



Panel Members
PFCC Roger Hirst
T/Ch/Insp Colin Cox
Group Manager Terry Povey
Cllr Wendy Schmitt
Ch/Insp Lewis Basford/ D/Supt Leighton Hammett

Advance Questions

<p>Q – We often have speeding through our village. How can we get police to carry out speed checks?</p> <p>Q - How do we do something about speeding on country roads? Intolerant drivers are becoming very common.</p>	<p>It is best to speak to your town or parish councils as we have a community officer who can liaise with them and target areas. PCSOs are trained on specialist equipment and will go out and do a number of checks and see how can escalate. Specials are also trained to then go out and do the enforcement activity. Speed Watch is also active in the district and once lockdown eases we can bring them back out and work with police. If it persist we can work with SERP to look at traffic calming measures.</p>
<p>Q – With the bad weather it has caused some deep potholes in roads, which is really dangerous in places and only a matter of time before there's a serious accident. Who is responsible and who do we report to?</p>	<p>Go onto the Essex County Council website and report there https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/report-pothole.aspx. If it is one that is seriously dangerous then contact your local councillor who will escalate it.</p>

<p>Q - Do you have feedback from the public in respect to increased visibility of Police in their area and how can Police presence be requested for targeted patrols by residents?</p>	<p>If there is an ongoing issue such as burglaries, anti-social behaviour or drug dealing, please report all incidents to police as this will enable them to build intelligence and enable resources to be targeted to repeat problem areas. By working with the community safety partnership, police are able to pull on a range of resources to help with local problems. You can report online at https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/ or call 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers https://crimestoppers-uk.org.</p>
<p>Q Is there consideration for developing an App people can use for reporting via 101. People might find it easier.</p>	<p>There are no plans at present but this could change going forwards as technology advances.</p>
<p>Q The fire service did some great work in the recent heavy rain and flooding the district experienced last week. When the fire service have a large number of calls to incidents like flooding how do they cover the usual emergency requests?</p>	<p>Terry Povey - We do get the early warning from the met office so start looking at the assets we have such as off road vehicles, and boats and we put out social media warning people to keep safe. Once those calls start coming through we can filter down calls but if we get a busy period, we send out officers rather than a pump appliance. We also have key stations where we make sure we have fire appliance at that station. So of the 2 appliances go from Braintree we will bring another fire appliance it. We have to be able to respond to other emergencies like fires etc. Would also encourage people if they are on a flood plane then make a grab bag which has things like mobile phone and insurance details.</p>
<p>Q Do Essex Police run knife amnesty programmes?</p>	<p>Yes, all the police stations have a knife amnesty bin where they can put the knives and the people who run it will recycle the metal and use the money to help children who are vulnerable and will work with them to divert them away do we are not only taking weapons of the street we are helping people. The new offensive weapons act is coming into effect in March things like knuckle dusters etc will become illegal to have in</p>

	<p>their home. We have been promoting this in Essex through the media, so we are encouraging people to come and use the amnesty bins. This is a really good power as people have these weapons in their home with an intent to use them and we can now prosecute them. Firearms are also under this act and if you are unsure you can speak to police or go to the government website.</p>
<p>Q Are police seeing more Covid breaches in this lockdown than it did in the last two? Q In what way have you seen crime and criminals evolve during the Coronavirus crisis, and what steps has Essex Police taken to combat this?</p>	<p>There has been more Covid fines issued this time around, although the vast majority are obeying lockdown rules, some people are struggling.</p> <p>Police have seen an increase in online fraud and scams during the pandemic and people should regularly check the Action Fraud online website.</p>
<p>Q What plans do you have to increase action on rural crime and deterring criminals who operate and exploit places outside of our towns and main populous areas?</p>	<p>Rural crime is a big priority for the office and police we have a rural engagement team which tackles illegal travellers, wildlife crime, hare coursing. It has been so successful we have expanded the team. Operations like OP Galileo has targeted hare coursing and is being quite successful. There is a lot going on and there will be more to be done. We need to focus on how we deal with rural crime for instance around industrial grade fly tipping. There is now a national fly tipping forum which shares best practice and cross border intelligence.</p>
<p>Q Have reported drug dealing in my local park on several occasions but never see any police on foot dealing with this and still taking place, I feel that I am wasting my time reporting this, told them where and times the dealers dealing in broad daylight it's disgusting?</p>	<p>Targeting gangs is a priority for Essex Police we go out and target county lines, taking out the people running it right down to those who are victims of exploitation and look to prosecute those responsible. The Braintree policing team is one of the most proactive in the county. Braintree when you compare to others in the county Braintree doesn't have the same level of gangs as say Colchester or Southend. If people have information they must report it and there are a variety of ways such as 101 do it online, Crimestoppers and while people may</p>

	<p>not see action the intelligence will form part of a greater network. Stop and search has also increased and resulted in positive detections and we also work with the CSP and Council to shut people down in the houses where they are operating.</p>
<p>Q What are Essex Police doing in relation to organised gangs and increase in dog theft, so upsetting for owners?</p>	<p>Impact is really huge in families where dogs are taken. We work with vets, agencies, microchip to get them back. Sometimes it will be a one off theft bit if it's an OCG we will coordinate a response. When taking the dogs out keep them on a lead or always in sight. If dogs have been stolen the public will share images which is also really helpful.</p>
<p>Q Throughout weekends residents in Finchingfield and Great Bardfield and surrounding area are inundated with motorbikes, some of which are incredibly loud and are surely breaking noise rules. What kind of action can be taken as it makes residents life a misery especially in the summer.</p>	<p>The fire service take their fire bikes and go to hot spot areas and make them aware of the impact this has, and share bike safety advice. The Police have done operations throughout the summer and the roads policing teams go out with the fire service to engage. They also have the equipment that can measure noise and can educate on the impact this has on residents and communities.</p>