



Notes from the Basildon Public Meeting

Present
PFCC Roger Hirst
Dep PFCC Jane Gardner
Supt Jonathan Baldwin
Ch/Insp Chris Bradford
Insp Rob Mayle

Questions	Answers
<p>A member of the audience was attacked by a gang of youths in the bus station in Pitsea. Shortly after an 18 year old girl was also attacked. The youths responsible also picked on homeless. The resident rung the police but no officers turned up and took ages to contact him afterwards. He asked why had police taken so long to deal with the gang responsible?</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst advised that the budget cuts and the demands on policing meant that the number of police available to deal with emergency incidents have halved in some cases. However, there would also be a town centre team in Basildon from next month (July) and these teams would be able to be far more visible and would be able to act on local intelligence.</p> <p>Police are trying to use the extra officers to work closer with partners and look at schemes such as diversionary tactics for young people to divert them from getting into trouble or being groomed by gangs in the first instance.</p>
<p>A member of the audience 12-year-old son had been attacked by a gang of youths and sustained a head injury. The audience member stated this was not an isolated incident as other children have also been intimidated and attacked. Another audience member had a 13-year-old who had been attacked, and he was disappointed that it took over three weeks for an officer to attend and take a statement.</p>	<p>Supt Baldwin apologised that it had taken so long for an officer to attend, as it was unacceptable. He requested to speak to the members of the audience afterwards. He added that police are only one part of the issue and they are working with partners to deal with the problem youths. There are several gangs operating who are very fluid in how they move about the area. Police are engaging with primary and secondary schools and using with</p>

	<p>youth outreach teams trying to get to places where these gangs hang out.</p> <p>They are also several events going on in schools for parents to help inform them about gangs and look out for the warning signs of grooming.</p> <p>Supt Baldwin advised that kids join gangs for a number of reasons. It can be because they can sell drugs easily, burgle in a group and have spotters etc. However, police do have intelligence about who is handling the stolen goods and they make arrests wherever possible.</p>
<p>An audience member noted that burglary was getting worse on the estate where she lived and the ASB taking place, also increased significantly. Was there anything that could be done?</p>	<p>Insp Mayle took a note of the estate and committed to taking away and looking into. He added that it was vital that the member of the audience reported it, if she heard disturbances.</p>
<p>A local Cllr had 2 questions. Is there anything that can be done about cars parking on pavements, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road?</p> <p>Op Reconsider – did the operation require help from the council as the motorbikes in questions were going around Eversley park from 9am and 8pm and it was proving a real issue.</p>	<p>Obstructions on roads or pavements can be really frustrating and it may be possible for officers to attend and issue a ticket. However, this would have an impact on police resourcing as they are often needed elsewhere. It was better to take a photo each time the vehicle was parked inconsiderably and send it in to police and the council. By building up a picture of repeated offences, it would help bring about a result.</p> <p>OP Reconsider deals with nuisance motorbikes. Difficult to catch them at it, but if they have index numbers or images then they can do something. There was a significant incident in Laindon where officers were doused in petrol – that was to do with nuisance motorbikes. He asked that residents report as without reports they cannot.</p> <p>Eversley is known and police are working with the estate owners to improve security and cameras, but he asked that people do report, as even the colour of a bike can help identify the perpetrators.</p> <p>With respect to those who are being tackled, police don't feed back to those who have reported</p>

<p>What is the usual procedure for police to follow, when reports of bikes being ridden antisocially were sent in? A resident had reported incidents but no officers seemed to attend.</p>	<p>Supt Baldwin advised all reports that come in to police are looked at under threat, risk, harm, and there if there is a greater need that's where police will be deployed to.</p> <p>The PFCC added that planned interventions can be useful. If police know that perpetrators are always at a certain place at a certain times, then police can plan to be there.</p> <p>Supt Baldwin advised police joined the force to put bad people behind bars and to help those who are vulnerable. They really valued the intelligence provided by the public and encouraged people to keep reporting in.</p>
<p>Is it illegal for cars to drive through pedestrianised estate.</p>	<p>PFCC Hirst advised there were different rules for different estates and it would depend on the area.</p>
<p>With the upsurge in funding does that mean the police will open the police station at Pitsea, as a lady who works with people with learning difficulties had taken a client to Basildon Police Station to make a report, only to find it shut as it was a public bank holiday. This is not inclusive and is unacceptable.</p>	<p>PFCC Hirst advised that was something he hadn't considered and he asked to speak to the lady afterwards to get more information.</p>
<p>A local resident regularly witnessed local youths smoking drugs in their cars after work. What happens when they get in their car and drive off?</p>	<p>Supt Baldwin advised if any member of the public witnesses this, phone 999 as drug driving is just as dangerous as drink driving. Essex Police are stopping more people for drug driving than drink driving. Drugs stay in the system far longer than drink and impairs the ability to drive.</p>
<p>A resident had witnessed people sat in their cars inhaling canisters. When she reported it officers asked for the car registration but she didn't know it.</p>	<p>Supt Baldwin advised that the more information the public can give the police, the more they have to act on. Makes, models and registration plates help police to link intelligence and bring those breaking the law to justice.</p>
<p>It was asked why street lights could not remain on all night, as surely it must result in more crime?</p>	<p>This was an ECC decision, but the PFCC had commissioned an independent survey in 2017, to compare crimes taking place during part night lighting and found there was no significant rise. However, this was something that would be continued to be monitored and if police felt there was a good reason to have street lights on due to high crime, then they could ask for it to happen.</p>