



IPSWICH CENTRAL PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Suffolk New College, Rope Walk, Ipswich on Tuesday 11 October 2016 at 18:30 hrs.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Chris Bland (CFO to the PCC), Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner) and Vanessa Scott (Policy Officer to the PCC).

Suffolk Constabulary

Inspector Sarsfield Donohue (Locality Inspector), Superintendent Kerry Cutler (Southern Area Commander) and Gareth Wilson (Chief Constable).

1. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

1.1 The PCC welcomed around 14 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 Sarsfield Donohue gave a presentation on policing in the Ipswich Central area; a copy of their slides will also be attached for the record.

3. KEY AREAS OF DISCUSSION

- **MASONS ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE PREMISES** – There was concern from residents in the area of Jubilee Park that children, as young as 10, were accessing the premises of the public house. They had seen young people accessing the property via the wall of Jubilee Park, and screaming and shouting until late at night. There was concern that the police patrols were happening during the day and not co-inciding with the children trespassing. The police advised they were aware of the problems and it was recognised that agencies need to work together. The police advised they have worked with the Borough Council to put pressure on the landowner to make the premises secure.

- **BEGGING, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & DRINKING** – There was concern expressed by businesses about the begging and drunken, drug induced behaviour in the Waterfront area. The public were keen to understand what powers the police had to prevent drinking. The police advised they are aware of these issues and although they can only take action when people are acting illegally, it was explained that the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act in 2014 enabled more powers to local authorities.
- For example local authorities have the power to introduce Designated Public Places Orders (DPPOs). These help local authorities deal with the problems of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in public places. This order is not a total ban on drinking alcohol in public places but makes it an offence to carry on drinking when asked to stop by a constable or authorised officer.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) are broad powers which allow councils to deal with a particular nuisance in a particular area that is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life for those in the local community. The Order can prohibit certain things or require specific things to be done.

- **MENTAL HEALTH** – There was discussion about the need for better education of officers and the public to support people with mental health issues, so that the police can deal effectively with people who suffer with mental health issues. The view was that police training was important but so was a wider public understanding. The Chief Constable advised that the Constabulary was acutely aware of the impact that mental health has on the community, victims and perpetrators.
- **PARKING**- There was some discussion about parking. It was explained that parking enforcement in Ipswich was undertaken by Ipswich Borough Council. The Chief Constable did appreciate however that around the county there had been some mixed messages about parking enforcement and wanted to clarify that while he was working with local authorities to move civil parking enforcement away from the police, that would take some time so meanwhile, with the exception of Ipswich, the force would take a proportionate response to parking enforcement activity.
- **101 SERVICE**– There was a discussion about the length of time people are waiting and a concern that the resourcing of 101 was not appropriate. The Chief Constable advised that he had taken a number of actions to improve the 101 service, such as ensuring the Contact and Control Room (CCR) was fully staffed. The changes to the policing model had meant that a number of positions were held as vacancies over the early part of the year. He was also introducing an improved telephony and technology within the CCR, which would support more efficient call handling and better communication across call answering and dispatching systems. He reassured people that 999 call answering remained speedy and effective.

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