

Brentwood Public Meeting

29 April 2013
Sawyers Church
17:30 to 198:30

Speakers

Nick Alston (PCC) – Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex
Chief Inspector Ed Wells - Local District Commander
Brian Partridge – Head of Localism & Partnership
Peter Jordan – Street Pastor

Agenda items

1. Essex Police all crime overview
2. Community Safety Partnership
3. Burglary
4. Night Time Economy
5. Community Speed Watch
6. Topics for discussion raised by the audience

Highlights of Presentation

All Crime

- Brentwood has shown that all crime has reduced by 4.8% (212 fewer offences) when comparing reports for 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 with those from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012.

Community Safety Partnership

- Community Safety Partnership (CSP) works with a number of agencies to include Police, Essex County Council, Essex Probation, Trading Standards and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.
- CSP priorities include acquisitive crime, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and engagement.
- Crucial Crew project for older people giving advice and information on home and personal safety
- Street Pastors initiative has been launched within the community.

Burglary

- House burglary offences have increased during the last 12 months.
- Policing activity has included analysis to ensure the specific deployment of resources to 'hot spots', provision of bespoke crime prevention advice and working with partners and volunteers to promote deterrents under Operation Albatross.
- Capable Guardians is being trialled in Brentwood.

Night Time Economy

- There is an active Night Time Economy in and around the town centre.
- Street Pastors are active Friday/Saturday nights.
- Anti-social behaviour incidents have reduced by 15.1% (374 fewer incidents).

Speed Watch

- Community Speed Watch is a traffic monitoring scheme undertaken by volunteers
- The aim is to reduce the number of injuries from road traffic collisions.

1. Burglary

House burglary offences have increased by 13% during the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 compared with the same period in the preceding 12 months.

Q.1 What period of burglary trends is referred to?

A.1 This is over the last year that a snapshot of crime trends is captured. It is hoped to have this over a longer period of time e.g. 2-5 years.

Q.2 Where can I find information on crime prevention?

A.2 Information can be sought from the following sources, Essex Police website, Neighbourhood Action Panel, Community Safety Partnership and neighbourhood Watch. Crime prevention is a priority within every policing district which has a Crime Prevention Officer. The PCC will be looking to work with the force to highlight awareness and further activities.

Q.3 Is there any point in reporting minor offences to the police?

A.3 PCC urged everyone to report all crime to the police either via 101 or 999. The police need to know the levels of reported crime in their areas to use for intelligence led operations.

2. Night Time Economy

There is an active night-time economy with a variety of pubs and clubs in and around the town centre. The town partnerships have implemented a multi-agency approach to the Night Time Economy including Street Pastors, to ensure a safe environment for people to enjoy.

Q.1 What did the PCC see on his visit to Brentwood with Street Pastors?

A.1 Although it was a quiet evening, there was some concern with the use of town radio links to the borough CCTV.

Q.2 There appears to be a hit or miss with the town radios, what is being done to resolve this?

A.2 There are few police officers who are carrying the town radio, a solution is being sought to take a joined up approach on the use of radio systems and linking this in with Street Pastors.

Q.3 Can a cap be put on the number of drinks licenses in Brentwood?

A.3 The council has rigorous procedures in place to deal with licenses that need to be approved. The council are holding a public meeting on 10th June for residents to discuss their concerns further.

3. Speeding / Community Speed Watch

The aim of Community Speed Watch is to address the problem of real and perceived speeding. The scheme involves voluntary community groups monitoring vehicle speeds. In the past few months speed watches have been carried out at Brentwood schools.

Q.1 Can something be done about HGVs using small roads after major road incidents?

A.1 Diversions are set by the Highways Agency when accidents occur on the M25, there is a set protocol to re-direct traffic as there is pressure to keep the network flowing. Public concerns will be relayed to the Highways Agency.

4. Open Questions Raised By Audience

Q.1 How do I set up a Community Speed Watch scheme?

A.1 There needs to be 10 volunteers to start the scheme, a site selected by the community to monitor and a police assessment of the site. Training, reflective jackets, signs and radar will be provided.

Q.2 Feedback from Neighbourhood Watch is that police resourcing has been squeezed and affected PCSO transport.

A.2 PCSOs do have access to a police vehicle to undertake community work. However, PCSOs will also be using public transport.

Q.3 Policies and procedures between the police and partners seem disjointed. How can the police ensure that reliable information is shared between agencies?

A.3 The police need to work closely with other agencies to problem solve and take a joined up approach to sharing data and information more easily.

Q.4 Will PCC's in general be communicating with each other on a regular basis?

A.4 PCC's have met and shared policing ideas, communication tools such as using video links and social media will also be used to facilitate this. The APCC is also a forum where PCC's meet to share information.

Q.5. Fraudsters are targeting vulnerable community groups. What do we do if we see someone suspicious?

A.5 PCC has encouraged people to contact the police if they see rogue traders targeting vulnerable elderly neighbours. PCC reiterated the important of reporting all crime to the police.

Q.6 Speeding is an issue on a residential estate and residents want a 20 mph zone with signage to go up. How do we do this?

A.6 The use of using repeaters on a residential estate is not permitted. Managing the use of temporary speed limits needs to be managed by the local residents as it's about changing behaviours.

Actions

- PCC to work with force and partners to highlight crime prevention activities.
- District Commander to find a solution and joint use of radio systems including links with Street Pastors.
- District Commander to take note of community concerns about licensing – 10th June Council are holding a public meeting and it is an opportunity for residents to discuss further.
- Adam Pipe, Casualty Reduction Manager to raise concerns on HGV's on rural roads after major accidents to Highways Agency.
- Andy Prophet, Chief Superintendent, to ensure a joined up approach is taken when working with other agencies on protocols and procedures on reliability of information.
- Ward Councillors to help distribute information on crime prevention.