

Maldon Public Meeting

3rd October 2013

Ormiston Rivers Academy

17:30 to 19:30

Speakers

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

Louise Beattie - Detective Chief Inspector, Essex Police

Fiona Marshall - Chief Executive for Maldon District Council

Nick Lee – Chief Inspector, Response and Patrol, Essex Police

Chris Kilgallen – Inspector, Essex Police

Agenda items

1. Vehicle Crime
2. Rural Crime & Police Visibility
3. Topics for discussion raised by the audience

Highlights of Presentation

All Crime

- Maldon District Council has shown that ‘all crime’ has reduced by 10.4% (246 fewer offences) when comparing reports for 1st September 2012 to 31st August 2013 against with those from 1st September 2011 to 31st August 2012.

Community Safety Partnership

- Priorities for Maldon District Council
- CSP supporting the work of the police and engaging with the public on perception of crime
- Diversionary activities for young people

Vehicle Crime

- There has been vehicle crime throughout 2012/13
- Many offences result from vehicles being left insecure and valuable items left visible

Rural Crime and Police Visibility

- There is an active Farm Watch and Neighbourhood scheme in the area
- The Neighbourhood Policing Team is responsible for community policing, engagement and problem solving in their area.

1. Vehicle Crime

Over the past 12 months, there has been a rise in vehicle crime in the district. There are particular challenges involved in tackling vehicle crime, including criminals travelling into the district to commit offences.

Q.1 What has been done to reduce crime?

A.1 Crime reduction measures such as targeted patrol units to designated or emerging hot spots have been applied. The police also use intelligence led information to target known offenders.

Q.2. How will members of the public know how well the police are doing dealing with car crime? Where can members of the public find out information?

A.2. The police publish details of arrest results and convictions on social media websites and Essex Police website. Information is also shared with Neighbourhood Watch and Parish Councils on their noticeboards and via their local leaflets/newsletters.

2. Rural Crime and Visibility

Local work to address rural crime includes developing intelligence, targeting local suspects and increased patrols in local areas.

Q.1 What is being done to tackle crime in rural areas?

A.1. A rural crime team comprising of Special Constables are currently being trained. The initial base for the team will be based at Great Dunmow police station and a second team will be based at South Woodham Ferrers later in the year.

Q.2. Will reported crimes be pursued?

A.2. The PCC urges members of the public to report all crime either via 101 or if it is an emergency to dial 999. One of the roles of the PCC is to hold the Chief Constable to account and wants every crime type to be addressed.

Q.3. What are the timescales for Patrol and Response to deal with an incident?

A.3. Essex Police aim to attend 90% of all emergency response calls within 20 minutes in rural areas. The team are based at Chelmsford and have a minimum of two patrol cars to cover the district.

3. Open Questions Raised By Audience

Q.1. What is being done about police visibility and resources?

A.1. The PCC is responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account. The Chief Constable has operational independence, which includes responsibility for the deployment of officers. In determining how to use and deploy police resources, the Chief Constable considers factors such as crime patterns, demand and threat of harm. There is obviously a need to concentrate on hot-spots and ensure that police are deployed in the right areas at the right times wherever possible. Mr Alston also stressed that it was important to get even smarter in the way police services are deployed, including making best use of new technology

Q.2. Has a decision been made about the Marine Unit?

A.2. This is still under review and no decision has been taken. If the Marine Unit is disbanded then it is for the Chief Constable to propose how a capability to respond to marine incidents will be retained.

Q.3. What is the police response to family, custody and siblings mediation?

A.3. Officers are required to attend and engage with lower level disputes involving child contact issues. The role of the police will be to engage where there is a need and feed back to the council and relevant agencies.

Q.4. Are there mechanisms to deal with neighbours causing problems?

A.4. The ASB team in the council have mediation agreement tools to encourage parties to discuss and resolve their issues and concerns. This mechanism has so far proved to be successful. There is a new legislation to deal with neighbour disputes which has various options to manage situations on a case by case basis.

Q.5. What can the public expect from the PCC?

A.5. PCC has committed to holding at least two public meetings in each district during his first year of office. 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. The PCC continues to listen to people's issues and concerns, and dedicated forums have been set up to deal with: Business Crime, Victims and Rural Crime. The PCC is also responsible for setting priorities and the police budget.

Q.6. Is it worth reporting minor incidents to the police?

A.6. PCC urged everyone to report all crime to the police either via 101, 999 or local officers.

Q.7. Are new housing developments linked in with policing?

A.7. There is a statutory requirement for the local council to engage with the police on crime and public safety during the planning stages of the development.

Q.8. Why are local incidents often answered by staff in Chelmsford?

A.8. All 101 or 999 calls are received by staff in the Force Control Room in Chelmsford, who categorise incidents and prioritise the response dependent upon the information available. Technology is used to identify and locate the best placed unit to respond.

Q.9. NAPs work well within the local community. What and how are police statistics used and interpreted?

A.9. Neighbourhood Action Panels are matched to zones as agreed by the Community Safety Partnership. A local officer attends these meetings to establish community needs and concerns. Performance data is analysed by the force which is used as a tool for establishing trends and patterns. The PCC continues to support local NAPs and has attended several meetings.