



EYE PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Eye Community Centre on Thursday 17 November 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

Lee Andrews-Pearce (PC, Eye SNT), Jen Eves (Superintendent, Eastern), Inspector Mark Jackson (Locality Inspector - Halesworth), and Gareth Wilson (Chief Constable).

1. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

1.1 The PCC welcomed 19 members of the public to the meeting and made introductions. The PCC gave a presentation on the key elements of his role and current priorities. 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 Mark Jackson gave a presentation on policing in the Eye locality; a copy of the slides are available for the record.

3. KEY AREAS OF DISCUSSION

- **DRUGS.** Concerns were raised about whether the police were targeting drug dealers at all levels. The Chief Constable said that the National Crime Agency worked to stop supply routes into the UK and the Constabulary worked with the Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit (ERSOU) to disrupt high level drugs supply. Locally, drug dealers from out of the county, mainly London, were exploiting young people to transport the drugs in to the county and the force had a special operation to tackle this. The Chief Constable agreed to find out the specific number of drug traffickers arrested during the last year.
- **THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.** The PCC was asked to comment on the apparent differences in sentencing and what appeared to be lenient sentencing, for example in extreme speeding cases. The PCC said he had raised this with the Director of Public Prosecutions who had confirmed that magistrates do have ability to use their discretion

for some offences (e.g. speeding over 110mph). The PCC said he would be asking the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) to remind magistrates of this. The PCC said he had been disappointed in the outcome of the consultation on court closures in Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft as these didn't reflect opinion in Suffolk. The PCC said he was actively engaging with MPs and other partners to enable access to courts for victims and witnesses and those voluntary bodies that support them.

- **DEVOLUTION.** The PCC was asked what the impact on policing of 'devolution' for Suffolk and Norfolk would be. The PCC said that the pace and direction of devolution was uncertain however, there was no appetite to merge police forces but collaboration with Norfolk continued and enabled efficiencies to be made. The Chief Constable confirmed that major incidents usually involved joint units and those on the border would be dealt with by the nearest unit, for example Response or Roads Policing, which was a joint Norfolk and Suffolk Unit.
- **HUNTING.** An issue with potentially illegal hunts and negative police interaction with hunt monitors was raised. Two members of the public felt that the police attending the events were 'pro-hunt' and said there had been incidents where hunt monitors had been harassed. The Chief Constable asked for the details to be sent to his office and he would ask that Assistant Chief Constable Rachel Kearton would look into the allegations. It was confirmed that Mark Bryant had returned to the Constabulary as a Rural Crime Officer. PC Lee Andrews-Pearce said he was temporarily based in Eye SNT but retained an interest in tackling rural crime. He was building relations with hunt monitors and said that two hunt-related cases were currently in progress.
- **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.** A Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator said they had little contact with the Constabulary since the new policing model had commenced in April. The Chief Constable said that the newsletters had been improved in response to feedback from the community. A local magazine editor said he would provide a link to the SNT page.
- **SPEEDING.** A number of concerns were raised about speeding through villages and whether Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) or other measures could be implemented where Community Speedwatch or the speed van were not suitable. The PCC said that mobile VAS were available for sites across the county, there were two small enforcement cars and a 4 person motorcycle team that tackled speeding. In addition funding generated from the speed awareness courses could be used.
- **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.** Concerns were raised about anti-social behaviour in Eye town centre. PC Lee Andrews-Pearce said he had been made aware of the issues, CCTV had been accessed and he was patrolling the area. Inspector Mark Jackson said he would follow up the concern relating to a recent incident at a local school.
- **BURGLARIES / CRIME PREVENTION.** In relation to recent burglaries in Wingfield, Hoxne and Syleham, Inspector Mark Jackson said that each crime was being investigated. He encouraged the public to attend the forthcoming crime prevention events the Constabulary were providing in the area.

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