

**Southend Public Online Meeting Notes  
from the meeting held on  
Wednesday 10th Feb 2021 7pm-8pm**

**PFCC Roger Hirst  
DPFCC Jane Gardner  
Ch/Insp Ian Hughes  
Carl Robinson Director of Public Protection  
Simon Ford – Southend CSP Manager  
ECFRS Dave Barnard**

Meeting questions

<p>Q I am very grateful for everything the blue light services have done to keep us safe during the pandemic. However, there has been very little presence i have seen in Shoeburyness both East Beach and Gunners Park. There have been large groups BBQing on East Beach every weekend with no sign of social distancing.</p>	<p>East Beach is on the dedicated Patrol Plan for increased visibility, along with a number of our other open spaces/beauty spots. If you visit Essex Police – Southend Facebook page you will see evidence of our presence at the location – we work closely with Southend Borough Council who will take primacy for enforcing against the Byelaws such as BBQ’s. As for the Social Distancing, this is a battle that we are doing our very best to address throughout the borough.</p>
<p>Q Ch/Inspector Hughes has reported 114 Mental health incidents attended in May. What have been the outcomes? (In general) have mental health</p>	<p>Thank you for reading my info graphic – the outcomes vary considerably to the point it is very difficult to say. The incidents range from calls from people in crisis right through to people reporting fabricated incidents</p>

<p>services been able to respond in a meaningful way and are these vulnerable people appropriately safeguarded?</p>	<p>which we can validate as being untrue. What is consistent is that with every incident, is that opportunities are taken to make sure that individual is supported and necessary referrals are made to provide them with the long term support they need.</p>
<p>Q The very busy Saturday just before lockdown ended, your civil enforcement officers here out and about getting abuse for doing their job, but the CSOs decided to retreat from the front due the high level of abuse they got? Civil enforcement officers don't get the recognition they deserve. Do you believe they are valued?</p>	<p>The Civil Enforcement Officers are integral to our partnership approach to dealing with a range of issues, not only parking matters. They are another set of eyes and ears on our streets, and from a Policing perspective, they are an extension of our wider Policing Family. So in short, yes they are valued and respected by Police.</p>
<p>Q Thorpe Bay Gardens hasn't yet had a response to complaints about the issues there. A resident received an email saying "it is unlikely that you will get a police response at the time of your call". Is it time for a more responsive approach from police?</p>	<p>This is a bigger piece of work that we are work with Barry and a number of other residents and other partner agencies to address. I have arranged for a virtual Community Circle Meeting on Thursday 18th of June to discuss what the challenges are, and what proportionate plans can be put in place. Essex Police does take ASB very seriously, each incident that is reported to us is graded against any Threat, Harm or Risk. However, I accept that ASB cannot be taken in isolation and whilst the individual matters may not trigger a Police Response, a continuation of a persistent problem does require a different, more active approach.</p>
<p>Q There are bags of clothing being left around recycling bins – was anything being done to clear them?</p>	<p>The council are working hard to clear them as quickly as possible and people dumping bags should realise this constitutes fly tipping and will result in a fine if caught.</p>
<p>Q Is there an argument to be made for putting in dispersal orders for the City Beach /Old Leigh areas? have Public Space Protection Orders been put in place around Cliffs Pavilion area? If so what was the outcome?</p>	<p>Dispersal Orders are a useful tool, however they are not designed to be used routinely. The legislation put these in place to address individuals acting (either already happening or information to suggest it will happen) in an Anti social manner and the behaviour is having a detrimental effect on the community. I appreciate this can be applied in many many cases, however this needs to be used appropriately along with sufficient availability of staff to enforce it.</p>
<p>Q I have a seen a number of residents in Leigh experiencing anti-social behaviour from large groups of teenagers of school age causing issues in the community. With secondary schools unlikely to open until September</p>	<p>Ch Insp Hughes - Last week I agreed a budget to put in place an operation to address a particular increase of activity in a specific location in Leigh – we are working closely with the Adolescent Intervention and Prevention</p>

<p>and with the number of incidents seeming to escalate what is the answer to this issue? Should there be some kind of campaign to raise awareness with parents who probably don't realise what their children are doing?</p>	<p>Team to complete joint patrols. This work will continue throughout the summer and as the restrictions lift, diversionary opportunities will be provided to our young people. I am in close contact with Leigh Town Council and Ward Councillors in an effort to better understand the problems and where possible, put in place a response. It won't be lost on you that Leigh is one of many locations throughout the borough which require the attention of all services, we will do our best to be as effective as we can in these challenging times.</p>
<p>Q Is anything being done about speeding along Victoria Avenue?</p>	<p>Officers will actively prosecute drivers who speed throughout our borough, Victoria Avenue hasn't been a location that has been raised as a concern recently. However, I will ensure Victoria Avenue is highlighted, our visibility will be good due to its close proximity to the Police Station.</p>
<p>Q What can be done about the increasing amount of litter being left behind by crowds visiting beauty spots and beaches during Covid 19? And do the Fire Service think this can be a potential fire risk given the dry weather?</p>	<p>People are being encouraged to take their litter home with them and not light tray bbq's on grass or park areas. There has been a rise in the number of garden fires where people are burning rubbish due to the recycling centres being shut, and this has been more of an issue.</p>
<p>Q What are police and councils doing for rough sleepers in Southend during in the Covid 19 epidemic? Have they noticed an increase or decrease?</p>	<p>Aggressive street begging and street drinking and ASB is a continuing problem in Southend high street. A number of initiatives are either in place or in the pipeline including extra funding to support partner agencies and designing out crime. The Southend Town Team has been increased and engages with people causing ASB, street drinkers as well as targeting repeat shoplifters and we hope with the support of our partners we can see a decrease in incidents.</p>