



## HAVERHILL PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at Thursday 7 September at 1900 hrs.

### PRESENT:

#### Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner), Sandra Graffham (Communications Manager OPCC) and Vanessa Scott (Policy Officer).

#### Suffolk Constabulary

Kim Warner (Superintendent, West), Inspector Danny Cooper (Locality Inspector Haverhill).

### POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW & POLICING UPDATE

The PCC welcomed 12 members of the public to the meeting and made introductions. The PCC spoke briefly about the key elements of his role and current priorities.

Superintendent Kim Warner introduced himself and spoke about the strategic operational issues facing the force. He also gave an overview of his role as West Strategic Policing Commander. Inspector Danny Cooper introduced himself and spoke about policing in the locality; a copy of his hand-out is available for the record.

### SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

- **Speeding** A member of the public expressed concern about speeding, a specific incident was mentioned where the perception was the driver was doing around 90mph and the incident would have been captured on CCTV but the police appeared to not take any action. Inspector Cooper explained that it is important that details of dangerous driving are reported to the police because, where there is evidence, the police can prosecute. Supt Warner advised that while the police take reports seriously, they could not be everywhere and speeding has always been a broad problem so the onus was on all of us to remind people, that we know speed, of the dangers to themselves and others.
- **Visibility of roads policing** There was a perception that roads policing was not visible in and around Haverhill.

The PCC advised Roads Policing in Suffolk plays a key role in enforcement to prevent the fatal four (speeding, mobile phone use, not wearing seat belts and drink/drug driving) particularly on the strategic road network and accident hotspots.

Supt Warner advised that roads policing is also a specialist resource in responding to road traffic collisions and firearms incidents across the county and could be called upon by the Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit to provide additional regional or national capacity. Their capability would be called upon by the West Policing Command when required.

In addition to that strategic capability, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with volunteers to support community speed watch enforcement in local areas. The PCC added that there had been investment in a small community enforcement van to respond to community concerns in local areas where there was evidence of speeding. This meant that there were a range of tactics which the police used to impact upon speeding in local areas. A member of the audience mentioned Cllr John Burns' visual speed sign and how he was keen to enable its use where there was a speeding concern.

- **A1307** A member of the public said the A1307 was a strategic route for the Haverhill area which affected both Suffolk and Cambridgeshire but it felt like agencies were not taking enough action to improve the road. An A1307 Strategy Group had been established to focus on how things could be improved.
- **Recent stabbing** There was recognition of the arrests made by the Constabulary in relation to a stabbing in the town.
- **Advertising the meeting** There was a request that the OPCC/Constabulary look for more routes to publicise the meeting such as using the Haverhill Weekly News and the public notice boards in the High Street.
- **Police Station Opening** A member of the public asked whether it would be possible for a volunteer to work to open the police station front desk once a week. Supt Warner explained that the decision to close police stations was made on the evidence that there was very little footfall through the door to front desks, in fact most people chose to make contact with the police via telephone, and increasingly by e-mail. Inspector Cooper reminded people of the SNT e-mail address and that 101 could be used to report any issues which were not an emergency.
- **Parking** There was some general concern about parking and a lack of enforcement, including a specific concern relating to Coupals Road and Chalkstone Way, which had previously been reported to the police.

The PCC advised that while parking enforcement was currently a police responsibility outside of Ipswich, there was a project underway to move Civil Parking Enforcement to the districts and boroughs; this would bring us in line with the majority of council areas in England. Supt Warner advised that the police still deal with parking enforcement but the reality is that resources being stretched by issues which cause greater harm and vulnerability. Therefore parking issues are not the priority.

***The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.35 hrs.***