



LEISTON PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Sizewell Sports and Social Club, King George's Avenue, Leiston, IP16 4JX on Tuesday 28th November at 19:00.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Tim Passmore (Police and Crime Commissioner), Sandra Graffham (Communications Manager) and Anna Parkinson (PA to the Police and Crime Commissioner)

Suffolk Constabulary

Tonya Antonis (Superintendent, East), Mark Jackson (Locality Inspector)

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

The PCC welcomed 48 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.

KEY AREAS OF DISCUSSION

- **Will there be a budget deficit given Mr Passmore's opening comments with regard to the funding formula being unfavourable for Suffolk?** The PCC reassured the meeting that he, along with Suffolk MPs and business leaders, are doing all they can to make the case to the Home Office for fairer funding.
- **What is happening to Leiston Police Station?** Police in Leiston will be sharing premises with the Fire Service, as has been done elsewhere in Suffolk. The site of the police station will be disposed of.
- **A Councillor felt that the Constabulary were incorrect in saying that criminal damage has decreased in Leiston – he knew of cars regularly being damaged**

in the street though people felt it wasn't worth reporting as nothing would be done: Supt Antonis said that while they recognised the figures could be incorrect due to under-reporting, the only way the figures could be correct would be for members of the public to report all instances of criminal damage and she urged everyone to do so. She said that the information is important in terms of building a full picture of the local situation and also helps decisions when deploying resources as any crime spikes will be more obvious.

- **Given concerns about speeding vehicles, could local residents install their own ANPR cameras and assist the police?** Supt Antonis explained that unfortunately the situation is not as straight forward as it sounds due to Data Protection laws. Data, and who accesses it, has to be managed very carefully in order that no laws are broken – there are large fines for any transgressions. Supt Antonis therefore encourage concerned residents instead to form Community Speedwatch schemes, which the police are very supportive of.
- **How many Special Constables are in the region?** Insp Jackson was not sure how many were in the whole region but said that there are 10 in Halesworth. Supt Antonis said that in the summer months, Specials were very much utilised to positive effect in addressing ASB. There is also a Specials Road Policing Team. The PCC added that there are 240 Specials in the whole of the county and new schemes such as “Citizens in Policing” are currently being explored.
- **How does the Constabulary work with other agencies with regard to mental health and domestic violence?** Supt Antonis said that the Safeguarding Unit works with mental health / adult services / child services in order that the appropriate referrals are made to the correct agency. The Constabulary holds monthly meetings with local partner agencies in order to discuss current issues, including particular cases which may be causing concern. The PCC added that he has awarded funding to services offering support to victims of domestic violence.

Police have limited powers when it comes to mental health cases though can detain someone if there is a real need to do so. Otherwise the police liaise with the appropriate agencies in order that the best help can be provided. There are also Mental Health nurses in the Control Room who can help advise police on the best course of action should a call come in about a known individual. There are also Mental Health nurses in the Control Room who can help advise police on the best course of action should a call come in about a known individual.

- **What is the Constabulary relationship with Neighbourhood Watch?** The PCC said that he thinks Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent scheme and is very supportive of it. Insp Jackson agreed that the scheme is very valuable and said that he would be happy to attend Neighbourhood Watch meetings should he be invited and able to do so.
- **Inconsiderate and illegal parking continues to be a problem – what is the current position with regard to Civil Parking Enforcement?** The PCC explained

that the Minister of Transport needs to approve the application, which should be straightforward. However it appears that progress could be delayed due to a lack of capacity in the current legislative programme. The PCC will continue to apply pressure to the Government.

- **Surely it would be better for PCSOs to work in the evenings, particularly to address ASB?** The PCC said yes it would be helpful if PCSOs worked in the evenings but unfortunately due to the shift allowances that would be payable, the decision was taken that PCSOs would not work past 6pm. Supt Antonis agreed that it would be incredibly helpful to have PCSOs on duty in the evenings but recognised that the costs of this were prohibitive. She therefore instead flexes resources using PCs and Specials and deploys them where necessary.
- **Does the Constabulary have teams that go into schools?** Supt Antonis confirmed that PCSOs go into schools as it is important to engage with and educate young people in the community. The PCC added that it was important that agencies work together to create opportunities for young people such as cadets, scout groups etc and in this respect as a community we are very reliant on the voluntary sector.

The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:35 hrs.