

Aveley (Thurrock) Public Meeting

29th January 2018

18.30 – 20.00

Aveley Methodist Church, Shannon Way

Panel Members

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) - Roger Hirst

Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (DPFCC) - Jane Gardner

Chief Inspector - Richard Baxter, Essex Police

Community Safety Partnership Chair - Julie Rogers

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service - Tony Clarkson

The PFCC is well aware of public feelings about the stretch on public services. When he published the Police and Crime Plan in November 2016 it was clear where the public wanted those priorities to lay; reducing ASB, more local, visible accessible policing, reducing violent crime and death on the roads. £3.1 million had been raised last year through council tax that had been spent on frontline officers and improving technology, as well as making the force control room more efficient.

101 is still requiring improvement but urged members of the public to report online where possible and free up 101 telephone service for those that can use it www.essex.police.uk, but always phone 999 in an emergency.

Crime is rising across the country and it was important to get ahead of it. Working alongside Association of Police & Crime Commissioners to secure more police funding had been successful as the Government agreed to match fund £450m. Part of this will be raised through the council tax precept. The band D increase will be around £1 per month. Hopes this is now a reversal in the trend of cutting public services and looks forward to seeing more visible policing

The Fire and Rescue Service is about working better together, police and fire are doing joint school visits and home visits and want to reach more people in 2018, particularly in schools. The Fire and Rescue precept will remain at 2% for 2018.

**Questions from the audience**

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| Questions | Answers |
| When will there be a police presence in Corringham fire station? | The PFCC committed to sharing facilities across the county. He expects to see Corringham with a police presence soon. |
| What will the precept increase mean for Thurrock? | 75% of investment will go on visible policing and will be split between districts. |
| People are not using the roundabouts locally and it is only matter of time before someone gets hurt. This was happening all over the area and it would be good if police could run an operation locally. | Essex Police committed to looking at the roundabout and asked the resident to remain behind and give more information. |
| A resident had received a petition from the local community about the amount of stolen cars and burglaries in the area. | Organised Crime Gangs are coming in from London to steal cars and are proving a real issue. Essex Police are patrolling the areas where they think they will hit - it is being taken seriously and a lot of resources are being put into it. Residents need to be vigilant and report it as it is vital police build a mosaic of the data. |
| What could happen of an intruder gets killed as a result of a burglary? | Police are patrolling the area at night using a number of tactics. Burglary is a horrible crime and has a real impact on victims who no-longer feel safe in their homes. |
| A councillor was seeing knife crimes, gangs running riot and we are in danger of losing control of our public spaces. Are the police confident that they have the resources to deal with it? Were police confident that public spaces are safe? | There needs to be far more resourcing put into policing, but when there needs to be a stepping up of resources the police can do it – but this is not something they can cover long term. However, the public should be reassured that there is the resourcing available to deal with major issues should the need arise. Areas like Lakeside is patrolled regularly. |
| Motorbikes are proving a real issue as they are driving the wrong side of the road, in pedestrian areas. Hears them drifting around lakeside at 2 or 3am in the morning.  Fly-tipping is also an issue in the area with those trying to report it being passed from pillar to post. In a recent incident where there had been hundreds of tonnes dumped but so far no-one has been prosecuted. | Motorbikes are causing problems right across the county and we are looking at them in the safer roads arena. It is important to have strategies that are going to work.  Lakeside race circuit now has a public protection order in place and offences seem to have eased off from November 2017. Police do enforce it and use local police and roads policing team. Sometimes it is organised and sometimes is not. Again the public were urged to ring the police as on a Friday and Saturday night  There is a small team that has been tasked with rural crime and fly-tipping is one of their priorities. Large scale fly-tips fall under Environment Agency as they are the enforcing agency but it is a multi-agency approach. The resident was asked to speak after the meeting so their details could be taken. |
| A resident’s daughter has motorbikes turning up in vans to ride in the field where she lives, There are small children on their bikes in the road. Also been verbally abused and threatened. | Again the resident was urged to keep reporting so intelligence can be built up. |
| HGV parking is now an issue in Manor Way as DP World are doing some work on site so lorries are parking along the hard shoulder.  Why isn’t authority around parking being given to Thurrock Council | The Chief Inspector was having a meeting with DP world regarding the problem. A number of the lorry drivers are foreign which makes prosecuting problematic but in the meantime is having patrols in the area.  The CSP is looking at what they can do collectively to address the situation. They are trying to redirect them to alternate parking places as this proved successful last year.  PFCC has done something similar in giving enforcement powers to wardens to issue speed tickets. He will follow up with Thurrock to see what can be done. |
| Another resident had problems with motorbikes in the area. The council had put a camera in and it stopped. Then they took the camera away and it started again. People are afraid to use the path at night as the lighting keeps being destroyed. | The CSP requested to speak to the resident after the meeting |
| Aveley has issues with HGVs travelling through. Is it possible to bestow enforcement powers to the council to stop the lorries coming through the village?  Travellers in the local area – when are the police going to get tougher on travellers? The resident understand section 61 doesn’t apply to highways. How do they get moved on and how can you do this quicker? Can we repeat what we did in Harlow?  Also mopeds are a real issue and how many bike sections can you call upon to chase them?  Lower Thames crossing – how will you respond to local emergencies if you can’t get to them? | This is an ongoing issue and police do patrol in an effort to enforce it, but it is difficult to know when they might be driving along.  The council are working closely with police and ECTU and speak about what we can do to speed up the processes. We are looking at how we can reduce the timescales and appreciates this is not pleasant. Officers work late at night and weekends and are photographing evidence. The Harlow issue was on a massive scale of over 104 cases and that is what will take to get an injunction.  We do have motorcycle units. But national guidelines are that if they have no helmets on the police will not pursue. Alternative ways to deal with nuisance motorbikes are being explored.  This is a planning issue. |
| Is it true crime is not being recorded as police don’t have resources to respond?  A101 is still appalling and not fit for purpose. | Police are held to account by HMIC and have to record all reported crimes.  101 has improved but still needs to get better. The new Assistant Chief Constable has come from the Met and is looking at improving the service. There has been less negative comments at meetings but police are aware there is still a need for improvement. |
| Inconsiderate parking by cars around schools and cars not stopping at crossings have been reported but nothing is being done. | This is a highways issue and the CSP manager requested that the resident remains after the meeting. |
| A resident had three men trying to rob his house twice and one which happened at 4am that morning and he had video of the two men. He had a young family and was feeling frightened in his own home. | Officers asked to speak to residents after the meeting so they can view the images and take statements. |
| How could local speedwatch get the cameras they needed to do the job? | The DPFCC requested they speak to her after the meeting so she could progress for them. |
| Could the PFCC commit to seeing more officers on the streets of Thurrock? | The PFCC agreed there needs to be more officers on the streets. Unfortunately new sorts of crime such as cybercrime, sexual exploitation, and terrorism take officers off the streets but it was vital to replace them. |
| A resident was having issues on his estate with children froma locasl school who were causing ASB during lunchtimes and after school. He had written to the school but nothing was being done. | Police would visit the school in question and see what could be done.  ECFRS – also did an immense amount of work with children and also had preventative teams that went out and engage with road users especially young people. They also have a team that goes out to the motorcycle meets and educate. Fly-tipping also involves ECFRS and they work closely with EA where there are dangerous loads that have been dumped.  Lower Thames Crossing – ECFRS have been involved from day 1 around what it will mean for the emergency services.  They are also looking about being role models in the community and to try and get young people to help them. Closer collaboration is about helping the communities they serve.  Fire service colleagues also coordinate community speed watch. |
| What advice is there for residents if a burglar breaks into their home? | Phone 999 and switch on lights. 99% of the time burglars will flee the premises if discovered. |
| In May 17 – the local Aveley football club was completely destroyed by youths. Enquiries are still ongoing. He had very clear CCTV footage which wasn’t used. These same youths are running riot and committing more acts of destruction.  There is also some responsibility about the community. There are people on this estate who knew who these people are. They need to tell the police who they are. | The PFCC agreed this was very frustrating and damaging on how the community was being affected. This kind of crime is unacceptable. The police asked to speak with the football manager after the meeting. |
| Resident’s son was assaulted at a bus stop by a gang of youths. And took over a week for police to take a statement. | CI requested resident remain behind after the meeting. |