

**Panel members**

**Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Roger Hirst**

**Ch/Insp Glen Westley**

**Cllr Lumley – Chair of Rochford CSP**

**Police Precept Increase**

The PCC began by explaining the numbers behind the precept increase. Approximately half of the £3.25 million it will raise will be spent on front line officers, £400k on Special Constables and £0.5million on 15 new staff for the Force Control Room to improve the 101 service. Another £0.5 million will be spent on improved IT and a further £0.5 million will be spent on tackling cybercrime.

**Rochford Policing Team**

Ch/Insp Westley – As the district is bordered on either side by Southend and Basildon, it can have resources pulled either way which can create issues in the area. There was a really solid team in place and both Rayleigh and Canvey police stations are manned by 24/7 by response team. Essex police were looking into creating a Hub to enable closer partnership working with Castlepoint and Rochford CSP, VCS and Councils.

**The PCC confirmed that Rayleigh Police Station would not be closed.**

*ASB – there was a report of Quadbikes racing over the cricket pitch and football pitch in Rawreth Lane whilst Websters Way had issues with young drivers performing wheelies*. Ch/Insp Westley agreed to look into both reports.

*Bogus callers – it was asked if it was possible to have a police presence in the local Rochford magazine to warn residents about bogus callers etc*. The police had been speaking with the ASB CSP Officer and would see what could be done.

*Night Time Economy (NTE) - was there an increase in crime in Rayleigh on Friday and Saturday nights?* Ch/Insp advised that this is not the case in the Rayleigh area. There were night patrols that focus on the NTE and the Police also worked closely with business owners. The area would be getting a licensing officer that can keep licensees in check.

*Town Cameras - where would the new cameras go?* Ch/Insp Westley advised he had tasked an officer with contacting the town council to discuss this.

*Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) – Was the local neighbourhood watch still ongoing?* Ch/Insp Westley advised there was very much a partnership with NHW. He offered to share information with the member of the audience after the meeting.

*Parking on public footpaths* *–Could police work with councils about parking on public footpaths as there was a need to work together as council cannot issue tickets.* The Government had decided parking enforcement was not the responsibility of the Police unless it is dangerous. It terms of policing priorities it is low. Ch/Insp Westley had worked with councils when there was a specific risk but advised due to pressures on police services it was difficult to commit offices.

*Police Numbers* – *Would police numbers drop further?* The PCC committed to not drop below the present number and was committed to securely more funding for more police officers. He believed the way forward is more local visible policing.

*Speedwatch* – Speedwatch had been advised it cannot take car registration numbers of drivers using mobile phones as it needed video evidence. Was there a way they could take their numbers so that letters are sent? Ch/Insp Westley agreed to look into this.

*Taxi Marshalls were no-longer being funded and a resident asked why*. It was advised that the budget taken from the hackney carriage funding had been cut. The local Chamber of Commerce had sent letters out to all the night clubs and restaurants and asked if they could commit funding which they refused to do. An alternative could be a night time levy.

*Armed Police - A resident had been to Lakeside and noticed that there were armed support officers there. Some people were quite shocked to see them as they hadn’t been informed.* Ch/Insp advised firearm officers also patrol Southend Airport as reassurance and intelligence and this was being replicated across the country.

*Specials – what’s the difference between Specials and PCSO*s? The PCC advised that Specials have more powers and would also come from their local community.

*Active Citizens – are they being supported*? It was advised that Active Citizens were very much supported. An Active Citizen in the audience spoke about being involved with beat surgeries that were taking place in local supermarkets and visiting the high street.

*Rogue Traders* – a resident had been threatened by a rogue trader and was given a number to ring at Essex Police but no-one answered. A message was left but to date no-one from Essex Police had returned his call. Ch/Insp Westley accepted that that wasn’t good practice and apologised.

*South Fambridge* – there were issues with drug dealing and the police presence was non-existent. Ch/Insp Westley requested to speak to the resident following the meeting to take details.