PFCC Maldon Public Meeting

Monday 9th October

7pm-8pm

Panel Members

Roger Hirst - PFCC

Ch Insp Paul Ballard

Insp Sam Girdlestone

Spencer Clarke CSP

Group Manager Craig McLellan ECFRS

**RH-** Introduction

Want to hear what your concerns, be that crime disorder, hazards, risks and fires or border aspect. PFCC role is to be your representative to police and fire and rescue services and make sure your voices are heard. We are making heavy investments into the policing – crime was rising. We now have 905 more officers to the previous year, expansion from the 2,755 previous. More than it has ever been in our 184-year history. That means more police also in Maldon District.

**Questions from the audience:**

**Q- Are the police in contact with the public?**

**RH-** That is what we intend to do and why we have the meetings. We want to let the public have their say about getting crime down, and police can respond with targeted interventions.

**Q- People don’t have a lot of faith in the police. People who can report an incident, don’t report it, because they think there’s no point as they will be no response. Why is this?**

**RH-** It is vital that people report crime so police can allocate resources and respond to patterns of crime effectively. Over the last five years the gap between what incidents is reported and what happens has narrowed substantially according to the HMICFRS inspection.

**Q- What is the PFCC and police view where councils have imposed a 20mph limit in their district?**

**RH-** We do support 20-mile hour limits for extreme roads outside schools, residential traffic areas and busy areas etc. Pedestrians are a big chunk of the people that get hurt. We have 20-mile hour advisory zones where there is not much pedestrian activity but where there is still guidance for cars to travel at that limit.

**Ch Insp PB-** We do carry out speed enforcement operations regularly. We have colleagues within district councils who are trained to do speed enforcement as well with TruCam. We regularly share information on areas which there may be speeding so reporting is really important.

Q - I want to say thank you because you have already done that, and I have seen work the council have done from this. The roads I am talking about are currently at 30-miles per hour. If it were to be reduced to 20-miles per hour, then how would this be done?

**Ch Insp PB-** If the speed limit is 20-miles per hour and that is the legal limit for that road then yes that is what will be enforced.

**Q - The town council have regular meetings regarding issues with speeding and what actions could be done to reduce it from happening.**

**SC CSP-** We also have environment meetings as the Community Safety Partnership. There will be stats from the protection officers showing speeding down Market Hill and the high street over 20-miles an hour. The council, police, or protection officers advise them on where we would like them to go and where we think there are speed hotspots.

**RH-** Vital we tackle speed hotspot areas and areas people can get hurt. 20-miles an hour is positive as a collision creates much less harm or injury then a 30-mile and hour limit would.

**Q- My concern is when we report a crime we don’t get a response back from police. Why is that?**

**Ch Insp PB-** is a challenge for the police to provide feedback to every single member of the public that gives information. Essex police receive up to 1500 to 1800 calls a day, which doesn’t include emails and the contact of our website etc.

This information has been acted on where two warrants have been executed and that specific place has been highlighted. I share your frustration in relation to the activity on going. From a police perspective, we are in a position where we enforce the law. We investigate on the half of crown; they then go to court and receive their punishment. With this information we can now react on further.

**RH-** It can take a long time for a case to go to court.

**Q- Previously raised issue of pavement parking why is nothing being done?**

**RH-** I have noted down the places that you have said, and we can take it offline, and we can have a look at these matters further. If people are being forced onto the wrong side of the road over a continuous white line that is clearly a risk and that does need dealing with. We will pick up on this matter and see what we can do.

**SC CSP-** Chief Inspector Ballard’s team have been going round many of the schools since we’ve had the town team in place. They have been working with schools through a project about trying to educate and influence parents and educate children. We will take information back to the parking partnership and inform them that issues like this are clearly unacceptable.

**Q- It’s about the schools in the afternoon, people are speeding, and no one walks anymore as cars are all accessible. Could we give leaflets out to parents and students or educate schools in assemblies?**

**CM ESFRS-** We carry leaflets out on frontline appliances. I will speak to the school’s team to make sure to make sure the message is getting across. There is a lot more vehicles on the roads these days, it’s county wide sadly but it is something that we do highlight whenever we possibly can.

**RH-** was a member of community speed watch as have two schools end of the road. The number of positives massively outweighs the negatives. Putting on my hi vis on and walking particularly near the primary school makes a massive difference outside the school.

**Q- I attended a meeting at Maldon regarding parking and traffic regulation outside London. One of the things the patrol is trying to get is agreement of authority for councils to issue tickets for pavement parkers, so the responsibility is not with police. How would police feel if Maldon district council picked up the responsibility.**

**RH-** Pavement parking is not illegal in this county unless cars are causing obstruction. We would need the highways authority to pass regulation. If enforced, having councils deal with situations like this wouldn’t be a bad idea.

**SC CSP-** I could probably get an update from the parking partnership manager on Thursday night regarding this matter and I can feed that back.

**Q- All across Essex, key fire stations i.e., Maldon, Chelmsford, Colchester, Grays, Harlow and Southend should have two appliances available 24hrs a day. They are regularly operating a single appliance capacity as the second being unavailable. How can this be sorted?**

**RH-** It is a very effective model. We don’t have two pumps sitting waiting to go out. We have key stations and the dynamic employment model which means that we will have cover across the county for people at risk. Essex is nowhere near less safe evidence shows.

**CM ECFRS-** I want to talk about a couple of points regarding the two pump stations, I think it’s fair to say that the model is working well. Want to move our appliances around the core strategic stations so we can attend as many incidences as we can, that’s why we are making movements now. We don’t need to have two pumps sitting in the station at one time, we need that amount of wholetime appliances for the county to meet our response standards.

**Q- why is there nothing about fire services within the police and crime plan?**

**RH-** There are two separate reports. There is a police and crime plan and a fire and rescue plan.

**Q- As many of the Maldon District council staff are now not working from the offices and home working instead, the car park the large carpark is quite empty. Most of the danger on London Road where collisions can happen is caused by the parents of children from St Francis school particularly. Do you reckon they could be allocated an area of the Maldon district council car park as it isn’t used much nowadays so the blocking on London Road doesn’t happen?**

**SC CSP-** I’ll certainly pass that question forward. I am happy to do that and have a look into what can be done in result of this.

**Q- Regarding hare coursing is there a code the public should use when reporting it?**

**RH-** the code is Op Galileo, which has been very successful.

**Q- Is there more of a silent way of police attending a hare coursing as it alerts the suspects?**

**Ch Insp PB-** Police respond to incidents with a silent approach where applicable however have to physically get there so if driving fast will have to employ appropriate sirens/lights to comply with safety measures.

**Q- There was a drugs raid on a local drug dealer Monday morning, but nothing was found. The dealer is selling drugs to children as they get off buses in the afternoon. The response among the community has been “It is ok as we know of the gentleman from Tollesbury.” Can we do something to stop dealing to kids?**

**Ch Insp PB-** Part of our strategy from a policing perspective is the ‘recover’ phase. It is hard to resolve the issue straight away but can build up a big picture that provides sufficient information for further action. Can’t always use intelligence from the community in court for criminal proceedings. Drugs possession is something that police deal with. There has been rise in the number of people that have been convicted the last 12 months for these offences. If the public persevere with police and share intelligence it will be followed up on.

**RH-** The Violence and Vulnerability Unit has longer term solution to these issues. If want to break the cycle of drugs, gangs etc must give them better opportunities. They work with young people aged 12–27. They are the age group that get preyed on by gangs. We also fund skills conventions, drama groups etc. Drug driven homicide in Essex is down by 70% since we started the violence and vulnerability unit. Our target originally was 25%.

**Q- To report something via Essex police, it takes around 25-30 mins. It is very off putting and quite time consuming. I believe if filing a report was a lot easier, more reports would be made.**

**RH-** Yes, we can investigate improving our website to make this easier for people.

**Q- What about police resources in rural districts as not many officers in Maldon. Reported an incident, priority response meaning the police should turn up within 60 minutes however in my case it was 72 hours. Very concerned about how not seeing many of these officers within our district.**

**RH-** Within the 480 additional police within local policing teams, about 48 of those are here in Maldon. If you would like to give us more details afterwards regarding the issue, Chief Inspector can investigate.

**Q- District councils and borough councils across the region and across the country are really strapped funding wise. Do you think the work you are doing with engaging councils means you’re struggling in terms of funding activities etc.**

**RH-** The councils are important, the violence and vulnerability partnership representatives and safer rescue partnership help feed through the prevention activity feedback. We’re spending around 5 million over the next couple of years with councils with most matching the funding.

**Q- The question really was if you’re recognising a difficulty within councils supporting the work you’re doing?**

**RH-** They don’t do everything with us in terms of activities we fund. We do a lot with the third sector as well; youth work is very successful and is something we highly fund in.

**SP CSP-** I am the Essex representative so I see and feed out information to other Essex areas. The community safety partnership unit put money in the safer streets fund and we were very successful in and this and last financial year we will be addressing several issues across Maldon District.

**FINISH**