

WAVERLEY CRIME SUMMIT – 11 MARCH 2014 – EVENT REPORT

The Event

The Waverley Crime Summit was held at the Farnham Maltings on 11 March 2014. The event format comprised of 3 presentations with questions and answers and networking opportunities with a stand from the Waverley Community Safety Partnership before and after the main presentation session.

Overall approximately 100 residents attended, slightly about the 80 who had registered to attend. In addition there were a number of partners and journalists.

The event was facilitated by the Deputy PCC, Jeff Harris. The PCC, Kevin Hurley, Councillor Carole King and Chief Inspector Tom Budd presented.

The event organisation was co-ordinated by the Office of the PCC with support from Eve Bartlett and colleagues and Chief Inspector Tom Budd and Inspector Rachel Griffiths.

The event cost a total of approx. £570, covering the cost of the venue, catering and promotional mail-out.

Questions and Themes

There were a wide variety of questions raised by the residents attending. A full report is attached. The questions asked and issues raised included:

- How police volunteers and residents work with Surrey Police to assist in tackling crime and ensuring road safety
- Policing of rape cases and officer awareness
- Enforcement of anti-social behaviour issues such as litter
- Junior Citizen Scheme
- Lack of police station coverage in Farnham and Waverley
- Late night licensing
- How detection rates can be improved
- The role of the PCC
- Parking issues in the borough

The neighbourhood inspector and community safety manager were both in attendance so will take forward local issues raised that weren't dealt with during the evening. The Deputy PCC took away actions to look at the Junior Citizen Scheme.

Learning Points

Overall feedback from those residents and partners attending as well as those involved in presenting and running the event was very positive. The venue worked well, although was at capacity, and attendance was good.

Some points of learning to take into account for future events were:

- Marketing and promotion of the event to ensure covering for all groups of residents
- Possibly a venue with a larger capacity in future
- Rotate the venue around other areas in Waverley, such as Godalming, Haslemere and Cranleigh
- Potential to arrange more marketplace stalls from other partners/ volunteer groups

Waverley Crime Summit – 11th March – Q&A Session

A comment raised prior to the Summit starting was that it wasn't advertised very well. It was advertised in the Farnham Herald but not everyone looks at that. Even then there was only a web address and no telephone number to call to book tickets. Many elderly people do not have a computer/internet. The lady who raised the issue had had to attend the local council offices to ask them to register her online.

Q1. What plans are there to recruit more volunteers?

A1. DPCC – Surrey Police currently has 100 police volunteers, 70 Independent Custody Visitors, 180 Special Constables and work with a number of volunteers from Surrey Appropriate Adult Volunteer Service (SAAVS). But we want more. We are working with the Safer Waverley Partnership to look into future opportunities.

PCC – if anyone is interested in volunteering then my office will be able to help put you in touch with the Surrey Police Volunteers Scheme Manager who can discuss voluntary roles.

Q2. I note the focus on domestic violence/domestic abuse – an increase of 53 cases reported – but what about rape. This is a hidden crime with low reporting rates. What is being done to educate and train officers?

A2. DPCC - We record 12500 cases of rape across the county which is half the number of what we should have according to Government. There is a lot to do in terms of partnership working and training.

PCC – the good news is that reports are increasing which is a direct result of the investment in raising the awareness and victims feeling more confident to report. Rape is difficult to prosecute as the cases can be quite complex. Surrey has reviewed its approaches and monitoring processes. A study has been done to ensure that the police forces are recording statistics correctly.

Q3. I am a volunteer with the Surrey Youth Support Service and I am pleased to see that a Victim Care Board has been established. Part of our role is to attend intervention at police stations which is a new process – does the PCC feel that intervention is going the right way?

A3. DPCC – there has been a substantial reduction in reoffending amongst young people. The new process is going very well and better than we thought. We will be investing heavily in this next year.

PCC – we have the lowest number of young people in custody in Surrey as a result of the intervention work which is excellent. The PCC then went on to give an example of the memory box project which is on-going at St Peters Hospital Paediatric Unit and of the Keep-Out Diversion Scheme which is being run by inmates at Surrey prisons.

Chief Inspector (CI) Tom Budd – Thanks go to the Youth Support Service for the work they do of keeping young people out of the criminal justice system.

DPCC – a new project for restoring war memorials through community payback will be starting shortly.

Cllr Carole King – Waverley hold Community Action Days which help young people from going down the wrong path.

Q4. I am a former Community Speedwatch coordinator and I am concerned that Speedwatch has lost its momentum. I am aware that there are problems with the computer software. What can CI Budd do to put this right? We need to also recruit more volunteers.

A4. CI Budd – I wholly support Community Speedwatch – it is a valuable asset which aids casualty reduction. I am aware of the software problem. There will be a renewed emphasis for Community Speedwatch when the new Community Safety Teams come in. PCSOs will also be multi-skilled so all of them will be trained on how to use the equipment. They will be able to offer help, guidance and support. Bear with us, it will all be sorted out.

PCC – the PCC explained what Speedwatch was. His vision was that he wanted to put more behind it as there was no reason why the evidence collected by the volunteers couldn't be used to moderate the drivers' behaviour. I want to increase enforcement.

Q5. I am representing the Waverley Tenants' Panel – what is the follow-up following the execution of a drugs warrant on a property? Would caution/arrests take place?

A5. CI Budd – warrants are executed regularly when intelligence has been received. Arrests and charges may follow the execution of a drugs warrant. When a warrant has been carried out the local PCSOs will visit the local community to explain what has happened and offer reassurance.

Q6. Litter is a problem in Waverley – when is enforcement coming here?

A6. PCC - The pilot is taking place in Reigate and Banstead. If it is successful then it will be the decision of Waverley BC whether they adopt it.

Cllr King – there are issues with fly tipping in the borough. Gathering evidence and taking legal action is difficult. We are looking at new ways of how we can tackle the problem. We will see how Reigate gets on with the enforcement pilot.

Q7. Is Junior Citizen coming back?

A7. DPCC – Junior Citizen works – it is our ambition to have it all over the county and in every school in Waverley.

Q8. I want to thank the local neighbourhood team especially Chris in Farnham – it is reassuring to see uniformed officers walking the streets. It is sad that Waverley has no police station at all anymore. There are parking problems in the town centre – is it worth approaching the Council to work in partnership at issuing tickets to get some revenue back into the police?

A8. PCC – we are seizing more criminal assets to pay for more police officers. I inherited the plans for police station closures and the positive result is that the Force has been able to recruit 200+ constables. The police now work out of Waverley BC offices in Godalming and have a police post at Cranleigh Leisure Centre. Policing is delivered differently but effectively.

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With regards to parking I have spoken to the Chief Constable and Leader of Reigate and Banstead BC in relation to the enforcement pilot to look into the re-delegation of parking enforcement powers to officers/PCSOs and to give some low level police powers to the council enforcement officers.

CI Budd – before Farnham Police Station was closed we were only receiving approximately six visits to the front counter each day. We still have a dedicated team and they work out of Farnham Fire Station. The increase in establishment of 200 officers is significant.

DPCC – since the PCC arrived he halted the sale of the remaining stations and in reviewing the process has hopefully gained an extra £1m in sales.

Q9. Issues with late night licensing – a recent application for 24 hour licensing was rejected. Also we would like to see some stability in neighbourhood team personnel.

A9. CI Budd – I am not aware of the 24 hour license application – I will speak to you afterwards to get some more information. Ideally I would like to maintain the consistency of my team but it is important for me to look at performance. I want the best possible team for the area and sometimes after monitoring data and performance I will make some changes. These changes are for the good of the community.

Q10. The police rely on the local residents to report information. I reported an incident and was told to go to my local station. My local station would have been Farnham and I didn't want to travel to Godalming so was advised to visit the mobile police station when it next visited Farnham. The mobile police station was too small and I had to discuss the incident with other residents within ear shot - there was no privacy. I wouldn't want to have to report something more serious in this way.

A10. PCC – the mobile police station is used all over the county and incidents should be dealt with as sensitively as possible – I am sorry this didn't happen on this occasion. Serious issues wouldn't be dealt with in this way – the victim would be visited by an officer.

Q11. The police are good with dealing with preventative measures but I have concerns about the detection rates. How could the Force improve these rates when there is no money?

A10. PCC – detection rates are not necessarily a good indicator of police performance. The Force no longer takes other incidents into consideration when dealing with offenders - which is one of the reasons why the detection rate has reduced.

The PCC explained how a burglary would be detected.

Q12. What is the conviction rate on the 14% detection?

A12. PCC – I am not sure but not all will go to court as there are other ways of disposal.

Q13. PCCs have now been in office for 16 months. Will the role be reviewed at any time to see if they have been effective? I am supportive of anything that will make Surrey better.

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A13. Who knows? There has been no opportunity for the public to engage like this before. It is up to you to decide – is this effective or not? I don't know what will happen in the future. The Conservatives are wedded to PCCs as it was their idea. Labour has 14 PCCs across the country.

Q14. Waverley BC has been breaking the law for years. Councillors don't hold the Council to account. They broke the law on a £60m project.

A14. DPCC – let's talk outside of the meeting.

Q15. Does the PCC still have a part time job in the middle-east?

A15. PCC – I served as an Army Reservist in Iraq in 2003 and returned a second time as an Assistant Chief Constable to write the strategic policing plan for the Iraqi police – those are the only times I have worked in the middle-east.

Q16. I am concerned about parking on the Upper Hale Road especially outside the school. Every morning and afternoon during school pick up time cars are parking dangerously. Also training course take place at the bungalows and the road is like a car park.

A16. CI Budd – this is a borough wide problem. Local officers are working with all local schools who are sending messages to parents to park responsibly. This is an on-going piece of work.