



Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
 Maldon Public Meeting Notes
 Tuesday 8th January 2019
 Town Hall, Maldon

Panel Members
 PFCC Roger Hirst
 DPFCC Jane Gardner
 Ch/Insp Gerry Parker
 Spencer Clarke CSP
 Greg Keys ECFRS North East Group

Questions from the public	Answers
<p>Last year you tried to persuade us that you needed more resources for policing and you want to increase that again. This town wants to pay for a Special Constable. Why do you have a deputy at 100k a year? Tell us what salaries are you on and how can you justify having a deputy. I think they are very high salaries for public servants.</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst explained that his salary is £85,000 and his Deputy £60,000. He has some key roles to appoint such as Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer who are paid more and quite rightly so. The total office cost for PFCC governing the fire and rescue service is less than half of that of fire authority. He also explained that the salaries are set by national standards.</p>
<p>I am employed by Essex Police in a civilian capacity but I'm also a town councillor. There were 1289 offences according to website Police UK, 76 per cent with no further action. Only 18 out of 1289 offences were solved. Is that right.</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst – The figures we have is that in terms of crime last year and outcomes we have brought 211 people to justice out of 2200 offences, just under 20 per cent.</p>
<p>Resident from Southminster – I have ultimate faith in the fire and police, if I could pay an extra £5 for people on the beat I would pay it. I work closely with Neighbourhood Watch, what can we do from a public perspective to help people to do more? What can we do to help you?</p>	<p>Chief Inspector Gerry Parker – you are the eyes and ears of the police service. I need every member of the public to report crimes. If I don't have the information I have a problem. We have addressed recent problems in Mayland – but we didn't know about the problems until we were told. We need to do more engagement. People are reluctant to use 101 or website but through the website you can report the crimes and the information will work its way back to the local commanders. We safe guard information you give us and you can also report via Crimestoppers. Councillors have an open door to me. I will action information but I can't always pass information back. I'm</p>

	<p>going to be working with the local media so you know that when you tell us something we can tell then tell you what we're doing, We are going to be more open and transparent about that. Please keep telling us what is going on.</p>
<p>Why have you not updated the equipment for Community Speedwatch. Give us what the park rangers have got so we can properly identify vehicles. Democracy in Maldon whether PFCC or whatever doesn't count for much, make pretend consultations, moving police station without being consulted. The competence of commissioner is questionable, the commissioner decided to move the police station, also failed to point out the cost is £4M. You appointed a deputy who had to be sent for training. Made a nonsense of the whole set up. I have never been in favour of commissioners and the sooner they are gone the happier I'll be.</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst – I appointed a Chief Fire Officer who is doing an extremely good job. We said we needed a brigade manager as a deputy from the get go.</p> <p>We need to prove you wrong but that will take time. It is an American concept, having one person accountable is better than 25 and I'm directly elected to do a specific task. Personally I'm trying my best to be accountable but the proof of pudding is in the delivery. In terms of not paying attention to feedback. We have paid attention to feedback, we changed the Police and Crime Plan and added in road safety and will do the same with the Fire and Rescue Plan. In terms of movement of estates, some have not been popular but we have realised something in excess of £25 million and seeing more local policing as a result. Response times are faster.</p> <p>I do Community Speedwatch myself and have done so for a long time. We are still using the same speed guns that we did but if yours don't work then we need to address that. We have invested in Community Speedwatch, it's now managed by the fire service, let's speak afterwards and get this sorted out.</p>
<p>Tollesbury – Marine Policing, what's happening especially on the Blackwater Estuary. Tollesbury is out on the fringe, we don't need police there all the time but we did have a PCSO who did used to deal with issues locally, and we did have our own PC who lived locally. We would welcome some form of visibility. We use community protection officers at Maldon but that costs us as a parish, the increase in policing precept is an extra cost. We have a local fire station and we are very proud of that and it gives an excellent service.</p>	<p>Chief Inspector Gerry Parker – Marine policing doesn't sit under me as a district commander but I do know that they are operating in the area. Marine policing is very important issue across the whole of the Dengie in terms of marine crime. <i>(Input from local volunteer) "I'm a parish councillor. I have been working with the team and we are going to launch a Marine Watch group. Tollesbury is on the list and that will involve lots of agencies working together and days doing property marking and crime prevention advice."</i></p> <p>Visibility – I understand it and the proof is in the pudding, I am committed to having officers out and you will see them. I have made that commitment to the parish and council if you have got locations where we can meet more of the community, let me know and I will come and speak to them. We also have six more community policing officers joining us before</p>

	<p>April. For me it is about engaging with the public and talking to them.</p>
<p>District Councillor – would like to suggest you remove all the shuttering of the old police station, it looks unsightly. Can you tell me what the situation is with CCTV cameras on the High Street to stop the ASB? I live on the High Street and I have to say ASB has not improved. Every day I report the registration numbers of anti-social drivers.</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst – I will take on board the comments about the shuttering of the police station.</p> <p>Spencer Clarke CSP – CCTV – there is a commitment from Maldon District Council to purchase CCTV for the High Street, Prom Park and other areas. This is a joint exercise with Chelmsford Council and will take two to three months before a contract in place but early in the next financial year you will see some activity. It won't just be a like for like project. The actual cameras will be four times better quality than what they are at the moment and they will be monitored 24/7 by a control room which will help the police.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Gerry Parker – The roads policing team has dealt with over 1,000 enforcements in Maldon which is a huge amount but if you are not getting the level of service you need then we need to look at that.</p> <p>Spencer Clarke CSP – earlier this year we did a young drivers event at Maldon Fire Station and that was a great event. The Trucam initiative funded by PFCC has led to traffic enforcement by community protection officers and that is really effective. If the public are telling us that there is an issue, we take it forward.</p>
<p>Went to your meeting in Dunmow as part of your drive of getting more specials on the beat, police in cars rather than walking, could they get out of the car and walk about in towns? The biggest deterrent of crime is the probability of being caught and a rapid response. Is there any evidence that having a higher number of people on the beat leads to an improvement in overall arrests or different patterns of crime? It's a question of deterrent – anonymity is the friend of criminals. I see no reason why on vehicles the owners name shouldn't be on them. I would like you to take it up with the Home Office.</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst – That's a good thought and I will take it up.</p> <p>Stop and search works. If you increase the number of people you stop that does prevent crime and violence but it does affect society. We need to be very aware of the policing model which is policing by consent and there is a balance to be achieved there. We can be quite bold about doing stop and search and when we have the new resources there is a case for Chief Constable and his team to do more. Simply having officers does not seem to have big impact. It does depend on what they do.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Gerry Parker – the geographical challenge is significant, we are not going to put public at risk by getting to places two seconds quicker. I'm looking to get officers working in rural areas prioritised for fast roads training and taser trained. As a district we are the second highest user of stop and search in the county. It's a visible tactic but it must be</p>

	<p>appropriate. 365 days a year each shift has to do a foot patrol in the areas where prolific offenders live. We leaflet drop and it lets people know we are there and we are watching.</p>
<p>There is a great concern with the thefts that go on from farms in the rural communities. Members report that response from police is almost nil. These crimes are being committed by people from London. Can we make sure the victims know we are keeping a watch? We used to have a PC report to us on a regular basis which was helpful. Can we get that reinstated?</p>	<p>Chief Inspector Gerry Parker – We get info, intel and we have some success with stolen plant in the area. I want to stop all crime but I can't but I need people to work with me and take reasonable steps to secure their property and I need people to report it. I can bid for resources but all of that is predicated by the figures for me to request resources.</p> <p>Sometimes I have to make difficult decisions, as I only have finite number of people. What I'm working on with Spencer Clarke is that as District Commander I want to sit down and do regular briefings to parish and city councillors to give you an opportunity to talk and set the scene. That is something we are going to try and agree so you will be invited to regular updates. It's not exactly what you are asking for but it is a good compromise.</p>
<p>We are always being told to report crime – just before Christmas I had my mirror smashed off my car. I called 101 but waited 10 minutes for someone to answer and then requested a ring back. I didn't get a call back, then rang 999. I thought I would then speak to neighbourhood police team, but there is no number for them, then I rang the commissioner's office, they didn't know, I got through to the crime bureau, then each time I spoke to someone they wanted me to do it online but I won't do that. I'm not impressed, the four youths on a bike that kicked these mirrors off were back the same time the following week, the longer it goes on the more confident they get.</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst– in terms of 101, it has not been where it needs to be. We have invested more in the service but that just helped to meet demand. I understand calls have come down from 29 to 16 minutes. It is getting better but is not yet where it needs to be. I like online and it does work and it is easy to do but it's not for everybody so we need those who can to go on line to allow those who need to call 101 to get through. Calling 999 is not the right thing for a crime like yours.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Gerry Parker – In terms of dealing with the youths we are working on it. There are things that we are doing and I will pick this up after the meeting.</p>
<p>Chair of the NAP – we had a visit from the PFCC who said people are more at risk on the roads, we got ATCs on the roads in Burnham. In a week 18,000 were found exceeding 35mph with 230 exceeding 50mph. We have Community Speedwatch Team and they have reported 1,000 cases. It does work and our town council has backed CPT and are hoping to get a Special, we'd know like to see other checks, could we have some fixed cameras on the railway bridge?</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst – thank you for what you said on the success of intervening. In terms of a bridge camera I will take away and discuss with Essex Police. It sounds like a good idea.</p> <p>Spencer Clark CSP – funding could be considered for average speed cameras in some areas.</p>

<p>Your number one priority is more local, visible policing and antisocial behaviour and that is not working either. Second question, before you have coffees with cops and people in libraries you need to have police on the street. Police are beginning to lose contact with public.</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst – clearly with ASB it is still very visible but here in Maldon it is less than it was.</p> <p>One priority is not more important than the other but if we didn't have that priority in the police and crime plan we wouldn't have got the funding and net increase of £450 million into policing nationally.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Gerry Parker – there have been foot patrols in Maldon Town Centre, they can't be there every day. We have six more officers coming on line and some of them will be dedicated to rural areas</p> <p>I'm not aware that there is a problem in Maldon. We have issued 15 CPOs recently.</p>
<p>As a resident of Southminster there has been lot of ASB, we have lost our police station, there is a lot of apathy in our residents, they have lost faith. We hardly ever see police in Southminster.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>