



BECCLES PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at the Beccles Free School, Castle Hill, Beccles NR34 7BQ on Thursday 14th September at 19:30.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Tim Passmore (Police and Crime Commissioner), Anna Parkinson (PA to the Police and Crime Commissioner) and Claire Swallow (Deputy Chief Executive).

Suffolk Constabulary

Tonya Antonis (Superintendent, East), Liz Casey (Locality Inspector), Daniel Morse (Police Constable, Beccles), Sarsfield Donohue (Chief Inspector, Local Policing Command)

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

The PCC welcomed 48 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.

KEY AREAS OF DISCUSSION

- **Crime statistics on the website are out of date:** Supt Antonis explained that the system of crime recording had changed and as a result the force was currently catching up on producing statistics. It is hoped that weekly updates will be available soon. The PCC added that the Constabulary website is currently undergoing a redesign.
- **How are officers allocated to different areas?** Supt Antonis said that she had a number of officers on duty in the East, and they were allocated according to crime patterns and threat, harm and risk. This allows for dynamic response and resources can be shifted when necessary.

- **A visible police presence would deter ASB in young people:** Supt Antonis said that the police have recognised the increase in ASB which is why resources have indeed been moved into Beccles. The PCC said that work also needs to be done with schools / other agencies when addressing this issue. Insp Casey added that funding was about to be available for CCTV which would also be valuable in tackling ASB.
- **Police Connect texts/emails are sent perhaps two days after an event, by which time valuable fixed camera/dashcam footage may well have been deleted:** Supt Antonis said that the Police Connect system is under review and agreed that it would be more effective if messages were sent more quickly.
- **Will PCSO hours be extended beyond 6pm?:** Supt Antonis said that PCSO hours were under review, as part of an overall review of working hours and deployment of resources.
- **Is there a case for raising council tax, given the current financial pressures?:** The PCC said that there is a case for raising it, though there is a 2% cap on any increase. Ultimately the financial pressure arises from the funding formula which has an inbuilt bias against large rural counties; therefore the PCC is doing what he can to put pressure on the Government to review the current formula.
- **How will the pay increase be funded? Are there plans to cut front line officers?** Supt Antonis said there were definitely no plans to cut front line officers and the force, already lean and efficient, was looking at making economies by smarter/better ways of working including back office functions, collaborations and streamlining processes where possible.
- **Money has been wasted on 20mph speed limits that are not enforced:** It was explained that 20mph speed limits were meant to be self-enforcing and introduced alongside other measures such as speed bumps. This has not been successfully implemented in all areas. The PCC emphasised that Suffolk has put more resources into roads policing than any other county including the Casualty Reduction Team, Speed Indicator Devices, and extra speed enforcement vans. Supt Antonis added that that Community Speed watch schemes have proved to be valuable tools and in addition the Special Constabulary also now has a roads policing team.
- **Call waiting times when using the 101 service:** The PCC explained the average response time is 3.5 minutes but recognised there would be exceptions to this. He too would like to reduce the response time and this should come when the new technology is implemented. The PCC apologised for the delay and explained that extensive testing is still taking place to ensure the system is fully robust before being launched.

- **Can people share CCTV images of people committing crimes on local community pages on social media?** Supt Antonis suggested that the best action would be to share such images with the police, rather than on social media.
- **Neighbourhood Watch meetings generally take place in the evenings, therefore PCSOs are unable to attend:** Insp Casey said that she would be happy to attend Neighbourhood Watch meetings when possible. The PCC added that he was very supportive of Neighbourhood Watch and appreciates everything that the groups do.
- **How does the Constabulary feel it comes across to the public?** Supt Antonis explained that “Confidence in Policing” surveys are undertaken independently and the most recent survey showed that levels are high in East Suffolk, with 85% of the community feeling confident and satisfied.
- **When groups of people gather and cause trouble, why are they just moved on and not prosecuted?** Insp Casey said that this is not the case. The police follow legislation and prosecute where there are powers to do so.
- **Various members of the public raised cases very specific to themselves:** Supt Antonis invited people, when raising individual cases, to stay behind at the end of the meeting when she would take the details to enable her to follow these up.

The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21:00 hrs.