

Brentwood Public Meeting

14th October 2013

Brentwood County High School

18:30 to 20:30

Speakers

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex (PCC) Nick Alston

Chief Inspector – Local District Commander

Vice Chair of CSP - Cllr Chris Hossack

Casualty Reduction Manager – Adam Pipe

Inspector – Paul Wells

Sergeant - Simon Willsher

Agenda items

1. Burglary
2. Road Closures and Road Safety
3. Topics for discussion raised by the audience

Highlights of Presentation

All Crime

- Brentwood District Council has shown that ‘all crime’ has reduced by 10.4% (462 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 Brentwood District Council
- CSP initiatives

Burglary

- Predicative policing
- Hotspots and Patrol Strategy
- Cocooning

Road Closures and Road Safety

- Has some of the busiest roads, including M25, M11 motorways, A120, A12 and A13.

1. Burglary

The number of house burglaries in the borough continues to fluctuate. Between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013, the number of house burglaries decreased by 0.9% when compared to the same period the previous year.

Q.1 What has been done to address burglaries?

A.1 The police strategically review on a weekly basis, crime stats and patterns which are discussed between the Superintendent and District Commander. Targeted crime and any spikes in the district are reviewed so that resources can be deployed appropriately.

Q.2. What happens to the proceeds of any crime?

A.2. Any proceeds recovered from crimes are re-invested back into policing.

Q.3. How many burglaries occur in a day?

A.3. During the summer months it is usually opportunist burglaries that occur, for example, windows left open due to the weather. In the autumn and winter months, if there is evidence of no lights on and therefore no one is in.

Q.4. Where are we on historical figures on trends?

A.4. The period that is usually referred to is over 3 years. This time last year there was a spike in house burglaries but these are now declining.

Q.5. What is the percentage of those from BME background?

A.5. Criminality occurs within every group. The PCC has requested data/facts to analyse the nationality of offenders and the types of crimes committed.

Action by PCC

2. Road closures and road safety

Essex has some of the busiest roads, including M25, M11 motorways, A120, A12 and A13. The Collision, Lead, evaluate, Act, Re-Open (CLEAR) document was released by the Highways Agency and outlines roles and responsibilities of the key organisations involved in traffic management.

Q.1. There is heavy congestion at the Brook Street roundabout which often leads to incidents. What are the police powers to deal with stop checks on heavy vehicles to deal with rest breaks?

A.1. The police have the powers to stop and check heavy goods lorry to re-enforce safety checks such as ensuring that drivers do not exceed their driving limit and adhere to the rest breaks.

Q.2. What consultation and planning is taken into account for any major road designs?

A.2. The Police are usually consulted on any major road planning activities. The PCC is due to have a strategic meeting with the Essex Crime Reduction Board and Highways Agency to discuss road blockages following traffic incidents.

Action by PCC

- Q.3. The A12 Alliance dealt with clear up rates. Have lessons been learnt from the findings?
- A.3. The A12 Alliance was a dedicated team assigned to deal with clear up rates. With the disbandment of the team and continuous cuts in resources it has an overall impact. Essex Police are taking a joint approach with Suffolk via collaboration working to deal with some of the policing issues flagged up on road safety. The PCC has made it a priority in the Police and Crime Plan to improve road safety in the county.

3. Open Questions Raised By Audience

- Q.1. What is the drugs scene in the area and how is it managed by the police?
- A.1. The police deal with minor possession to Class A drugs. The police can apply discretion when dealing with certain offences such as issuing a street warning (if there are no previous convictions). The PCC wants to encourage officers to deal with young people with an appropriate use of discretion and warning rather than criminality.
- Q.2. What can be done to protect members of the public when the council switch of the street lights?
- A.2. There is no evidence which shows that as a result of the street lights being turned off crime increase. The PCC will continue to monitor data and crime trends.

Action by PCC

- Q.3. How is the PCC supporting rural Specials?
- A.3. The PCC New Initiative Fund will support what is already in place with regular colleagues by having a dedicated rural crime team. There will be 12 officers in the Uttlesford area (who has knowledge of a rural community) to go live in November 2013. Initially officers will be based at Great Dunmow but the intention is for them to become mobile. A second team of rural Specials will be based at South Woodham Ferrers.
- Q.4. With the extended licensing hours in the town centre, how does Essex Police deal with anti-social behaviour?
- A.4. The PCC is committed to dealing with anti-social behaviour, alcohol and licensing issues are topics raised and discussed in the public meetings which are delivered in every 2 weeks in every district. The Community Safety Partner (CSP) team has a task group to deal with any issues around the busy night time economy. The CSP also monitor trends and activities linked in around these busy night-times.