



## **BURY ST EDMUNDS PUBLIC MEETING**

A public meeting was held at Moreton Hall Community Centre on Wednesday 19 October 2016 at 18:30 hrs.

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner**

Liz Hollingworth (Business Administration and Policy Officer), Christopher Jackson (Chief Executive) and Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner).

#### **Suffolk Constabulary**

Inspector Peter Ferrie (Locality Inspector - BSE), Sergeant Anna Whybro (BSE SNT) and Gareth Wilson (Chief Constable).

### 1. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

1.1 The PCC welcomed around 43 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 Peter Ferrie gave a presentation on policing in the Bury St Edmunds area; a copy of their slides will also be attached for the record.

### 3. KEY AREAS OF DISCUSSION

- **SPEEDING AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.** Concerns were raised about 'boy racers' in modified cars speeding in the Moreton Hall area on weekend evenings. It was questioned whether the use of Section 59 notices to address the use of vehicles in an antisocial manner and other tactics outlined by Insp. Ferrie would only displace the problem to other areas. The Chief Constable confirmed that Response and Roads Policing resource could be used as well as the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) to address the problem. Insp. Ferrie requested that the public continue to contact the Constabulary when the problems occurred and pass on intelligence. The PCC requested that the issue be monitored over the next couple of months to see if the proposed police action had been effective.

- NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH / AVAILABILITY OF CRIME DATA. A Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator commented that the change in local policing had meant that the distribution of accurate crime data and intelligence to local schemes had stopped. The PCC said that improvements were being made to communications and that the feedback from the meeting would be incorporated into the review of local policing. The Chief Constable acknowledged that communications could be improved. The Constabulary was proactively updating its local newsletters and would be considering changes to Police Connect.
- HARE COURSING incidents had risen over recent months and concerns were raised about the lack of and slow police response, particularly as hare coursers were prone to violence against gamekeepers and members of the public who reported suspicious activity. The PCC said that the Constabulary were able to use Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), the two rural crime teams and rural Special Constabulary officers to support their response to hare coursing. The Chief Constable said that the Constabulary was committed to prosecuting those involved with hare coursing and associated organised crime. He requested that incidents be reported in a factual manner. The Chief Constable confirmed that the Police Helicopter was still available for use. New technology in the Control Room enabled a postcode to be sent directly to a response vehicle sat nav. The Constabulary was also introducing SMS/Text updating so a caller would know when action had been taken, even if they hadn't seen the police themselves.
- SPEEDING AND FATALITIES ON THE A1101 - Concerns about speeding through villages by motorcyclists, on Sundays in particular, were raised. The Chief Constable confirmed that speed enforcement was carried out on Sundays as well as other days of the week. A number of offenders had recently been caught speeding on the A1101 at Lackford. The PCC asked for concerns to be directed to the local SNT who could then arrange enforcement action, including use of the new community enforcement van. This van can operate in areas where the speed limit is between 30 and 50 mph and there is a safe and suitable site to do so.
- CYCLISTS ON PAVEMENTS were raised as a concern. The Chief Constable said that whilst his staff acted on issues of the highest threat as a priority, he would still expect them to deal with cycling on pavements if they came across it.
- PARKING ENFORCEMENT The PCC outlined that the transition of on-street parking enforcement in Suffolk from the police to local authorities was progressing although the legal transition could take up to 2 years. Insp. Ferrie said that for areas where there were persistent problems with dangerous or illegal parking members of the public should contact the SNT, using the email address provided, so issues could be logged by the local team. Enforcement would then be directed to areas of major concern. Dangerous parking at the West Suffolk Hospital had recently been targeted by the SNT.

- LENIENT SENTENCING and the lack of suitable deterrents to criminals was commented on by a member of the public. The PCC said he would be raising this with the Director of Public Prosecutions at a forthcoming meeting.
- HISTORIC CRIMES. The Chief Constable said that the Constabulary did use their resources to investigate historic crimes where reported to them by victims. These tended to be complex cases but there was a duty to victims who were still suffering the effects of the crimes.
- STANTON PUBLIC MEETING FOLLOW UP – The PCC confirmed that he and the Chief Constable had returned to meet with Stanton Parish Council and residents following the public meeting on 27 May 2016. An update on the situation and progress had also been documented in the local newsletter.

***The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:30 hrs.***