



Minutes from Rayleigh Public Meeting  
28<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
The Grange, Little Wheatleys, Rayleigh

Present

PFCC Roger Hirst

DPFCC Jane Gardner

Ch/Insp Glen Westley

ECFRS Area Group Manager Dave Barnard

CSP Manager Andy Parkman

resident's 12 year old son was attacked in Rayleigh by a gang of youths. The mother waited 52 minutes when calling 101. She was assured that a police officer would be attending, but none did so. It was only when her complaint was escalated through the Assistant Chief Constable that an officer attended. The resident was angry that the youths who attacked her son have been doing the same to others and yet nothing appears to be being done about it. Her son is now afraid to go out.

CH/Insp Westley stated the police were aware of the individuals responsible and he has a team of officers solely allocated to dealing with them. One of them had been arrested at the weekend but was subsequently released by the courts. Another had been arrested three times but had been consistently released by the courts. There is ongoing investigative team looking into the incident at the Lodge Public House where several youth threw bottles and abused patrons.

He advised that the team is being led by Insp Cathy Calder, and they will use every single legitimate means to prevent these youths from afflicting the general public. When these youngsters goes before the court, the

	<p>Ch/Insp puts an impact statement to the courts so the judge understands what impact they are having. It was a case of continually chipping away until the courts act.</p> <p><b>PFCC Roger Hirst added that as he chairs a criminal justice board and he will raise the issue with sentencing through them.</b></p>
<p>A resident stated she had attended a police public meeting the previous month, where had said that she went to a previous meeting where the Inspector leading the meeting repeatedly said that due to police cuts there were not enough officers to respond to the current situation. People had left the meeting feeling far less confident than before.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Westley stated this was not a message he would expect from officers. While it was true officer numbers had been drastically cut, the increase in officers over the last two years had made a difference on the ground. He added the Rochford and Castle Point District was large geographically and it had a population similar to Basildon, but has new recruits coming to the community policing teams and they are hugely enthusiastic and he is confident the public will see results. PFCC Roger Hirst added that not only had officers been cut, but there had been more officers allocated to tackling terrorism and cybercrime and these were taking police from town teams. The aim now is to double the Community Policing Team, as it is vital to stop youths from getting into crime in the first place. He added his thanks to local councils who are helping with tackling crime.</p>

<p>A resident asked why was the CCTV removed by Rayleigh Town Council?</p>	<p>A Rayleigh Town Council member claimed that as police did not use the footage as evidence, there was no point in upgrading the CCTV. Now money had been spent on hiring private security guards.</p> <p>PFCC Roger Hirst advised that poor quality CCTV cannot be used by the Crown Prosecution Service as evidence in cases and thus is a waste of time having CCTV unless it was of a suitable quality. Cllr Ian Ward, Rayleigh Town Council agreed and now the town council is looking at another CCTV system but suggested that in order to comply with RIDDOR requirements the council's hands were tied as to where they could place CCTV.</p>
<p>A resident as why close Rayleigh and Rochford police stations if the idea was to have more local, accessible policing? When incidents happen locally, police come out of the area and don't know where to go.</p>	<p>PFCC Hirst absolutely wants officers to be local and accessible but police officers sat behind desks in a station were not accessible. Ch/Insp added times were changing and police needed to adapt. Technology advances meant police officers were not required to go back to stations to complete reports but could do it on mobile devices instead. There were also the new Town Centre Teams which he didn't have before. These will be problem-solving teams who will identify those causing problems and problem areas, as well as providing support for victims. BY using plain clothed officers, CCTV and mobile technology it will enable an adaptable response. There were also officers travelling on buses were feasible so they were visible to the public.</p>

<p>The manager of the Rayleigh Lodge believed the current issues of youth violence and intimidation had been building for some time. The incident she experienced the previous week had been horrendous and she had never seen anything like it in 26 years as a pub manager. Those who were forced to take refuge inside the pub were really scared. She added as she left the pub to come to the meeting earlier, the youths were walking past and congregating down the road. She added that police were doing drive buys and welfare checks, which was appreciated.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Westley acknowledged the experience must have been terrible for those involved. He added that if anyone had information then please could they come forward to police and not speculate on Facebook.</p>
<p>The manager of Marcos in Rayleigh advised that licensees have to have CCTV by law and trained door staff. They all meet once per month and have a list of people who they can bar for up to two years. They are all in contact via WhatsApp and doing a good job keeping the NTE safe.</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst thanked the Licensees as they really make a difference to keeping those using the night-time economy safe.</p>
<p>Rayleigh Action Group member stated that outside crime coming in to the town would be better monitored if there were ANPR cameras in the town. He added that gang initiation was taking place where younger children were being brought into the gangs by older youths. If something is not done soon, there would be the danger of vigilantism.</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst advised that he took the issue of gang crime really seriously and now had a Gang and Vulnerability Hub which looks at young people right from the moment when kids get involved in the first place to the upper members of the gang. Added to the funding already received, the government had allocated a further £1.6m.</p> <p>Ch/Insp Westley advised that the current ANPR around the town was adequate and any known cars ping over the radio in seconds.</p> <p>Regarding the issue of gangs, he had several officers operating as a stand alone team and they had carried out over 50 stop and searches, busted properties and seized class A drugs. He requested that members of the public who witness drug deals taking place, make a note of things like registration numbers and descriptions and report through 101. He added that even if the dealers were youths, please still report as these are vulnerable youngsters. A recent drugs bust found a 15 year from the other side of London at the property and no one knew where he was.</p>

<p>A resident who lived close by the hall complained Resident lives 110 meters from the hall. Has kids in the carpark doing wheel spins and keeps him awake at night. No one is willing to say who owns the carpark and therefore nothing is being done to stop them.</p> <p>There had also been an issue with an unauthorised encampment that stayed for two weeks before being moved on. The clear up operation was very costly.</p>	<p>DPFCC Jane Gardner stated that Unauthorised Encampments cause a huge amount of issues across the county. A couple of years ago they did a piece of work around how these were dealt with and how legislation could be used to move these UEs on. It was regrettable that the resident had to wait two weeks before it was moved on, but Essex Police Gypsy and Traveller Rural Engagement Team had been a huge success and had recorded 100 fewer unauthorised encampments than this time last year.</p>
<p>A resident Sweyne Park Court had experienced continuing ASB on the footpath nearby her house, with youths hanging around, breaking fences, slashing car tyres, cars being keyed and streetlights smashed.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Westley asked to take the resident's details after the meeting and committed to putting something in place.</p>
<p>A resident who worked in education had not seen any police officers in schools in years. Often the children causing issues in the area were those attending schools. Where some youths were not given attention by their parents they would do anything to get a reaction. It was vital therefore that officers returned to visiting schools.</p>	<p>PFCC Hirst absolutely agreed and advised he was investing in community officers. The police were also working closely with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and had been going into schools under a joint badge. He added that children and young people's officers would be increased. There was also a team who talked to year 7 &amp; 8s around gang and knife crime. Schools were a captive audience but he fully appreciated more needed to be done.</p>
<p>The current policy where courts seemed to be going easy on repeat young offenders was not right, as they were being released back into the community to cause more harm.</p>	<p>PFCC Roger Hirst agreed and said he would reflect comments back to Home Office and Ministry of Justice.</p>

<p>A local resident with teenage sons was afraid to let them out in the evenings because of the violence being caused by the gang. What could she do to keep them safe?</p>	<p>DPFCC Gardner referenced a park in Southend where the PFCC Restorative Justice and Mediation team had helped those causing issues realise the impact on local residents. Ch/Insp Westley advised simple things like staying within a group and be careful about making phones too visible as they are liable to get stolen.</p>
<p>It was asked whether police would be a part of the Town Traders WhatsApp and radio?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Westley advised the new CPT would absolutely be a part of it.</p>
<p>A resident asked what was being done about the antimuslim stickers that had been stuck to lampposts around the town.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp advised hate crime would not be tolerated, and signs were being taken down on sight. Police were looking into the perpetrator and appealed to anyone with information to come forwards.</p>