

**Panel Members**  
**PFCC Roger Hirst**  
**Ch/Insp Dave Miles**  
**Group Manager Dave Barnard**  
**Cllr Godfrey Issacs**  
**DCI Dave Browning**

DPFCC Jane Gardner introduced panel members and asked PFCC Roger Hirst to give a brief introduction. He thanked the public for their continued hard work in keeping each other safe and abiding by lock down rules. He also paid tribute to the emergency services who had continued to provide an excellent service throughout the pandemic.

<p>Q – Police should head down First and Second Avenue on Canvey. The kids down there have been causing havoc for days and are being confrontational and aggressive.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Miles – the team are very aware of the issues in the area. In terms of ASB they do a lot of work with partners including working with schools when they go back in a week or two. Specifically, in 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue they ran Operation Elk which has had good results. They issued community protection warnings and reported an individual for a breach. Police also reported another for anti-social driving and one person has had their vehicle seized. In addition Covid FPNs were also issued. The Community Support Engagement Officer has looked at the reports in the last 7 days we have not have any further complaints from the public. Please do let police know if they start happening again.</p>
<p>Q - What are the upper and lower age limits for becoming a firefighter?</p>	<p>Dave Barnard - 17 is the lower level and there is no upper level. ECFRS are currently recruiting <a href="http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/recruitment">http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/recruitment</a></p>

<p>Q - I still am waiting for my rubbish bags to be collected, why are they not being taken?</p>	<p>Cllr Issacs – there should not be a reason why they are not being collected. Get in contact with your council and they will collect.  <a href="https://www.castlepoint.gov.uk/recycling/">https://www.castlepoint.gov.uk/recycling/</a></p>
<p>Q - Are there plans to have foot patrols at night in Castle Point?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Miles – we do conduct night patrols and well also have support operational command who will assist us. Officers do get out of the car and go out foot patrolling and engage with the public. It's important we are seen out on the streets. We publish this on our Facebook page but we also need to let people know who don't have Facebook and will use local newsletters.  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/EPCastlePoint/">https://www.facebook.com/EPCastlePoint/</a></p>
<p>Q – Are the current full time fire stations likely to become on call?</p>	<p>PFCC – definitely not.</p>
<p>Q - I have seen on social media that there is a white van going round stealing dogs. Is it true?</p>	<p>PFCC – dog thefts are really concerning as lockdown has meant more people are wanting dogs and this has put the price of dogs through the roof. We are currently running a survey about the perception of dog theft and would encourage people to complete it. Please also make sure you have your dog microchipped and registered with a vet and don't let your dog out of sight when walking.</p> <p>Survey link - <a href="https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/news/dog-theft-survey/">https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/news/dog-theft-survey/</a></p> <p>DCI – there has been an increase nationally especially in rural areas.</p>
<p>Q - What is being done to prevent persistent speeding? Can we get police to do speed traps and if so, what's the criteria?</p>	<p>PFCC – Speeding is a crime and kills more people than any other crime. Roads Policing work hard to conduct many operations across the county, so when the public criticise them, they need to understand the terrible impact speeding has on individuals and families. The ambition is to get the number of road deaths due to</p>

	<p>speeding down to zero. By reporting speeding to police they can build up a picture and target hotspots.</p> <p>Ch/Insp Miles advised that the CPT are also doing regular patrols in the area.</p>
<p>Q - What can be done about dog fouling in our area as it's on the increase?</p>	<p>Cllr Isaacs – we have dog waste bins all over the areas and we would encourage dog owners to pick up their dog waste. It is frustrating when the put dog waste bins in the community and yet people hang their dog waste bags in trees. You can order free dog bags through the council. The Environment Committee recommended the appointment of a litter warden for litter in general, dog waste and fly tipping, but this was held up due to Covid.</p>
<p>Q – What can be done around open drug dealing?</p> <p>Q - Why don't the Police respond to phone calls concerning drug dealing around Canvey Lake. And as a second question, why are the police allowing boy racers on motorbikes to disturb residents sleep, by using the road next to Morrison's as a race track.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Miles – we do try and respond to reports of drug dealing but often drug deals are fleeting acts and by the time police get there the perpetrators are gone. With Op Falcon police are gathering intelligence and have issued a number of warrants so far. Police are also using op repo where we have done 40 plus searches. He urged the public to keep feeding information to police so they can build up a picture of intelligence. Sometimes this results in covert operations so people may not be aware these are going on.</p>
<p>Q. - What can be done to stop Boy Racers on Roscommon Way? Is a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) an option and if not, what is the alternative?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Miles – this has been an issue for a number of years. When we hear of events taking place we work with partners to get dispersal orders in place, so can the public please let police know if they hear of operations. We also patrol as a hotspot area.</p> <p>Cllr Isaacs – spoke with police last year as this has been going on since Roscommon Way was built ten years ago. The council and police are trying to get a PSPO in place but this had proved a challenge legally, but he committed to continuing to try with Ch/Insp Miles assistance.</p>

<p>Q - What are the effects of part-night lighting on crime?</p>	<p>PFCC – there has been a lot of research on this and the trends are the same in areas where lighting is on all night and where it isn't. In special circumstances like repeated ASB police can request for lights to be left on all night, but usually ASB takes place in lit areas as this can encourage people to gather.</p> <p>The PFCC and police are not responsible for the decision on part night lighting which was implemented by Essex County Council and the Highways Authority. If residents feel the need to have the lighting on then residents need to lobby their local county councillors and take it to their county council.</p> <p>Ch/Insp – this hasn't made any difference with theft of motor vehicles, which is generally a crime that happens at night and again there is no discrepancy between areas that have part night lighting and those who don't.</p>
<p>Q - Is footage from road-facing doorbell CCTV used by Police and if so where should this be sent to?</p>	<p>Police do use door bell video and you can report and upload on the Essex police website <a href="https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/">https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/</a></p>
<p>Q – What are the emergency plans if Canvey Island needs to be evacuated</p>	<p>There had been quite a few questions on this and they will included as one in this answer.</p> <p>Dave Barnard – the F&amp;RS would assist with it. If the risk is a flood we have advance warning which we monitor, get our response in place so we are ready to roll out if needed. This would be hours in advance and we would assist local authorities and would also get national mutual aid from other fire and rescue services. The other reason for evacuation may be the Comah sites and ECFRS work closely with the 2 organisations ensuring they comply with legislation. Every plan we have in place mitigates the need to evacuate. Our teams have experienced and knowledgeable people who are among the best in the country.</p>

<p>Q Why has the police presence at Benfleet and Canvey been reduced? Both of those stations have been closed. We hardly see a police officer on the island. Only time is when we see about a dozen officers at Waterside farm stopping cars to check them.</p>	<p>PFCC – The number of officers has increased by over 400 countywide and we have doubled the size of community policing teams. We will have another 140 officers this year and expect more the year after. Also massively improved the accessibility of policing by improving the 101 system and online system and also put in place the ability to live chat. There are more police available than there has been since 2016. Crime has come down during the pandemic, but we will be in a good place to have visible presence once the restrictions ease.</p> <p>DCI Browning – we have seen the benefit of extra officers and are providing detectives into frontline teams and will also be seeing further investment in the future.</p> <p>Ch/Insp – we are seeing new recruits coming through. Canvey Police Station is not closed and it is fully operational as the LPT operate from there. It doesn't have a front counter.</p>
<p>Will Police cadets be available in the Castle Point area please?</p>	<p>We will pass this on to the relevant department at Essex Police.</p>
<p>Are part time firefighters an option</p>	<p>Dave Barnard - while it was not an option for full time firefighters but we could accommodate on call fire fighters depending on location.</p>
<p>Why are you adding 3000 more people to the risk on a flood cell with your new local plan. Your evacuation plan for Canvey Island is a stay put policy. How do you save lives of those living in ground floor properties. There are thousands of these on CI.</p>	<p>The PFCC is responsible for Police and the Fire &amp; Rescue Service and has no jurisdiction over planning. As Area Manager Dave Barnard stated in a previous question, flood warnings come days in advance and the rescue services and council have extensive plans to implement should this happen.</p>