



HALESWORTH PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Holton Village Hall, Lodge Road, Holton, Halesworth IP19 8RZ on Tuesday 8th November at 18:30 hrs.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Chris Bland (Chief Finance Officer), Sandra Graffham (Communications Manager) and Tim Passmore (Police and Crime Commissioner)

Suffolk Constabulary

Inspector Mark Jackson (Locality Inspector – Halesworth) and Gareth Wilson (Chief Constable).

1. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

- 1.1 The PCC welcomed 30 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 Mark Jackson gave a presentation on policing in the Halesworth area; a copy of their slides will also be attached for the record.

3. KEY AREAS OF DISCUSSION

- **CONTACT WITH PUBLIC** – A member of the audience reminded the Chief Constable and PCC that many people did not have access to email and website and traditional methods of communication should be maintained.
- **101 SERVICE** – Comment about a lack of confidence in the service due to length of time spent waiting for calls to be answered. There has been significant investment in a new Constabulary website to take pressure off the 101 call takers and in new IP Telephony which will be operational next year. Chief Constable also explained that a queue-buster service which calls callers back is also being looked at.

- SPECIALS – Update on the exceptional commitment of Specials. Question asked whether retired officers should be encouraged to sign up as Specials. The PCC referred to his new Police and Crime Plan and his commitment to encourage more Specials and volunteers.
- CLOSURE OF FRONT DESKS - Discussion regarding the closure of front desks. The PCC explained that decision had to be made as footfall is low and savings of £0.75m have been made through the closure. The Chief Constable explained that through use of better technology officers can deal with issues just as effectively away from police buildings.
- POLICE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS – Since the adoption of the SLPR local police officers do not attend residents meetings. Discussion around possibility of updating several parishes in one meeting if required. Chief Constable was supportive.
- AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION – A local councillor asked for support for a Vehicle Activated Signs/ANPR project for 16 local parishes. The Chief Constable was supportive of exploring the issue but would need to consider the data processing issues.
- SPEEDING – Local resident asked for speeding through Wrentham to be better enforced. Asked for speed cameras to be considered. The PCC explained that there has been extra investment in roads policing to increase speed enforcement. A question was asked about where the money goes from fines – the PCC explained that fines go to Central Govt and surplus from the driver awareness courses remain the county and is ring-fenced for road safety locally.
- HALESWORTH CRIME REDUCTION – The Crime Reduction rep expressed some general concerns about communication with the Constabulary, the perceived lack of roads policing and the impact of cyber-crime on the elderly. The PCC expressed his commitment to community liaison and explained that the Constabulary had invested in cyber-crime investigation. A member of the audience offered his expertise as a Special constable to deal specifically with cyber-crime.
- COURT CLOSURES – Discussion around the recent closure of Lowestoft's Magistrates Court and the lack of provision in the area. PCC explained that he is working with local MP Peter Aldous to consider alternatives to be presented to the Justice Minister in the new year.

The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:05 hrs.