



BURY ST EDMUNDS PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Southgate Community Centre 12 September at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner), Anna Parkinson (PA to the PCC) and Sheri Probert (Admin assistant)

Suffolk Constabulary

Supt. Kim Warner, Sgt Anna Whybro, Insp. Matt Dee

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

The PCC welcomed 10 members of the public to the meeting and made introductions. The PCC spoke briefly about the key elements of his role and current priorities. A copy of his handout will be attached to these notes for the record.

POLICING UPDATE

A copy of the handout is available for the record.

QUESTIONS ASKED AND SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

- Recruitment - What is the male/female ratio when recruiting?

It is approaching 50/50. The Constabulary has a strong equality and diversity policy for the recruitment process and endeavours to reflect the community it serves as per the Police and Crime Plan.

- What are the Constabulary's views on driverless cars?

We are not concerned as there will be robust checks carried out by the manufacturers.

- What is being done to curb the number of accidents on rural roads?

There is extra resource being placed into roads policing and work being done by the RoadSafe Board with excess money from speed awareness courses being reinvested. The Casualty Reduction team are also patrolling on motorbikes. There are speed indicator devices and a speed enforcement van. Education is key to reducing road accidents as a high percentage are males between 18 and 24. We would like tougher sentencing for offenders.

- What about working with Highways?

Tim attends the bi-annual No More Delays A14 Strategy meeting with Highways England and was successful in implementing the 60mph speed limit leading to and on the Orwell Bridge. Data for the past year will be available shortly.

- What are your views on the magistrate court closures in Bury and Lowestoft?

We are awaiting the results of the research which has looked into the effects of the caseloads moving to Ipswich. Police officers can attend via video link so do not need to travel.

- Are there any plans to change/improve Constabulary website to support Neighbourhood Watch Groups? The categorisation of crimes on the maps does not provide proper information or detail. Concern that the public are not getting to hear about crimes in their area.

The website is undergoing a redesign although not ready for launch just yet. The PCC will pass on the comments to the Communications Team. There are sources of information to sign up to such as Police Connect, Twitter and social media.

- Are there plans to amalgamate police forces to save money?

There are many reasons why we feel this would not be practical, for example, there are different needs across counties and different cultures within Forces, costs of restructuring would be vast and there is considerable variation in terms and conditions.

- Speeding on rural roads and in villages is an issue especially with farm vehicles.

The Constabulary will address this issue with farmers. The Road Casualty Team could help with the speeding motorcycles problem. Body worn video has been rolled out across the Force which is a valuable tool in gathering evidence.

- Did the Constabulary provide all the motorcycles to support the recent Tour of Britain Cycle Race when it passed through Suffolk?

No – the motorcycles used are from across the country and they are paid for and by the race organisers.

The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.