

Notes from Public Meeting
Victory Hall, Chigwell, 22 July 2019

Attendees:

Roger Hirst, PFCC
Jane Gardner, DPFCC
Tony Clarke, ECFRS
CH/Insp Lewis Basford, Essex Police
Nigel Bedford, District Councillor
C Wiggins

Introductions from Jane Gardner

ECFRS update from Tony Clarke: Current on-call fire fighter recruitment, IRP

EP update from Lewis Basford: Burglary figures reduction 25-30 less in the past month. Moving away from car/keyless car burglaries. Intervention and Community Safety Fund with extra officer increase and by targeting and working with Met Police. 80% burglaries were committed by offenders from other areas – 25 recently arrested from Epping Forest area and over £140k cash taken as proceeds of crime. Officers now visiting schools to look at issues around ASB/nuisance behaviour in addition to gang/knife crime. Improvements in technology, increase in officers have allowed for 40% increase in patrol time visibility with officers being less station-bound.

Questions:

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Neighbourhood Watch member | Request for assistance in campaigning to reduce insurance premiums if a burglar alarm is installed | LB advised best burglary prevention is two deterrents – floodlights and window locks, proven 28% reduction. Burglar Alarms are not always a deterrent, better option to have 2 or more other deterrents. Advised to contact insurance company as this would be their decision. |
| Councillor | Can you comment on arrests for burglary and recent gas canisters | LB: 200% up on arrests. Targeting most prolific with intelligence gathering highlighting link with drug suppliers and organised teams coming into the area. Burglaries are lower in area than other districts of Essex. Proactive patrols during weekends to deal with gas canister use – however not illegal to be in possession. CPT are dealing around the littering and driving impairment offences. A national stronger approach is needed. |
| Councillor | According to figures, third highest crime is stalking and harassment – why the increase and what is being done | LB: Reason for high increase is a change in crime recording in line with National Crime Standards. RH: It is good that it has been redefined as it can now be tracked and action taken. |
| Councillor | Burglaries halved around golf course. How has this been achieved | LB: Border patrol, increased visibility and use of motorcyclist/dog units. We have increased road checks, resulting in a 400% increase in “failure to |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| | | stop” Footpaths and access areas around golf course have been assessed and engagement with local residents. |
| Resident | Smoking drugs in woodland/copse. Young children around, previously reported with police | LB: Encouraged to use CPT email to raise concerns, need to gain intelligence and then look at working with the council and organise patrols. CSP encouraged to use Crime Stoppers or the Hub to provide information on car reg, times, etc to assist with intelligence gathering |
| Resident | Data for extra funding and use of Special Constables is underwhelming – 526 intelligence reports by 500 SCs is not much. Are the new officers being recruited under the new apprentice approach | RH: We are thrilled with the effort and response of our Special Constables. They provide links with local communities and know the area/residents. They are productive AND effective. The recent ongoing training/recruitment of 215 new officers will not be included in the apprentice (PQF) scheme. |
| Resident | Speeding traffic and dangerous driving along the main roads outside Chigwell Underground Station. Is it possible for an additional speed camera/CCTV | LB: We will put out a sensor over 7 days from tomorrow which will give us a quick look at key times/speed averages. Data is also downloaded from ECFRS and Essex Highways re fatalities, RTAs, etc. We will then be able to assess for checks and then enforcements. We would ask that people send in information from dash cams/camera phone footage etc which can all be analysed. |
| Community Speed Watch member | Receiving notice that more reports on car regs sent to Billericay from CSW are being returned NT (no trace) What can be done to track down these NT’s, co-ordination required between forces. | RH: I will feed back to Roads Policing as a suggestion LB: TruCam has been rolled out and there is possibly a way for data feeds and analysis of vehicles/ANPRs into the police database to identify. RH: New national ANPR system coming out which will link between county borders. Thank you for the suggestion we will take this forward |
| Councillor | Current situation with burglaries at Limes Farm esp Yellow and Green block | LB: Operation relating to drugs started in Limes Farm. Reporting shows we are down on reports to 101/999/Crime Stoppers and that crime here is down 10-12%. There are 2/3 individuals waiting for trial with convictions probable. We have increased our presence at LF however it appears there are currently no issues there. There will be about 8 SCs from 6pm-5am covering Epping area with plans for weekends and hopefully more managed patrols throughout. CSP: CCTV is now installed and there have not been any recent reports from residents which is a good sign |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Local Resident | Road safety/HGVs and Emergency Vehicle access concerns in Daws Hill | LB: Firstly we need to assess ownership and responsibility for that road. Gillwell Park are responsible on event days to ensure adequate risk assessments and entry/exit clearance of park onto roads. There needs to be a joint piece of work between EP/ECFRS/ECC/Gilwell Park and Essex Highways which we will look into |
| Councillor | Illegal encampment in Roydon causing problems with ASB/nuisance behaviour and serious crime incident last month. What is being done | RH: There are powers available to both Essex Police and ECC. There is a protocol enabling serving of S61 orders and we are doubling the size of our GTRET, effectively halving the number of encampments. There are different laws for private/public land and MPs have backed to have the same trespassing laws in UK that have been in place in Ireland. There is a large Civil Liberties group in Parliament who support the traveller community and civil enforcement is required when on private land. LB: We still need reports and information from the public either via 101 or Crime Stoppers which enable us to gather intelligence to manage any ASB/criminal activity on these encampments. |
| Neighbourhood Watch member | Thanking EP for support they have received in Epping since the last public meeting. Keyless car theft is an issue and the dumping of gas canisters. How do we get CCTV footage to you as EP say they will collect but don't show up and there is no facility to electronically send them in. | RH: We do not have the current ability to handle video format which is frustrating. LB: Chigwell is not seeing an increase in keyless car thefts now. The largest % is in Loughton and we are now seeing a decrease due to the preventative initiatives put in place. RH: We can produce a leaflet to assist with preventing keyless car thefts. LB: Regarding gas canisters – the legislation we can use is around littering laws. |
| Neighbourhood Watch member | Issues with 101 transferring to Metropolitan Police. This has been going on for years and mentioned again last year | LB: BT have assured EP 100% that we are connected to Essex exchange and Essex Police. Operators are transferring the calls through to the Met in error. RH: I will discuss with DCC and get this sorted |