



Police Fire and Crime Commissioner
Hutton Public Meeting
Wednesday 20th June 2018

Panel Members

PFCC Roger Hirst
CH Insp Basford
Area Manager Tony Clark
Tracey Lilley CSP Manager

PFCC Roger Hirst welcomed all present and gave an overview on the current collaboration work happening between Police and the Fire & Rescue Service which centred on making best use of resources to help keep people safe. Collaboration was working well especially around Safe and Well visits which included fire safety and crime prevention advice.

Collaboration was also working well with children in schools. The PFCC said it was time that police did more work with schools around crime and disorder prevention work which, due to issues with resources, have not been able to be done recent years. In the past year, with the help of the Fire and Rescue Service, engagement has taken place with over 199,000 children across the county.

The challenges police face has changed significantly in recent years, especially around cybercrime, the volume of which includes online hate crime, grooming, fraud and bullying and is now reaching around 5 million crimes per year. Coercive control is also now a crime and again this has impacted as has anti-terrorism. The area that has been most affected by the change in resources has been local policing and it is imperative to bring more officers back into these roles. Thanks to the increase in council tax, there are an extra 150 officers being brought in over the next year and this will be repeated in 2019/2020. Brentwood now has police officers based in Brentwood council offices and he hoped this had led to more visible policing in the area.

Currently there was engagement taking place on the new Fire and Rescue Plan that will look at what the service will do after 2020.

Ch Insp Basford, District Commander for Brentwood and Epping updated the meeting on how the Brentwood police base at the council offices was going and advised it had now been there for three months which has given 24/7 policing for Brentwood. It was going well in terms of location and services.

Night time economy (NTE) issues had been raised by the Community Safety Partnership and police had invested in more resources to work with and where necessary investigate local premises and this has received positive feedback from licence owners.

Nuisance motorcycles had recently committed a series of crimes causing issues locally. These people have now been caught, charged and were due in court soon. Engagement wise police were having a lot of events including coffee with cops where people can have one to one conversations. Pop up events are listed on the Police website and can be found here <https://www.essex.police.uk/your-area/brentwood-epping-forest/>.

Group Manager for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Tony Clark, stated that currently the Fire & Rescue service have 99.9 percent availability with both a whole time crew and a an on-call crew covering the area. He asked if any members of the public knew of friends or family who lived in the area and who would be interested in being an on-call fire fighter - if so please visit the website or station <http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/>. An open day at Brentwood fire station was being organised and will be advertised soon. Other engagement includes their community safety teams who have been attending local public events.

Fire fighters are also engaging with the public in new ways through a programme called Fire Fighter's Delivering Differently. They are involved in schemes that the public may not be aware of such as interacting with a range of cub and scout groups and working with the vulnerable in society.

There had been a few fires in garages in Ingrave recently. There had also been reports of double parking in local roads where fire appliances cannot get through. He urged members of the public to make sure their streets were passable but the Fire and Rescue Service had leaflets they could distribute if this was not the case.

Questions from the audience	Answers
Brentwood police station at the town hall is not open to public so how can we speak to an officer?	Members of the public can make an appointment to call in at Brentwood but it was better to report online or use 101 where possible. The issues with 101 were continuing to improve but there was still some way to go. There were also engagement events in the area which can be found on the essex police website. Members of the public should always dial 999 in an emergency.
Why do our police officers have such low morale and what can be done to raise it?	Staff morale had been low - particularly when the budget cuts hit and changes to shift patterns were brought in. Essex Police have invested a lot in trauma counselling and mental health and in opportunities for officers to stay physically and mentally fit. Sickness levels are closely monitored and by offering officers more support this has brought the sickness rates down. But police officers are still have a difficult job to do in challenging circumstances and this needs to be addressed.

	<p>Ch/Insp said that the shift pattern change in 2013 now meant 6 days on and 3 off and these had caused issues. Shifts were now being looked at to see whether it needs to be changed or not. The Force is also looking at having proper areas for breaks and schemes to help with morale locally.</p>
<p>Community supported policing for special councils – what’s happened in relation to parish and town councils taking it up?</p>	<p>The Commissioner launched this initiative last year, and some councils have expressed interest. The programme is that if a council is happy to sponsor a Special Constable then the undertaking from the police service is that they will be allocated to that local area. The first was in Witham last year where 3 specials were already in place. There is sponsorship in Epping and there were 15 town councils who have signed up.</p> <p>On Call Fire Fighters - Brentwood, Ingatestone and Ongar also need on call fire fighters so it was requested members of the audience put out the word amongst friends and family.</p>
<p>In relation to rural communities there’s a lot of concern around the theft of machinery and fly tipping. What progress has been made in this area?</p>	<p>There has been an upturn in the theft of machinery and as a consequence there has been meetings taking place to look at how best to tackle the issue. The PFCC regularly holds a Rural Crime Forum where he meets with representatives to discuss the issue and improve the response from the responsible agencies.</p> <p>Recently there has been some recognition that we have been doing better. Essex Police have a rural engagement team with six officers. Op Galileo is in place to deal with hare coursing and arrests had been made which is better than it was but there is still work to do.</p> <p>Flytipping – there’s a liaison officer who engages with farms and farmers and who also work with National Farmers Union to put together crime prevention initiatives. There is also a Fly-tipping Task and Finish group which brings together practitioners from the county to discuss perpetrators, areas which are experiencing a lot of activity as well as launching campaigns to help reduce the incidents of fly-tipping. Work has been done recently to make</p>

	<p>Essex residents more aware of their accountability for the people they hire to take away their waste as some businesses look official but then go and dump the waste illegally.</p> <p>Organised Crime Gangs are responsible for the bigger fly-tips which use roll on roll off lorries to dump vast amounts of waste.</p> <p>The group has also been using money recovered through the Proceeds of Crime Act to deploy certain equipment to areas vulnerable to fly tips.</p> <p>Tracey Lilley added that Brentwood was looking at getting an enforcement officer with a vehicle and will try different shifts to find tippers. There were currently six officers that have special powers and this will soon increase to 20. All vehicles will have dash cams and those found will be given the harshest penalties. Community Safety Partnerships are putting together 4 operations throughout the year along with partners and look forward to an improvement.</p>
<p>When Mr Hirst became PFCC did he realise what a huge job it would be and why then did he take on fire and rescue?</p>	<p>The PFCC advised that as his father was in the police he had a good idea of what was required. In addition his own role within the council meant he had a lot to do with the emergency services. The role of a civilian as PFCC in the emergency services is not as an officer but as the democratic representative of the people to ensure the services perform the best they can. As his background is in finance and business it helps in how they plan the way it works.</p> <p>Currently the Police Service was short of resources. He is not in favour of tax increases but two years in he has had to raise the precept by 7%, so shows how stretched they were. He had looked at the case very hard and identified where the shortage was.</p> <p>The reason he had looked for joint governance of the Police and the Fire &</p>

	<p>Rescue Service was joint resourcing and public safety benefits. At a tactical level services get on fine but in terms of making changes to strategy it wasn't happening as there were two different bodies making different decisions. Now they both have the same and can make longer term strategic decisions.</p>
<p>An audience member's sister was joining police and when she announced it had a negative response – what was being doing to raise the profile of the police to be more positive.</p>	<p>The PFCC acknowledged there was an element of people like that but in actual fact about 80 to 90% are very supportive of the police. In the UK we are very lucky to have policing by consent and do not have to have all of our police armed. There is a good balance of civil rights and freedom. We need to do more to get a better relationship with the public and it is important we get back into schools to start building positive connotations.</p> <p>CH/Insp – have lost the school interaction we now need to get back and build that relationship. Social media and reporting has a big part to play and it is very easy to have stuff put on Social Media that isn't accurate. Easy to put a tweet out there that doesn't give the whole truth.</p> <p>There was lots of positive work with young people through the police volunteer cadets and fire and rescue cadets and they recently had police and fire cadet games.</p>
<p>Why is there so much resource put into policing roads?</p>	<p>Road crime disrupts more families and kills more people than all the other crime in the county. By monitoring our roads it helps enormously with catching perpetrators who have no insurance and are wanted for other crimes. Casualty reduction manager for Essex Police refers to roads as the arteries of crime as vehicles are used in so many types of crime. Interestingly the majority of arrests come from other arrests and that gets us a reward.</p> <p>From a Fire & Rescue perspective the number of incidents on roads far outweigh fires and the Service do a huge amount with communities. Road Traffic Collisions are particularly horrific to attend as an emergency service.</p>