Charlie Lewis (Police Constable).

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

The PCC welcomed 17 members of the public to the meeting and made introductions. The PCC gave a presentation on the key elements of his role and current priorities. A copy of the presentation slides will be attached to these notes for the record.

POLICING UPDATE

Following an overview of the position across the county from the Temporary Deputy Chief Constable, Locality Inspector Mark Jackson gave a presentation on policing in the Leiston locality; a copy of their slides are available for the record.

Inspector Mark Jackson outlined his priorities and challenges for the coming months. The following areas were highlighted:

- Community Teams and Response Officers were making stop searches and using police dogs with significant results including the seizure of a sizeable quantity of drugs;
- Community Teams were continuing to work with schools and parents to steer young people away from anti-social behaviour;
- Cohesive working with partners to address domestic violence and support for vulnerable individuals including those with mental health problems;
- 4 Community Speed Watch Teams were active in 13 approved SafeCam sites in the area with 185 tickets being issued so far. Volunteers welcome to join and would receive full training.

During the six months since April the following performance figures were recorded:

Burglary Dwelling

10 Domestic burglaries in a six month comparison (Apr/Sept) - down 51% against a 3 year average (10).

Robbery

3 Robbery offences - up 1 offence compared to the 3 year average.

Violence with injury

60 offences recorded in Leiston SNT area - an increase of 9 % (5 offences) against the 3 year average due to the way crime is now recorded.

Serious Sexual Offences

12 Serious Sexual Offences - Down 1 offence when compared to the 3 year average (10%).

Drug Offences

11 offences recorded within Leiston SNT area - down by 33%. 17 offences recorded for the same period 2015/16.

Anti-social Behaviour (Force level)

In a year on year comparison at Force level, ASB incidents had fallen by 11% year on year (969 fewer incidents). In a 3 year comparison ASB Incidents had fallen by 4674 incidents, 37%.

KEY AREAS OF DISCUSSION

- VISIBILITY – Lack of physical Police presence in the area especially since PCSO working hours had changed. The DCC explained that PCSOs were governed by Police Staff regulations and their hours were being reviewed as part of the Suffolk Local Policing Review. Match funding of a PCSO for Leiston & Aldeburgh would be considered and would very much depend on the financial position after the forthcoming Autumn Funding Statement. It was noted that there were 3 dedicated School PCSOs working in Suffolk who attended regular partnership meetings and communicated with teachers about any pupils facing exclusion and could therefore quickly address any potential anti-social behaviour issues. Data showed that visits to stations were infrequent and savings of £750,000 have been achieved by closing front desks. The pattern of crime was changing and much police work was now undertaken 'behind the scenes'.
- NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND COMMUNICATIONS - A Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator said that the scheme was suffering from a lack of information provided by the Constabulary. The DCC advised that the issue had been raised with him and he expected enhancements to "Police Connect" (a messaging service connecting the public to local policing news in your area via text, email or phone) to be made so that more timely and detailed information could be provided. Encouragement was given for those involved in Neighbourhood Watch to contact their local Safer Neighbourhood

Team (SNT) officer to report suspicious events as there was currently no “intelligence gathering” facility on the Constabulary website to do this. The DCC was looking at methods of disseminating intelligence i.e. via Police Connect, SNT Newsletters, Drop-in sessions.

- PAVEMENT PARKING – A local resident raised the problem of cars parking across pavements and the effect this had on vulnerable pedestrians such as those using guide dogs and mothers with prams. **Action: Inspector Jackson to follow up after the meeting and review photographs of specific areas submitted by resident / consider enforcement action required.**
- POLICE MORALE – Reference to a recent national media report regarding low morale in the Police Force. The DCC spoke about the complexity of today’s policing and the importance of looking after staff. He was pleased to advise that Suffolk Constabulary had undergone 3 HMIC Inspections since March 2016 and had obtained “Good” on every occasion.
- PROCUREMENT – Discussion regarding collaboration opportunities around procurement. The PCC advised that Suffolk Constabulary was signed up to the National Procurement Framework which had significantly helped to reduce costs.
- LEISTON POLICE STATION – The PCC advised that working together with the Fire Service was crucial to meeting the financial and operational challenges currently faced by Suffolk Constabulary and it was therefore very likely there would be a proposal for a future joint Police and Fire Station in Leiston.

The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:15 hrs.