



Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
 Canvey Island Public Meeting Notes
 Monday 3rd December 2018
 The Paddocks, Canvey Island

Panel Members
 PFCC Roger Hirst
 Ch/Insp Glen Westley
 Councillor Godfrey Isaacs
 Dave Barnard ECFRS

Questions from the public	Answers
<p>Given the rise in council tax to fund more frontline police officers, how are police justifying having police carrying out traffic duties? Would resources be better spent elsewhere such as solving burglaries etc.</p>	<p>The rise in council tax has been spent on 150 new frontline officers who will start being deployed from December 18 onwards. Castle Point will have 8 extra frontline officers. Roads policing is not resourced by local policing teams and they carry out operations across the county. These operations enable police to not only tackle poor driving, no insurance or tax etc it often helps catch criminals, disrupt county lines and possession of stolen goods and drugs.</p>
<p>Last year Santa Claus was pelted with stones during the sleigh ride around the Island. What will the police be doing to ensure this does not happen again this year?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Westley advised he would provide a police presence at the procession later that week. He reiterated that ASB would not be tolerated. There have been a number of initiatives put in place including diversionary tactics, public protection orders and working with partners to provide a multi -agency approach.</p>
<p>Would it be better to have more PCSOs rather the civilian security on Canvey Island?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Westley agreed and would welcome being able to have more PCSOs but there is not the finances available. However there has been a significant increase in Special Constables with Essex having the second largest number in the country.</p>

<p>A resident has had significant issues with 101 and deemed the service dysfunctional and not fit for purpose. He found a bag of cannabis and after phoning 101 and waiting 30 minutes and still not being answered he disposed of it down the toilet. How does the PFCC expect people to report when they are unable to do so? And if crimes are not being reported they are not being recorded.</p>	<p>It is correct that if crimes aren't reported then they aren't recorded. Funding has been invested in the 101 service and although there are 15 extra staff this has only sufficed to cover the increase in crime. The online service is better but this will be improved further with a new programme in the new year. Currently nine percent of all crime was reported via "Do it Online". There would be a move to single online portal in May - June 2019 which was being used by other forces across the country which should further improve the service.</p> <p>There was a Force Control Room improvement plan in place led by ACC Pippa Mills. The PFCC was confident this should start to see shorter waiting times and fewer calls abandoned.</p>
<p>Recently there was a chip pan fire in a fish and chip shop on Canvey Island. The report on ECFRS website advised appliances came from Orsett and Basildon. Why were Canvey appliances not used?</p>	<p>Dave Barnard advised the fire appliances are routinely deployed to cover areas where fire appliances are already out on call or not available. The whole system is carefully set up to enable cover in case there are more than one incidents in an area or pumps are called to assist in another area. Though the fire appliances were from Orsett and Thurrock this did not mean they had to drive all the way from those stations but were already deployed in the area.</p>
<p>A resident saw drug dealing taking place blatantly outside the police station but when he called 999 no police attended.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Westley agreed this was frustrating but advised 999 calls are triaged through the threat, risk, harm system. If there is a serious road traffic accident, or a person a victim of domestic abuse or there as an immediate risk then these will take precedence. However, he agreed drug dealing must be tackled and had taken some frontline officers off to deal solely with drug crime. Their hard work has led to several arrests and convictions, helping to disrupt drug lines. This work is continuing using partners such as the Community Safety Partnership, housing and social care.</p>
<p>It seemed that disruptive teenagers were taking over the Island, terrorising people and dealing drugs. Local mums are turning their own children into virtual recluses as they are scared to let them out after dark for fear they will be victims of crime or be drawn into committing crime. What is being done or can be done to reverse the cycle of ASB and fear.</p>	<p>Drugs and county lines are a country wide issue. Recently the PFCC along with partner agencies developed a violence and vulnerability framework which works with all partners to look out how we can coordinate our serious organised crime response and make sure we are tracing these drug line back up to those in control. There was also a need to invest more in young people who are being drawn into</p>

	<p>criminal activity but this will take time to see an impact.</p> <p>Ch/Insp requested to speak to the resident afterwards to take specific details.</p>
<p>What are a person's right when making a citizens arrest? A resident had witnessed youths throwing a rock through her 87 year old dad's front window. If she had caught them would she be in her rights to detain them?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Westley advised civilians are allowed to make a citizen's arrest. Any force used to detain must be considered 'reasonable'. However if perpetrators have already committed a crime they will not hesitate to do so again and people could be putting themselves at risk. It was better to get a good description or photo evidence of the criminals and report it to police.</p> <p>Cllr Godfrey Isaacs advised that as a member of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel he was hearing the same issues all over the county. He felt strongly that drugs and ASB needed to be reduced and is working with police and PFCC to tackle the issue with the youths who are involved in criminal activity.</p>
<p>ASB and drug dealing had escalated out of hand on the Island. When reporting or seeking to address the issues it was worth considering accessing the Community Safety Partnership as they worked in tandem with police, the council and other services – website: https://www.castlepoint.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership</p> <p>Furthermore could the PFCC make sure he takes resident's concern back to the Chief Constable.</p>	<p>The PFCC agreed to meet with councillors soon and assured that he would take what he had heard and the feelings of residents back to the Chief Constable at their next meeting to highlight the specific issues facing the district.</p>
<p>Police had indicated they had been into local schools to educate children about gangs etc. However often the pupils who were involved in ASB were not in school and are not being educated by their parents and are not being supported at home by them. What if the parents were made to pay fines and do community service with their children – it might push them to take responsibility. Residents on the Island had had enough of these children being out on the streets with the parents that do not care.</p>	<p>The PFCC agreed this needs a whole scope around dealing with troubled children. Schools can't be parents but it would be useful if schools share their concerns with other agencies so we can get to these children early and stop them falling into crime. In Essex there are 600 less kids going through the care system which is much better for them.</p> <p>Ch/Insp advised he was not pushing back to the teachers, but schools were a way of reaching 200 thirteen year olds and was also a way of hitting the next generation. Children in year 6 and 7 were also being targeted through crucial crew. Talking to children at a young age was crucial but it was a complicated issue and he committed to doing the best he can.</p>

<p>A resident noted that the percentage of police per citizens is higher than it was yet crime was rising.</p> <p>Also more police are off through stress than before. How can police be better supported back into work and help relieve the pressure off other colleagues.</p>	<p>Officer numbers are up on 2010. The new housing estates also enable more tax paying citizens so more money could be put into policing. However the nature of crime had changed significantly with online crime increasing by 250%, and new crimes such as coercive and controlling behaviour and stalking and harassment being brought in meaning police had far more crime to deal with.</p> <p>The PFCC felt it was hugely important to help support officers by providing gyms to work out, trauma related training and more resourcing in occupational health. These improvements had helped bring the number of officers suffering stress down although there was still work to be done.</p>
<p>Unlawful encampments are a real issue. Where does the PFCC stand on the Irish Option to make trespass a criminal act as previously he didn't agree it with it.</p>	<p>The PFCC acknowledged that following a round table with councils he listened and had changed his mind and decided trespass as a criminal offence would provide more powers to councils and police. However he was not sure about the appetite for it in Westminster as a lot of Metropolitan areas didn't have a traveller issue and didn't want laws of trespass. What would be useful would be a transit site where authorities could use section 62 to move unlawful encampments onto.</p>
<p>A resident had recently had her house broken into, burgled and trashed. This had really affected her and she no longer felt safe in the community she had lived in for decades.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp advised there had been a spike in burglaries and had also had two convicted burglars released back to the Island, upon which they were keeping a close eyes. Burglary is a vile crime carried out by vile people and has a huge impact on victims and he committed to doing everything available to him to tackle it. It was important to make homes as secure as was possible, ensuring al doors and windows were locked.</p>
<p>Why did the PFCC have to employ a deputy chief fire officer when he employed a Chief Fire Officer – this money could have been spent elsewhere.</p> <p>Orsett Cock had 12 officers in the Costas.</p>	<p>This was following a decision by the previous Fire Authority who put a management structure in place for three people in the senior management team but had never made it work as a number of people were kept on in the management team. The PFCC had to make a decision to put a strong and effective management team in place and had always intended to have one Chief Officer with service experience and the other from outside the service to help put right the issues that had plagued the Fire and Rescue Service over a</p>

	<p>number of years. It needed someone with management strengths and also have someone with fire experience but didn't mind which way round it was, it just had to be a pair. CFO Jo Turton had now been in position some time and the search was on to recruit her deputy.</p> <p>Party in the BP garage – wouldn't have an issue with having a coffee but would not advocate all his officers in one place. There</p>
<p>Where was there £3m savings from in the police service?</p>	<p>Not taking money out – we are investing in technology such as hand held devices that enables officers to complete paperwork whilst out on shift. Also has a better recording system which crashes less. Things like working with other forces to procure new uniform had saved hundreds of thousands.</p>
<p>Crucial Crew did not happen last year was this due to lack of resources</p>	<p>Crucial Crew relies on volunteers to do it and is definitely happening next year.</p>
<p>Why is the issue of drugs happening? There needs to be more officers on the street as it gives confidence to the community.</p>	<p>The numbers for local and accessible and visible policing is a priority. This was a new commitment and this is something we are looking to address. 3300 officers in 2010 and troughed at 2800. At the same time had massive growth in cybercrime, fraud, terrorism and this dragged officers way from the new types of crime of coercive controlling behaviour – this took officers from the front line. Slashed PCSOs from 440 down to a 100. PCSOs were brilliant at picking up on local issues. We have about half the frontline officers we had and this is going to take time to address. Using this to go to the government to get more officers is vital but this also means raising council tax. Would like at least 300 extra officers but would like more than that.</p>
<p>First Direct buses go into schools and educate and also offer services to officers to travel on buses</p> <p>Has recently seen buses vandalised, with bleach squirted at drivers by quad bike riders, windows shattered by thugs showering passengers with glass.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp asked to see the person afterwards.</p>

<p>The curfew that took place was brilliant and it stopped her daughter going out on the streets.</p> <p>How about the Guardian Angels – are these worth working with?</p>	<p>Is not against it but will</p> <p>Ch/Insp happy to see how it goes and if provides reassurance that's fine with him</p>
<p>Crucial crew did take place last year at Deans school last year as they don't charge whereas Canvey schools do so that is why.</p>	
<p>NHW attended target meeting with agencies and was really impressed with how these focus on criminality.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp agreed and felt the fortnightly meetings were crucial to work on all the information received</p>