



**Brentwood Public Online Meeting
Thursday 22nd October 2020
6.45pm-8pm**

Panel Members

PFCC Roger Hirst

DPFCC Jane Gardner

Justin Benson-Ryal

Supt Claire Talbot

Ch/Insp Antony Alcock

Daniel Cannon – Community Safety Manager

Tracey Lilley – Director, Housing & Enforcement

Chris Hossack – Leader of the Council & CSP Chair

Maria Pearson – Councillor

Overview from PFCC Roger Hirst – thanked the audience and the panel members for joining the conversation. Commended the public and emergency services for all they have done throughout the pandemic. Essex has behaved exemplarily and he was hopeful the new tier regulations seemed to be working.

<p>Q Fly-tipping is a real issue in the district. Who should this be reported to and what can be done both to prevent it happening in the first place and prosecute the perpetrators?</p>	<p>Every day in the Brentwood area there are on average 3 fly-tips. They are usually carried out in the quiet rural areas and can vary from 200+ tyres to a tipper-load of builders' rubble.</p> <p>As well as being a blight on the environment it costs Brentwood ratepayers in excess of £50,000 per annum for collection and disposal. The police are also working with the council to help bring perpetrators to justice.</p> <p>People also need to be wary about when they are having work done or clearance firms and make sure they have the necessary waste carrier license. Also encouraged people to report flytipping, taking number plates and vehicles etc.</p>
<p>Q What advice would the fire service give to people who will be having fire work displays at home this year?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable, and ensure it finishes before 11pm (12pm on Nov 5th)• Only buy fireworks which carry the CE mark, keep them in a closed box and use them one at a time• Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary• Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back• Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never return to a firework once it has been lit • Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them • Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators • Don't build bonfires, they can spread out of control very quickly • Always supervise children around fireworks
<p>Q I notice both the Fire Service and Police are actively recruiting. Has Covid 19 had an impact on recruitment or is it still on track?</p>	<p>We are on target for 3,369 Police Officers and 2,295 staff by the end of March 2021, which will be an eight year high for Essex Police. WE also have our wonderful volunteers which includes our Specials who are now the second largest in the country</p> <p>The Wholetime recruitment campaign has not been delayed due to COVID-19 and not caused any delays to our workforce or recruitment plans for 2020 and 2021 to date. We have been able to amend our procedures and risk assessed at each stage to ensure each stage of assessment has been carried out safely.</p>
<p>Q Electric scooters are becoming more and more popular. I've been noticing a lot of teenagers and adults using them with no disregard to road safety or pedestrians. Today I saw a man with a young child on the back. Do the Services and the Commissioner agree that stricter legislation should be brought in sooner rather than later such as compulsory wearing of helmets and speed controls?</p>	<p>Electric scooters are classed as a motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Act and require insurance and a driving licence to be used on the roads.</p> <p>You are also not allowed to ride them on pavements and footpaths or in parks. Failure to have these may result in the scooter being seized, a fine and points on your licence.</p> <p>As a motor vehicle, the Road Traffic Act also provides powers to police for offences such as drug and drink driving.</p>

<p>Q Halloween falls on a Saturday this year. With Covid restrictions in place do police and councils anticipate an increase in ASB and if so what measures are they putting in place?</p>	<p>What we do well in Brentwood is the enforcement teams works well with police and does joint patrols and step in after the police do the heavy lifting. There is a joint plan in place to cover both Friday and Saturday with Police, council enforcement and community officers as well as extra resources available from the police response team. We have also put in some advance work with the children and young people officers.</p> <p>Also be mindful about calling on people who are shielding and are wary of social contact.</p>
<p>Q – 101 service has been an issue for years with long wait times for callers. Is this being invested in and is it improving?</p>	<p>This is a key service from the police and has had issues. 4 years ago the service had people waiting for hours. We've invested in more people and better technology and also invested a lot in the online system which includes the Live Chat facility, and you can report on your smart phone which is much quicker and frees up the 101 service for those who can't use computers or smart phones.</p>
<p>Q – is there a way the public can upload images of ring door bell footage of suspicious callers to the police online reporting system?</p>	<p>These are really good pieces of kit and have clear images. Police are running a trial programme to see how this can work. Once we have the results we will know the best way to handle the footage. It is a work in progress but something the PFCC fully supports.</p>
<p>Q What are police doing about people getting discriminated against for not wearing masks because they are exempt?</p>	<p>For people who have protected characteristics and can't wear masks and who are subsequently abused – this constitutes a hate crime. These are taken seriously and are investigated by the community policing team. Police really encourage reporting because they need to know about it in order to do something.</p>
<p>Q – It's been a year since the terrible tragedy of the 39 Vietnamese victims found dead in the lorry at Grays. Did the officers who attended the incident receive support.</p>	<p>The officer received continued support following the incident and will be offered it again as the one-year anniversary can be a trigger. Officers</p>

	<p>get a range of support and that includes everyone involved from call handlers and family liaison officers.</p> <p>Fire and Rescue were also present at the scene and have been offered support. It was a truly horrific event and over 500 people were involved.</p> <p>Also set up a multi agency team to look at the events leading up to the tragedy and trying to ensure nothing like that ever occurs again. A lot of work is being done.</p>
<p>Q Drug Dealing - How do police respond to reports of drug dealing as I see it happening quite a bit and have reported it a few times, but no officers seem to attend. What's the point in reporting if nothing is being done?</p>	<p>If a report comes in about a single drug deal this will not be prioritised as it's unlikely we'll catch people in the act. However it is really important these are reported as we can build up intelligence of drug activity and do work around it. This can be covert so people may not realise work is being done. We are executing drug warrants week in week out and the investment has been huge. Last year we had a great result where a lot of people will put away for a long time. You can also use Crimestoppers if you prefer to remain anonymous. We also do a lot of work around ASB and council tenants with the community safety partnership and council colleagues.</p>