

Tendring Public Online Meeting

Wednesday 17th March 2021

7pm-8pm

Present

PFCC Roger Hirst

Dep/PFCC Jane Gardner

CI Lily Benbow

ECFRS Group Manager Simon Dedman

Tendring DC Cllr Lynda McWilliams – Portfolio Holder for Partnerships

Anastasia Simpson - Assistant Director of Partnerships

DCI Lewis Basford/DS Leighton Hammett

The panel introduced themselves. PFCC Roger Hirst began by talking about the tragic case of Sarah Everard and said there was no place in society for violence against women. He extended his sympathy to Sarah's family and friends and said he would be looking harder to see how it was possible to improve how we women keep safe in public spaces. It is also important to lift the game in respect of supporting people who have been victims of sexual abuse and rape and get a better conviction rate. We are still living in a pandemic and a huge thank you should go to the public for their compliance with the rules. Also thanked the emergency services for their hard work throughout this time, despite having colleagues who are isolating.

Q - What can be done about motorcycles pulling wheelies and riding on green spaces putting pedestrians at risk?

Insp Richards – these off-road issues often comes in spates and police are working with the council and have gone to the areas and carried out joint patrolling but it is difficult to catch these people at it. Police did seize a moped in Jaywick this week for no insurance and no crash helmet. He asked that the public continue to report incidents through 101 or online so it was possible to build a picture of when and where the incidents were taking place.

<p>Q – There are young people hanging round Clacton Town Centre being a nuisance and causing ASB. What can be done?</p>	<p>Russ Cole – this is a huge issue and we have made a lot of investment in having a visible presence and learning who the repeat offenders are. We will be patrolling throughout the summer, using partners and CTV and will treat it as a hotspots. From a community safety and ASB side of things the council have recruited a former detective to lead up the ASB problems.</p> <p>Insp Richards – we have a dedicated Town Team which works solely in the town and Clacton has a public space protection order in place where repeat offenders can be made to leave if seen there.</p>
<p>Q - There has been a lot in social media about dog theft – what’s being done?</p>	<p>PFCC – during lockdown the market for pets has gone up and this has prompted criminals to steal and make a profit. In Essex dog thefts actually went down last year but a recent survey we carried out to understand the issue showed that people were hugely concerned about it and knew of people who had dogs stolen. Owners should look at ways to keep their dog safe such as microchipping and keeping your dog in sight at all times.</p> <p>DS Hamond – we are looking at OCGs who may be operating we will do everything we can to bring them to justice.</p>
<p>Q - Can we still request home safety visits during in the pandemic?</p>	<p>Simon Dedman ECFRS – the Fire & Rescue Service are attending homes and are doing more in the home. We also are doing a lot around water safety as many of our towns are close to the sea and with ‘staycations’ we need to educate the public to be safe.</p>
<p>Q - What is being done to prevent county lines from operating in the</p>	<p>DS Hammett – between Feb 20 – Feb 21 there has been a 30% decrease in gang violence. In 2020 EP concentrated on gangs and county lines and have a central team as well as local teams. We try different tactics such as taking drug dealer phones, looking at exploited children and we look at everything around the periphery so we can get longer sentences for the offenders. We are really keen to learn more about drug dealing so please do feed in information as you are our eyes and ears.</p>
<p>Q - Is it true Harwich police station will close and police will share the fire station?</p>	<p>PFCC – Harwich police station is completely dilapidated and we are looking to invest in Dovercourt fire station so police and fire can share estate, and we are taking that forward over the next few months.</p>

<p>Q - Are we allowed to visit our beach hut in the pandemic if we are local?</p>	<p>PC Latchford – local beach hut owners can use their beach hut for recreational purposes and as the legislation changes those from outside the district can use theirs.</p>
<p>Q - How many police officers will Essex Police have by April 2023 with the government's 20,000?</p>	<p>PFCC by 2022 we should have over 700 extra officers and while we haven't set the budget for 2022/23 'but should be another 150 more which will be the biggest and strongest force that Essex has ever been. The investment in technology has also allowed officers to spend longer on patrol.</p>
<p>Q – There are lots of low level crime and speeding in our villages – do the police have the resources to deal with these.</p>	<p>Insp Richards – if we take speeding there are multi layers of police and partners who assist us so we can pull on other resources, such as community speedwatch, specials and the Operational Support Group. This means that we have</p>
<p>Q - Are fire cadets still going and how do I join?</p>	<p>The fire and rescue service are recruiting cadets and you can find more out here: http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Community_Development/Fire_Cadets/</p>
<p>Q - What work is being done to recruit specials?</p>	<p>PFCC - We have put a lot of work into recruitment and making the role more attractive. Specials can now go into specialist roles as well as regular beat. We have had 36 parishes sign up to sponsor specials. We also encourage businesses to allow staff to have time off to do the role much like army reserves get. We now have well over 500 specials and are second only to the Met. This is really exciting and shows what a great county we are. We wait to grow and he would like to see a couple of hundred more Insp Richards – we work closely with Specials and it works really well and we are really keen to get more.</p>
<p>Q - A lot of the coastal paths can be heaped with sand and stones making it d</p>	<p>Lynda McWilliams - we do work hard with this but sometimes this means we will clear one day only to find there is more the next day. Clacton and Holland-on-sea get a this a lot and we have put a lot of investment into this as we rely on our tourist industry and we want to encourage them to come here and this is part of our summer plan investment.</p>

Q - Some smaller police stations being closed and what is the rationale?

PFCC – crime has been coming down and the need for lots of small stations has reduced. Also, the way people report crime has changed as people now use the internet and phone. We also want police out on patrol not sat behind desks. The nature of crime has also changed with more online crime taking place. We are still conscious there are people who don't use technology so we have a duty to them and have started to open a number of hubs where services share a location and people can drop in.