

PUBLIC MEETING

DATE	27TH JUNE 2013
LOCATION	OLD FIRE STATION, HIGH STREET, HADLEIGH
TIME	16:00 – 18:00

SPEAKERS

Nick Alston (PCC) – Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex
Insp. Chris Wood – Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)
Cllr Godfrey Isaacs – Chair of Community Safety Partnership
Ch Supt Nick Morris – Local Policing Area - South

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Police response and visibility
2. Street robbery and armed robbery
3. 'Cruisers', Roscommon Way, and anti-social behaviour
4. Topics for discussion raised by the audience

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESENTATION

1. POLICE RESPONSE AND VISIBILITY

- Essex Police aim to attend 90% of all emergency response calls within 15 minutes in urban areas and 20 minutes in rural areas.
- For the period 1st April to 31st May 2013 Essex Police achieved their target responding to 92.9% of urban emergency calls and 93.3% of rural emergency calls within these times, an improvement in the figures for the same period in the previous year.
- Response and Patrol (R&P) policing teams, who attend the majority of the emergency incidents, are based at the Laindon Response Hub.
- R&P are supported by Neighbourhood Crime Team officers based at Rayleigh Police Station who deal with a range of duties, including incident demand, appointments, missing persons and anti-social behaviour reduction patrols.

Local NPTs have a designated officer who is responsible for the community policing mobile phone. The numbers are found on the Essex Police website under the appropriate ward within the district, and should be used for non-emergency calls. As ever, for **all** incidents that are considered an emergency dial **999**. For non-emergency calls you can also use **101**.

2. STREET ROBBERY AND ARMED ROBBERY

- Overall the number of robbery offences fell by 16.7%, 35 recorded offences, when looking at the same period last year.
- Of the 35 recorded offences 16 involved the use of a weapon.

Det Ch Insp Goodall explained that there are regular opportunities to bid for additional resources from the force to assist with intelligence led local operations. These can range from additional officers being deployed from the Operational Policing Command Unit through to the Serious Crime Directorate, enabling specific criminal activity to be targeted.

3. 'CRUISERS', ROSCOMMON WAY, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

Although there has been a reduction in anti-social driving behaviour along Roscommon Way following the police operation earlier this year, it remains an ongoing problem that police and partners are continuing to resolve. Various methods to address the excessive speed some drivers use have been considered, however these would hamper the HGVs that regularly use the road, which was the main purpose for this route.

Moves to change the CCTV camera that is currently in place, installing one that is fit for purpose are in progress. Initially the present CCTV camera was installed as part of the security for the industrial site and as such does not always pick up details of vehicles travelling at excessive speed.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras are sited on the two roads leading to Canvey Island. Whilst these do not detect speeding, they notify police when vehicles, previously reported for being driven inappropriately, pass through the cameras using intelligence gathered on the system. This highlights the importance of notifying the police of such incidents as this can be fed into the ANPR system thus alerting police when the reported vehicle passes through the cameras. It has been noted that in the north west of the county index plates are being stolen from vehicles as criminals are aware of the capabilities that ANPR has.

Regular meetings are held with partners to address the problems associated with ASB. Often it is the perception of ASB that causes concern, however partners seek to address the root cause of ASB which in turn reduces incidents of ASB.

4. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION RAISED BY THE AUDIENCE

a. PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

Q ~ What can be done about inappropriate parking on the pavement?

A ~ Since parking on pavements was decriminalised in 1991 only incidents where an obstruction has been caused as a result of parking are dealt with by the police. All other parking issues are dealt with by the local authority. Councils work with partners and fines are issued if necessary. The police are sympathetic to parking issues, and will take a measured approach to the individual circumstance.

b. ON STREET CAR TRADING

Q ~ How can on street car trading be addressed?

A ~ It is an offence under the Clean Neighbourhood Act 2005 to offer for sale two or more vehicles parked within 500m of each other on a road or roads. Essex Police does not take a primary role in the enforcement of legislation to deal with or prevent the offering for sale of vehicles on the highway. There is adequate legislation which allows Local Authorities and/or Highways Authorities to deal with this effectively without the requirement for police action. For further advice contact the Highways Agency Information Line by emailing ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk or calling 0300 123 5000.

c. CYCLING ON PAVEMENTS

Q ~ What can the police do about people cycling on pavements?

A ~ Identifying those who cycle on pavements is problematic, unless the incident has been witnessed. The police record all reports of anti-social cycling and these incidents, although not generally considered as emergencies help inform the force of areas that are 'hotspots', and assist in the deployment of resources.

d. PRISONERS IN CUSTODY, INCLUDING THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Q ~ What is the number of prisoners detained in prison within Essex that have mental health issues?

A ~ More incidents are being recorded as a result of mental health issues. Once prisoners are received into custody they are assessed by a health care professional and referred for additional treatment as required. Currently it is estimated that around 33% of prisoners have mental health issues, and a further 33% have previously experienced mental health issues. The PCC works closely with both the North Essex and South Essex Partnership Trusts in this area.

e. ENFORCEMENT OF A 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

Q ~ Can the speed limit be reduced to 20mph in certain areas?

A ~ The PCC believes that local communities should take some responsibility for road safety and fully supports the Community Speed Watch scheme. The Castle Point Highways Panel has discussed the possibility of reducing the speed limit in specific areas, such as around schools. The Panel will pursue the matter of reducing speed limits once they have received clarity from their local residents that this is their preference.

