



MILDENHALL PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at the Mildenhall Parish Council Pavilion on Wednesday 21 September 2016 at 18:30 hrs.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Sarah McNulty (Business Co-ordinator), Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner) and Vanessa Scott (Policy Officer).

Suffolk Constabulary

Inspector Mark Shipton (Locality Inspector - Mildenhall) and Gareth Wilson (Chief Constable).

1. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

- 1.1 The PCC welcomed 11 members of the public to the meeting and made introductions. The PCC gave a presentation on the key elements of his role and action taken over the past year. A copy of the presentation slides will be attached to these notes for the record.

2. POLICING UPDATE

- 2.1 Following an overview of the position across the county from the Chief Constable, Inspector Mark Shipton gave a presentation on policing in the Mildenhall area; a copy of their slides will also be attached for the record.

3. KEY AREAS OF DISCUSSION

- **SPEEDING** – Various concerns were raised about speeding and a number of attendees said that they were engaged with local Community Speedwatch teams. There was some frustration that the Speedwatch teams were identifying speeders but when the police enforcement was actually carried out driving behaviours changed so no action could be taken. It was felt that the penalties for speeding did not have enough impact and, in discussing a recent extreme speeding case, that the magistrates sanctions did not appear proportionate which did not demonstrate a clear message about the consequences. The PCC urged attendees to write to him if they wished to express their concerns on that matter. It was generally agreed that improved driver education was also a factor and that signage was something to be discussed with the local councils. It was noted that the Mildenhall Parish Council had

carried out some checks in the area opposite the old Cemetery as people had raised concerns and the data showed that people were not speeding, it was just a perception that they were as it is a closed in area. Inspector Shipton encouraged anyone interested in getting involved with the Community Speedwatch Scheme to get in touch - Mildenhall.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk.

- **PARKING ENFORCEMENT** – The PCC confirmed that Suffolk Constabulary forms part of a working group which has been set-up to consider the transition of on-street parking enforcement in Suffolk from the police to local authorities. If agreed, the timescale for the implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement across the whole of Suffolk is expected to be two years. The Chief Constable advised that in the short-term, crimes will be prioritised according to threat, harm and risk. Inspector Mark Shipton confirmed that the Safer Neighbourhood Team were carrying out targeted parking enforcement activities one morning per week in the areas identified to have a specific problem, such as in the high street and at local schools.
- **CONTACTING THE POLICE/101 SERVICE** – There was discussion about lengthy delays using the 101 service, appropriate signposting of callers to other agencies and queries about local points of contact. The Chief Constable took details of one of the incidents which he said he would follow-up. He acknowledged that there had been some problems with the 101 service and said that he felt improvements to the Constabulary's website, increased staffing in the control room and the introduction of a new IT system would address this. Contact details for the local Safer Neighbourhood Team were provided.
- **POLICE RESPONSE TIMES** – Assurance was given that police resources were flexible across the county to meet demands where necessary. Inspector Shipton said that 89% of emergencies in Mildenhall were reached within the 20 minutes target time (against the overall Constabulary target of 90%).
- **CRUCIAL CREW AWARD CEREMONY** – A query was raised regarding a Crucial Crew Awards Ceremony that was being planned for 500+ children seeking commitment from the local police to attend and support the event. Inspector Mark Shipton gave assurance that the police would attend and urged the organisers to get in contact with him directly to make the necessary arrangements.
- **CLOSURE OF MILDENHALL POLICE STATION/LOST AND FOUND PROPERTY** – Following the closure of the Mildenhall Police Station the Parish Clerks had received a number of questions about handling of lost property. The Chief Constable advised that the Constabulary's new interactive website was the best place for people to get information on lost and found property <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/lost-and-found-property>. He confirmed that the three public access police stations in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft still took property.
- **COURT CLOSURES** – Support was expressed for the PCC's comments against the courts closures.

The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:10 hrs.