



IPSWICH WEST PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Chantry Academy in Ipswich on Wednesday 17 October at 19:00

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner), Chris Bland (Chief Finance Officer, OPCC), Anna Parkinson (PA to the PCC)

Suffolk Constabulary

Kerry Cutler (Superintendent, South), Inspector Kevin Horton (Locality Inspector Ipswich South West).

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

The PCC welcomed 10 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

A copy of the handout is available for the record.

QUESTIONS ASKED AND SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

- *Anti-social behaviour*

The majority of those present had experienced anti-social behaviour outside their homes and in their neighbourhood and wanted to know what could be done about it. Supt Cutler explained that the police make use of legislation where they can to move people on and, in extreme circumstances, exclude individuals from the town completely. It was agreed however that a multi agency / community approach was needed in an attempt to prevent the anti-social behaviour in the first place, such as the provision of youth clubs and other similar organisations. The PCC added that the voluntary sector is vital in this area and already does great work – for example the St Giles Trust, recipient of a grant from the PCC.

Some residents expressed concerns about anti-social behaviour emanating from particular addresses. Inspector Horton said he would take the details after the meeting and follow up on these specific instances.

- *Youth and Gang Violence report*

A councillor present asked the PCC when there would be consultation on an action plan, following the recent publication of a report into Youth and Gang Violence in Ipswich. The PCC explained that meetings had been taking place but progress has been disappointingly slow thus far. It is hoped that the action plan will be put out for consultation next week.

- *Link between economic/social deprivation and crime*

The PCC spoke of the link between economic/social deprivation and crime and the need to support the local economy and engage with local businesses in order to create employment opportunities for young people. A councillor present who is also a Governor of Suffolk New College described how local businesses provide workshops at the college, for example welding, plumbing and carpentry.

- *Ways of contacting the police*

A member of the public said they had recently phoned 101 to report ASB outside his house at night and thought 101 was an excellent service. He added that he had been hesitant to call as he did not want to “make a fuss”. Supt Cutler was pleased to hear that the resident had used the 101 service but reminded the meeting that they should always call 999 if they felt at risk.

Supt Cutler acknowledged that not everyone reporting crime is comfortable speaking directly to the police and advised that people could call Crimestoppers if they wished to report anonymously. In addition, she encouraged residents to speak to their local councillors as she has a good relationship with them and they keep her informed of local concerns.

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