



**Roger Hirst**  
**Jane Gardner**  
**Ch/Insp Richard Melton**  
**Group Manager Tony Clark**  
**Cllr Rob Gledhill**  
**Also in attendance Ch/Supt Hooper**  
**D/Supt Leighton Hammett/Ch/Insp Lewis Basford**

Q - I live in East Tilbury and for the whole duration of the pandemic we have had an increase with motorbikes and quads crossing public highway to get access to farmland and the green space along the river to Coalhouse fort. There are more residents using the space to walk and like me there are many dog walkers. I have given up reporting this because we have no police presence, also the Police are under enough pressure and this is not life threatening, just dangerous and irresponsible. The signs which are dated and faded. warning of section 59 badly need replacing. What more can be done?

Ch/Insp Richard Melton - In 2019, reports of Nuisance Vehicle incidents to Essex Police in Thurrock decreased by 27.9%. It is of note that reporting increased in 2020 however, some increased reporting is a direct result of confidence in reporting following previous action taken. Between July 2019 – June 2020 Essex police officers deployed on Op Caesar duties attended 124 reports of nuisance vehicles, issued 43 Section 59 warnings (Anti-Social riding), either reported to court or issued a penalty notice for traffic offences to 48 individuals, seized 9 vehicles, recovered 5 stolen vehicles and arrested 7 people. Op Caesar continues to operate in the Thurrock district and the issue of this type of behaviour remains a priority for the local Community Policing Team and Thurrock Council.

<p>Q In the last major lockdown the Fire Service drove ambulances and are doing so again in this lockdown, which is brilliant to see but does this affect staffing numbers on shifts?</p> <p>Has the pandemic affected numbers of firefighters on shifts from contracting Covid 19?</p>	<p>Tony Clark - Firefighters from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service have been supporting the NHS as ambulance drivers throughout the pandemic as the East of England Ambulance Service responds to an unprecedented number of calls. They have done this voluntarily in their own time</p> <p>All activities are risk assessed and we have Covid clean areas and reduce contamination between teams. We look at how we interact between stations and now contact virtually. Operational situations are always being reviewed and our Hazmat officers have been working hard where front line crews may have come into contact with Covid positive people.</p> <p>Also have a minimum level of PPE for crews sharing vehicles and using test and trace. Also introduced lateral flow testing for control officers and frontline officers working with different teams.</p> <p>On call firefighter have been furloughed which has increased availability.</p>
<p>Q - What is being done about the dog fouling in our area?</p>	<p>You should report dog fouling at the following link  <a href="https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/dog-bins-and-dog-fouling/dog-fouling">https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/dog-bins-and-dog-fouling/dog-fouling</a></p>
<p>Q - Why is hedge cutting essential work during covid? I think the council should rethink which of their staff are essential.</p>	<p>Cllr Gledhill - It is essential so it enables drivers to see unobstructed and not have accidents. Birds nesting in hedges have breeding periods when the council are unable to cut the hedges by law. The breeding period falls between Feb and September.</p>

<p>Q - There's still someone I know who drinks and drives nearly everyday and I've reported that person yet they are still on the road! Why is this not being dealt with?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Melton - This can depend on availability of officers but also being able to catch people in the act of drink driving but please continue to report whenever you see incidents like this taking place.</p>
<p>Q - As a resident of East Tilbury village and a Community first responder. I have had cause to phone 999 three times at this location and I get Kent. Not long ago I called for police and even though I asked for Essex police I got told I was only going to be put through to Kent police. I then had to explain yet again that I needed to be redirected to Essex police, I am assuming it is dependent on the phone mast?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Melton - Unfortunately this is where the mobile masts are located and you can be directed to a neighbouring police force. If you phone 101 and ask for the specific police force they will connect you.</p>
<p>Q Was told a few months ago by the Neighbourhood team that the money has run out from Thurrock Council for operation Caesar is this not the case</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Melton - OP Caesar is part funded by the council and CSP. The Op Caesar funding have run over the last two years and are looking at alternative funding to keep it going.</p>
<p>What is being done about tackling drug crime? Are the Police and partners working towards early intervention with regard to young people being groomed for dealing at the pre dealing level. I have seen myself young people being groomed by gangs as they leave primary school before they even begin at secondary school.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Basford – the OP Raptor team began by focusing on the harm that affects all levels of the community. In Thurrock there were 8 County Lines operating and they were in the top 20 of most harmful gangs. As of the date of the meeting there were 2. And they are at the bottom end of the 20 which looks at levels harm. EP work hand in hand with the Met Police and also work across the country where county lines are and take out the nucleus element to prevent the drugs ending up on the streets.</p> <p>Also work with CPTs using a joined up approach and have brought modern case slavery cases, as we can use this for individuals who are being forced to sell and carry drugs.</p>

	<p>We also react on intelligence that the public send in so it is very important you keep reporting incidents of drug dealing in the community.</p>
<p>Q Town Centre Teams – we have one in Grays but don't see the officers very often lately.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Melton - Due to Covid a lot of shops are shut in the High Street and less people are out. We work closely with communities to provide support and provide more visible policing. The Town Centre Team have carried out an enormous amounts of work and have done a fantastic job. Sometimes they will get called to an emergency.</p> <p>Ch/Insp Melton – appreciates police have made a commitment to more visible accessible policing and he personally checks where patrols have been and is also grateful to the Council who provided additional officers.</p>
<p>Q Can I ask cllr Gledhill if the tip is still limited to only one person being allowed out if the vehicle at the civic tip, as this causes a lot of problems for disabled people who want to use the tip, and could increase illegitimate companies being used.</p>	<p>Cllr Gledhill - We have to abide by covid restrictions at present and appreciate this can be very difficult for everyone when wanting to dispose of waste on community sites. As soon as the government advises otherwise we can look at adapting to new guidelines.</p>
<p>Q What is the length of temporary deployment of the dedicated female officer from East Tilbury who has only just come back from maternity</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Melton - No officer has been redeployed and there are two dedicated TCT officers in East Tilbury as well as the community policing team and the local policing team.</p>
<p>Q Is there any way of patrolling Corringham town centre as during this lockdown period there seems to be a lot of antisocial behaviour with shops etc.</p>	<p>The Chief Inspector took the information and would look into it but encouraged people to report ASB via the online facility <a href="https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime/">https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime/</a></p>

<p>Q Whilst we have both police and council together who takes the lead on HGVs breaking prescribed weight limits</p>	<p>This is the council responsibility of Thurrock Council Highways and if there is a persistent issue please check here for more info <a href="https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/traffic-management/overview">https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/traffic-management/overview</a></p>
<p>Q Has there been much take up on the compensation scheme for the new offensive weapons act 2019 as the offence of possessing certain weapons will start on 9th March this year</p>	<p>Not that the panel were aware but it will be interesting to see once it comes in.</p>
<p>Q - Really appreciate you all giving up valuable time to do these, but we have 53 people watching. I am sure there are a few more than 53 in Thurrock - how do we advertise this more widely - although I subscribe to your FB page, I came across this by accident...</p>	<p>We often get more people watching the video post meeting and can get 3000 plus engagement. We advertise on social media and local media and through partners such as the police, council and NHW.</p>
<p>Q – Do the fire service still give out free carbon monoxide alarms?</p>	<p>Unfortunately this service is no longer provided.</p>
<p>Q – there are a gang of car thieves operating in Thurrock who are sharing videos of what they are doing. Are police aware and what's being done?</p> <p>Q There still seems to be a high level of car crime on Chafford Hundred, be it vehicle thefts, or damage to or theft from vehicles. This has been raised before and it doesn't seem to be getting any better. Victims have provided video evidence on many occasions. Part of the problem is a reluctance to report it, because people think nothing will be done. Can you reassure people that something will be done, and what are you actually doing about this crime spree?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Melton – police are aware and have launched Op Tombstone to tackle the issue. If people have any footage or information please come forward, you can do it via 101, online or anonymously via crimestoppers.</p> <p>Vehicle crime has fallen overall but we are aware to the sprees.</p>

<p>Sandy Lane, Aveley – would CCTV equipment be cheaper to invest in to catch the fly tippers i.e. a burnt out lorry trailer, a flat-bed trailer rather than keep clearing it up? How is this arranged?</p> <p>Q Can more CCTV be put in the are and how is this done?</p>	<p>PFCC – we are really aware of the impact this industrial grade tipping has on communities and it is a serious problem with organised crime gangs sometimes responsible. WE are working hard with partners and the environment agency to bring perpetrators to justice.</p> <p>Cllr Gledhill – we do have mobile CCTV but it isn't as mobile as we would like but we do use it. This is a massive issue and can cost landowners thousands of pounds to remove.</p> <p>Cllr Gledhill – unfortunately finances are limited so there is not a finite resource. The council is currently conducting a CCTV review, but this has taken longer due to the pandemic and stretches on staffing. We will consult with the public and will see of there is a need.</p>
<p>Q – What can dog owners do to protect their pets from being stolen as dog thefts seem to have gone up</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Melton ensure that dogs are microchipped and registered with a vet. You can also help by making premises secure by having ring doorbells and CCTV, as well as ensuring doors and windows are not left unlocked or open. Burglar alarms and lighting – check the Essex Police website for crime prevention advice.</p> <p>Also when walking your dog keep it in sight.</p>
<p>Q - Why do police water down the crimes on the crime reports sent out? For example, shop lifting armed with a deadly weapon is simply reported as merely shoplifting?</p>	<p>The crime headings are decide by the Home Office as is how we should record crime.</p>

<p>Q – What is being done about helium cannisters discarded all over the place. Young kids are using illegal highs. What can be done to divert them from gang activity and drugs?</p>	<p>PFCC – we have also supported the work Op Raptor are doing by implementing diversions and support through our Violence and Vulnerability Unit and prevent gangs preying on vulnerable young people. Once they are in they don't believe there is a way out – which there is and we can help them. There are lots of people who can help and can enable them to change the lives. We are in schools, A&amp;E, youth clubs, martial arts and sports clubs. We have commissioned a lot. We can also help those who are on gangs by providing assistance and mentoring.</p> <p>Cllr Gledhill – have worked with police to go around car parks and other areas to discourage use of drugs and would be providing youth activity in Tilbury.</p>
<p>Q - As part of the Planning application at the Springhouse club in Corringham they are gifting a Police office is this something that is welcomed by Thurrock police, will you accept the offer, will you man the office if the plan goes through?</p>	<p>PFCC - we have arrangements in place to fund local officers with councils and we would far rather have officers than offices as we want our police out on patrol where they provide reassurance to the public. Police officers sat behind desks are not a good use of resources and we have spent a lot of money on technology like mobile first which enables officers to be in contact with control, see what tasks need doing and completing reports, upload and download information. Having an officer sitting behind a desk waiting for a crime that might happen is not the best use of resources.</p> <p>Ch/Insp Melton – agreed with the PFCC's remarks and added Police already have the fire station that they can call into for breaks etc if required.</p>

