



HADLEIGH SNT (CAPEL ST MARY) PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Capel St Mary Village Hall on 15 November at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner), Christopher Jackson (Chief Executive) and Liz Hollingworth (Business Administration and Policy Officer).

Suffolk Constabulary

Inspector Kevin Horton (Locality Inspector for Ipswich West and Hadleigh) and Superintendent Kerry Cutler (Strategic Policing Command, South).

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

The PCC welcomed more than 40 people to the meeting and made introductions. The PCC spoke briefly about the key elements of his role and current priorities.

POLICING UPDATE

Inspector Kevin Horton spoke about policing in the Hadleigh locality; a copy of the handout is available for the record.

QUESTIONS ASKED AND SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICE VISIBILITY

- A member of the public said that there had been a spate of burglaries in Capel St Mary and he was concerned about people being safe in their own homes. In response to this and the suggestion that there should be more police officers 'on the beat' to deter criminals, the PCC said that resources were not available to have a police officer on every street corner and that in any case, the pattern of crime had changed meaning that there was more hidden crime such as online crime and fraud which would not be addressed by more visibility. Supt. Cutler said that Suffolk was one of the safest places to live and there was still a focus on crimes such as burglaries which were discussed each day by the locality meeting.

101 SERVICE

- A number of comments were made about the difficulties in reporting crime through the non-emergency 101 service and the length of time callers were kept waiting. Supt Cutler said that investment had been made in new technology which would improve the system.

Emergency 999 calls were prioritised and this could lead to delays in answering 101 at peak times. If callers wanted to remain anonymous they could also use Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111.

TRAVELLERS

- A member of the public asked what action should be taken, as an individual, if there was an illegal gypsy/traveller encampment on their private land. The PCC said that the landowner would have to take action where there was an illegal encampment but in the first place it should be reported to the police.
- The PCC said that progress was required to find and approve temporary transit sites for travellers which would make the eviction of travellers from private land easier. Insp. Horton said that the police did liaise with travellers, monitored and used enforcement when applicable.

RECRUITMENT AND RESOURCING

- The PCC confirmed that the central grant to Suffolk had risen in previous years and this had allowed some police officer recruitment. However there had also been additional cost pressures such as the apprenticeship levy, pension and police officer pay award which had more than used that increase. Efficiencies and savings continued to be made. The PCC said he had met with the Policing Minister, local MPs and the business community to set out the case for additional funding from central government.
- A member of the public asked whether there would be a reduction in the number of PCSOs in Suffolk. The PCC said that there had already been a reduction as part of the local policing review 18 months previously. He said that the remaining PCSOs were an integral part of the policing model.
- Insp. Horton confirmed that the PCSOs did deal with illegal parking and speeding issues. Supt. Cutler said the move to Civil Parking Enforcement would mean any revenue raised from parking fines would be kept in the county.
- The PCC confirmed that there were no plans to currently sell the Police Headquarters site at Martlesham but that any proceeds from the police estate were kept locally.

BOBBITS LANE

- Inspector Horton said that he was aware of the illegal motorcycling, motorcross and scrambler problem at Bobbits Lane, Wherstead. A number of attendees at the meeting said that they were affected by the problems which created noise and intimidation as well as there being a high likelihood of an accident occurring. The problem had resurfaced, having been dealt with effectively some years ago.
- Inspector Horton outlined the action the police were taking including liaising with the land owners. Residents were asked to report incidents and a survey had been undertaken to identify number plates and offenders. The owners of the vehicles identified would be contacted in the first place as a warning not to use the private land for such activity.
- Supt. Cutler asked the concerned residents present to pass their details to her so she could arrange for an update to be given to them.

SPEEDING

- Insp. Horton said that members of the public should contact their SNT about specific areas of speeding concern so they could monitor this and plan days of action accordingly. The PCC said that the Constabulary were able to use Roads Police resource, local

Speedwatch groups, the Motorcycle Casualty Reduction Team and small speed vans for enforcement.

- The Capel Speedwatch team said they were looking for volunteers. The PCC expressed his gratitude to the Speedwatch volunteers and all the volunteers who assisted the Constabulary and helped keep Suffolk safe.
- A member of the public suggested that speed bumps in villages would be a more effective and cheaper solution to speeding. However, it was noted that the noise from speed bumps was an issue.
- Suffolk County Councillor Gordon Jones asked about progress with ANPR testing in villages as he was prepared to use locality funding for this if the pilot proved successful. The PCC said that the trial would take 3-4 months so it was likely a decision could be made in Spring 2018.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Supt. Cutler said that young people must take responsibility for their own actions, especially in regard to riding bikes in the village, and consider their own safety and the safety of others.
- A discussion on activities for young people in the village was held as the young people present felt that there were accused of anti-social behaviour but they were genuinely keen to find somewhere suitable to 'hang out' instead and take part in activities.
- It was suggested that the young people present should complete the village questionnaire and talk to the Parish Council and Capel Community Trust to develop their ideas. Capel Community Trust had received a presentation on a potential skate park recently and invited people to attend the next meeting on 27 November at 8pm in the Village Hall to discuss plans.

Inspector Horton invited people to attend the Parish Forum in Capel St Mary Village Hall on 20 December.

The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.00pm.