

UTTLESFORD PUBLIC MEETING

7TH MARCH 2013

HELENA ROMANES SCHOOL – GREAT DUNMOW

18:30 TO 20:30

SPEAKERS

Nick Alston (PCC) – Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex

Sean O’Callaghan – T/Chief Superintendent

Nick Lee – Chief Inspector & Local District Commander

Mick Couldridge - Inspector

John Mitchell – Chief Executive of Uttlesford District Council

Richie Farrant – Chair of Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership

Peter Caulfield – Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor (Specialist Contributor)

Brenda Cross – Essex Watch Liaison Officer (Specialist Contributor)

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Police Visibility/Response Times
2. Vehicle Crime
3. Rural Crime

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESENTATION

All Crime

- Uttlesford District has shown a small increase in crime of 0.04% (1 more offence) when comparing reports between 1st February 2012 to 31st January 2013, against the same period in 2011/12. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has reduced by 12% (183 fewer offences) over the same period.

Response /Police Visibility

- Uttlesford has two police operating bases – Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow
- Response and patrol is provided by officers based at Braintree Police Station who travel and complete their shift in Uttlesford district
- 24/7 Neighbourhood Crime Team
- 20 minute response time

Vehicle Crime

- Last 12 months, theft from motor vehicle (TfMV) have increased by 80 offences, half of these crimes were thefts of catalytic converters
- TfMV –many as a result of owners leaving their vehicles insecure
- Crime prevention operations targeted in local residential areas to raise awareness

Rural Crime

- Current trends include the theft of portable equipment, fuel and small vehicles from outbuildings
- Effective Farm Watch system through which the police receive good intelligence

Crime Prevention

- Keep vehicles locked at all time and remove valuables
- Consequences lead to identity theft and inconvenience to the owner

Essex Watch

Essex Watch Liaison Officers pass information between Essex Police and the local community and the relationship is reciprocal. They work closely with District Commanders, Crime Prevention Tactical Advisers and Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

1. POLICE VISIBILITY/RESPONSE TIMES

- Q.1. PCSO's have not been seen at Stansted for some time. Is there a review on staffing numbers and their visibility?
- A.1. PCSO's have been cut by 25% as a result of budgetary constraints. The Parish Council part funded posts which have now been withdrawn but 1 PCSO remains at Stansted.
- Q.2. The briefing states that there is a 20 minute response time. When does the clock start?
- A.2. 999 calls are dealt with at the Force Control Room. As soon as a call is placed an incident is created which is when the clock starts.
- Q.3. How does the public interact with police officers from Stansted Airport? Can you stop and engage with them if they are out in the local community?
- A.3. Stansted Airport is a private company but operates within Essex Police parameters. The local agreement is that the officers can be used in rural areas.
- Q.4. How many police officers are on duty for Uttlesford?
- A.4. Essex Police operates within a borderless policing model. The Force Control Room will risk-assess incidents and allocate the nearest available and appropriate police resource to respond. It is not appropriate, for operational reasons, to disclose the precise number of police officers on duty at any given time.
- Q.5. How many police officers are there in ratio to residents?
- A.5. More than 800 staff, officer and PCSO posts have been lost due to the budget cuts but these numbers are now stabilised. There has been a reduction of 36 officers in the North Policing Area of the county.
- Q.6. How will the PCC work with Special Constables?
- A.6. There are over 500 Special Constables across the county. The PCC has been working closely with Farm Watch and Farmers' Insurers and looking at sponsorship deals.

2. VEHICLE CRIME

- Q.2.1 Do the police know where precious scrap metals are going?
- A.2.1 There is now a scrap metal law which make the process of dealing in metal more transparent. Police are given new powers of entry to tackle illegal trading in metal yards.
- Q.2.2 Is there coordination with other counties?
- A.2.2 Essex Police coordinates across the eastern region and nationally.

3. RURAL CRIME

Q.3.1 Is Essex Police doing everything it can to communicate to the wider community?

A3.1 Essex Police is focussed on using all available tools to identify gaps and currently uses tools such as Twitter, Internet and posters. Further exploration with the Force is required to ensure that all available sources are being used to communicate.

Q.3.2 What can the public expect from the PCC?

A3.2 PCC is committed to holding at least two public meetings in each district yearly. The purpose of these meetings will be to discuss key issues that relate to crime for that district. The PCC has removed targets for all crime types and has tasked the Chief Constable to bring all crime down and to have fewer victims. Over the last three months the PCC has been listening to people's issues and concerns. As a result, four partner forums have been set up to deal with these areas: Business Crime, Roads Policing, Victims and Rural Crime.

Q.3.3 Essex Police has a borderless response. How will neighbourhood policing be maintained?

A.3.3 There is a 24/7 footprint which has the ability to meet demands.

Q.3.6. Is it worth reporting minor incidents to the police?

A3.6. PCC urged everyone to report all crime to the police either via 101, 999 or the local District Commander.

Q.3.7. Does Great Dunmow police station have yellow telephones? If yes then when you listen to the message it says that if this is an emergency to hang up and to call 999. There are no facilities to make the emergency call because there are no buttons.

A.3.7. Yes, there is a yellow telephone at Dunmow with no facilities to call emergency services but allows you to connect to the non-emergency number 101.

4. OPEN QUESTIONS RAISED BY AUDIENCE

Q.4.1 There is a decline of cases coming to court with a large increase of those being cautions. What, if anything can the PCC do to assist?

A.4.1 The PCC's aim is to reduce crime across Essex. A joined up approach is being discussed with the Home Office via early intervention. Once someone is caught up in the system it becomes a cycle of life and the PCC is working closely with the Probation Service to do more. Probation has better results through a scheme called 'Swift and Sure'.

Q.4.2 NAPs work well within the local community. However, confidence is affected when there is a lack of PCSO presence as a result of mobility and resourcing issues.

A.4.2. The local District Commander gave reassurance that PCSO attendance at meetings is important.

Q4.3. How will the PCC engage with young people?

A4.3 The PCC is keen to use different communication tools to engage with a wide range of age groups and audiences. Traditional communication tools combined with social media such as Facebook and Twitter will be used to attract the younger generation.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Q.4.4 Within rural areas there are problems with gypsy travellers. Are partners working with the PCC aware of their legal requirements and commitments to safeguard the local community?

A.4.4. The Council does have the powers to deal with this and works in partnership with the police on associated crimes.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

ACTIONS OR PRIORITIES

- PCC to review response times with Chief Constable;
- Chief Inspector Nick Lee to communicate movement of local officers and availability and to consider alternate communication tools e.g. Parish Councils, NAP, Social Media etc;
- PCC and Chief Inspector Lee to discuss with FCR observations on rural response to include blues and twos;
- Vehicle crime – everyone has a responsibility to secure and lock their cars. Peter Caulfield Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor contact details via the non- emergency number 101, asking for extension 395387;
- Rural Crime – link in with Neighbourhood Watch, Alan Johnson nhw@acjohnson4.plus.com or telephone 01376 556 233 and Essex Watch Liaison Officer, Brenda Cross – Brenda.Cross@essex.pnn.police.uk via 101 asking for extension 420279 ;
- Community Safety Partnership to distribute leaflets at public meetings for Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch;
- Everyone has a responsibility to report all crime types;
- PCC to find out about general responses to incidents logged and answer times to 101 calls;
- PCC to liaise with the force to explore yellow phones and button to call 999