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**Notes from the Castle Point Public Meeting 18th October 2016**

**at Canvey war Memorial Hall**

Residents were introduced to the Deputy PCC Jane Gardner, District Commander Glen Westley, Cllr Godfrey Isaacs and Melanie Harris from the Community Safety Partnership.

**Draft Police and Crime Plan** – Jane Gardner briefly ran through the priorities of the draft plan. Residents raised concerns about how the priorities of the plan would be delivered given the strain on resources. Jane Gardner explained the plan provided greater focus on areas identified as important by the Essex community through a comprehensive consultation on process. Resources will be focused on areas of priority. In addition, ways of ensuring greater efficiency will also need to be explored, including the use of smart technology. Discussions will also continue with central government about how Essex police are funded.

**Lack of visible policing –** many residents were concerned by the lack of visible policing and felt this had a direct impact on the rise in crime in the area. When crimes were reported no police officers attended and no feedback was given as to the outcome.

Chief Insp Westley acknowledged police needed to get better at informing people about cases and that communication needed to improve. The new Athena reporting system was allowing for a more joined up approach of collating and connecting crimes and it was hoped that this would help enable better communication with those who are victims of or who have reported crime.

The PCC also advised that 101 needed better resourcing and that he and the Chief Constable were working closely together to look at improving response times.

**Crimestoppers** – several residents had been told by Crimestoppers that the issues they were reporting shouldn’t be done via the Crimestoppers hotline. The PCC agreed this should not be the case and said he would look into why they had been told that.

**Drug Dealing** – many residents had witnessed drug dealing taking place on Canvey. LPA Commander Paul Wells, Essex lead on gangs advised that it was not possible to arrest our way out of drug dealing and that it needed other approaches. One was to stop people taking drugs in the first place by using diversionary tactics such as sports projects that are funded by the OPCC. It was also important to keep intelligence being fed into the Police by using 101, report it online or Crimestoppers so that police and partners can build an intelligence-led picture of the crimes taking place.

Residents asked where drug dealing came in on the Police and Crime Plan. Chief Insp Westley and the PCC advised that it interlinks with several of the priorities as drugs often involve other crimes such as stealing, ASB and violent crime.

**Burglary** – Chief Insp Westley reported that two prolific burglars had recently been apprehended and were due to be sentenced by police. Forensics taken from other dwelling burglaries had also linked one of them to a further 3 crimes. A resident had suffered a serious burglary and waited 2 weeks to hear from crime prevention officer by phone, and felt the advice given was not particularly helpful. Glen Westley apologised and said that different approach was now in place with

**Anti-Social Behaviour** – residents reported that ASB was taking place across the area. It was felt the lack of policing meant that ASB was on the rise. Some residents wanted a zero tolerance approach but the PCC rejected that and believed a more joined up methodology using partner agencies would work better. Melanie Harris reported that community police would be moving into office space in the council office in Kiln Road where there would also be licensing officers, environment agency officers and housing. In this way agencies could work far more closely at information sharing and pick up on emerging patterns of crime.

**Thorney Bay Caravan Park** – residents voiced concerns over the level of crime at the park and asked what the police were doing to tackle it. Chief Insp Westley advised that police had an officer dedicated to the site and that they also worked closely with the council and housing to identify potential issues with residents. He added that there would always be an issue due to the nature of the residents passing through. Melanie Harris confirmed that the council worked closely with the police and even had a caravan on-site to help manage any issues.

**Roscommon Way** – the road has a long standing issue with boy racers and residents asked what was being done. Chief Insp Westley advised that there was operational work being done around the issue. Other options could be to design the way out of the problem as had been done along Southend seafront as well as installing ANPR cameras.

Sgt David Rudd added that his traffic division regularly staged operations throughout the County which included Canvey Island. He noted a recent operation where over 100 motorists were stopped yielding a number of offences including motorists using mobile phones, travelling criminals, not wearing seat belts, cars not MOTed, as well as drug dealing. He added that roads policing is not income generation, but it did help improve road safety.