



HADLEIGH PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Hadleigh Guildhall on Monday 21 November 2016 at 18:30 hrs.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Liz Hollingworth (Business Administration and Policy Officer), Christopher Jackson (Chief Executive), Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner) and Sheri Probert (Administrative/Secretarial Assistant).

Suffolk Constabulary

Kerry Cutler (Superintendent, South), Inspector Kevin Horton (Locality Inspector – Ipswich West), and Gareth Wilson (Chief Constable).

1. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

- 1.1 The PCC welcomed 31 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 Kevin Horton 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.** The problem of drug dealing in Hadleigh was raised and particular concerns were raised about the prevalence of young people buying and using drugs. Members of the public said they saw little evidence of action despite reporting incidents to the police. 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. He said that at a local level the provision of intelligence to the police from the community was vital. Inspector Kevin Horton said he would follow up with the members of the public.
- **CCTV** - A member of the public said that the CCTV in Hadleigh should be used to gather evidence, for example in relation to drugs and assaults, however there were concerns about whether all cameras were fully functional, monitored and able to provide good quality images. Inspector Horton said he was in contact with Babergh

District Council to ensure that the cameras worked, and he assured the meeting attendees that the images from the CCTV were of sufficient quality. Monitoring was undertaken by volunteers from a base in Sudbury. ***Post meeting note: Inspector Horton confirmed that the CCTV is in working order.***

- **PARKING** - The PCC gave an update on progress with the transfer of parking enforcement to District Councils in Suffolk. The Chief Constable said that the Constabulary would retain powers to act where vehicles were parked in a dangerous position or causing unnecessary obstruction. Members of the public highlighted ongoing parking problems between the primary and secondary schools in Hadleigh. The Chief Constable said there was a clear expectation that officers should act in areas where parking was of significant community concern, cases of dangerous parking and where they came across incidents in their normal duty. Superintendent Kerry Cutler said that she would consider using the Special Constabulary to tackle the parking issues in Hadleigh.
- **VOLUNTEERING** - The PCC outlined the range of roles for volunteers. There was now a dedicated Police Volunteer Co-ordinator and much had been done to raise awareness of the varied opportunities that were available including Cadets, Special Constabulary, Community Speedwatch, Streetwatch, police staff volunteers, Volunteers on horseback and CCTV monitoring. Superintendent Kerry Cutler said that the link to volunteering opportunities could be included in the next SNT bulletin.
- **SPEEDING, MOBILE PHONE AND DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING** - A number of concerns were raised about speeding through villages and enforcement activity in East Bergholt, Aldham, Benton Street Hadleigh, Bentley and Shotley. The problem with lorries on weight restricted roads into Hadleigh, particularly on diversion from the A12, was also discussed. The Chief Constable said that adequate signage should be looked at and confirmed that fixed penalties could be given to foreign drivers by roads policing officers.

As well as Community Speedwatch, which the PCC was very supportive of, villages could put themselves forwards for access to the mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), speed monitoring strips, the police motorcyclist enforcement team and the small community speed enforcement vans. The PCC said that educating young people was important but he was keen to see sentencing more adequately reflect the seriousness of excessive speeding.

It was confirmed that there had been an increase in the number of drug-driving arrests. The Constabulary had new drug testing equipment and the Christmas anti-drink and drug driving campaign would commence on 1 December.

- **VISIBILITY** - Members of the public said they felt that police visibility was a deterrent to crime and they felt that fewer officers were seen. The Chief Constable reiterated that the pattern of crime was changing and much police work was now undertaken 'behind the scenes'. Analysis had shown that Police Station front desks had not been regularly used by the public and, balanced with the cost of staffing, the decision had been taken to limit public access to Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft.

However, the Chief Constable said he understood the need for visibility and local plans for public engagement and interaction were being developed.

The PCC confirmed he was considering the Estates Strategy so that the best use was made of properties. Property sharing in the public sector (for example the six shared police and fire stations) had already led to greater efficiencies.

- NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND COMMUNICATIONS - A Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator said that the scheme was suffering from a lack of information provided by the Constabulary. The Chief Constable said that the issue had been raised with him and he expected enhancements to Police Connect to be made so that more timely and detailed information could be provided. The SNT newsletters had been improved in response to feedback from the community and provided the context to crime data. The Chief Constable encouraged those involved in Neighbourhood Watch to contact their link officer.
- SEXUAL OFFENCES - The PCC was asked to comment on investment in victim services and on victim confidence particularly in relation to reported rapes. The PCC said that the additional funding generated by the precept increase had been invested in Serious Sexual Offence investigators. In addition to increased funding for the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) the PCC had committed over £1.7m in grants to voluntary, charitable and social enterprises (VCSE) to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences. Longer term funding for organisations was being considered although the PCC said efficiencies could be made through greater partnership working in the VCSE sector. Superintendent Cutler said that the risk to the public was always considered when rape was reported and a Community Impact Assessment undertaken. An outcome of 'No Further Action' may include the police acting on the victims wishes.
- CYBER CRIME - The Chief Constable said that Cyber Crime was dealt with at a local level through the joint Norfolk and Suffolk Unit. Resources were available at regional and national level as well to deal with more complex cyber-crime. However, as 'traditional' crime decreased and digitally enabled crime increased the workload for officers increased. Superintendent Cutler explained that most crime was now had a digital impact, for example mobile phones would be seized as part of an investigation and this added to the investigation complexity and duration. The PCC said he was working with the County Council on e-safety and educating young people on how to keep themselves safe online. The PCC confirmed that 3 PCSOs were dedicated to school liaison and school visits would recommence.

Babergh Councillor Jenny Jenkins thanked the PCC and Chief Constable.

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