



IPSWICH EAST PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Rivers Social Club Wednesday 10 May at 1900 hrs.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner), Anna Parkinson (PA to the PCC) and Sheri Probert (Admin assistant)

Suffolk Constabulary

Kerry Cutler (Superintendent, South), Inspector Andy Pursehouse (Locality Inspector Ipswich East).

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

The PCC welcomed 21 members of the public to the meeting and made introductions. The PCC spoke briefly about the key elements of his role and current priorities. A copy of his handout will be attached to these notes for the record.

POLICING UPDATE

Inspector Andy Pursehouse introduced himself having recently taken over responsibility for the area and spoke about policing in the locality; a copy of his handout is available for the record.

QUESTIONS ASKED AND SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

- *Why is there a difference in the funding of the Norfolk Constabulary and Suffolk Constabulary?*

Tim explained that this was the result of a historic funding formula. The Home Office funding formula review is ongoing and Tim hopes to see a fairer balance between the more rural counties and cities.

- *Speeding – Orwell Bridge*

July will see the end of the first year of speed reduction enforcement with analysis to follow. There has been a dramatic reduction in the number of drivers caught speeding since the start of the project. Any revenue through fines goes to the government and there is a small surplus from speed awareness courses which is ring-fenced for the improvement of road safety in Suffolk.

- *Rise in knife crime*

Supt Cutler reported a small rise in Suffolk which has been related to drug criminality and said there was a heavier police presence in Ipswich as a result. The recent weapons amnesty has seen a large number of items handed in to bins placed in strategic locations. Operation Woven is tackling youth related violence/anti-social behaviour/drug dealing etc.

- *Bixley Farm littering and anti-social behaviour around Busy Bees Nursery car park*

Concerns were voiced that this was not being tackled since the hours of duty were changed for PCSO's. Supt Cutler explained that financial prioritisation has meant that PCSO's are being used during the day time for problem solving. Officers from local SNT's are to form ASB teams and are able to serve Community Protection Notices. Supt Cutler will be discussing this further with Insp Pursehouse.

Update 15/5: The landowners site management agents have written to all business owners asking for their agreement to a change in lease terms to allow for the erection of a barrier to Busy Bees car park.

- *Rough sleepers around Duke Street and begging*

Teams are working proactively and an action plan to deal with begging is currently being formulated and is of high priority. A campaign will pilot in central Ipswich to raise awareness of the support available. There are many organisations there to help the homeless but some refuse to be helped. ASB orders can be used for those who won't move. Work is ongoing with Ipswich Borough Council around legislation to get a Public Space Protection order.

- *Intimidating groups of young men congregating in and around the town*

Engagement work with partners and community groups is ongoing to educate foreign nationals around cultural differences. Supt Cutler has successfully negotiated the return of street lighting all night in the Norwich Road area.

- *101 Service – length of time to answer and crimes going unreported*

Technological issues have been causing problems but the service is improving. Supt Cutler spoke of the huge range of calls incoming and that the average call-waiting time is less than many other forces. Control Room staff training has been completed and a full quota of personnel is in post.

- *Ravenswood – Progress on thefts and burglaries?*

Supt Cutler reported that a number of arrests for burglary have been made in the Ipswich and Woodbridge areas with several people on bail pending investigation. Additional patrols have been placed in key areas. Advice has been given to households about hinges on sheds being replaced with the non-removable kind.

The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 2100 hrs.