

Epsom and Ewell Crime Summit – 2nd November – Q&A Session

Q1. I was the victim of an unprovoked attack and subsequent threats. When reported to the police they were of no help at all

A1: Insp. Craig Knight – would be willing to talk outside of the meeting to discuss the steps that were taken as part of the investigation. The school where the alleged offender was a pupil was briefed after the incident

Q2. Is there any pattern to house burglary?

A2: Insp. Craig Knight – There are a number of MOs (Modus Operandi) – typical ones are smashing a rear door or window or car key burglary where the offender uses something to grab the keys through the letterbox when they are kept in plain view near the front door. There is also an issue with Asian gold which is a national issue

Deputy PCC – encouraged all home owners to register with Immobilise which is a useful way of registering all property/SelectaDNA for property marking and becoming part of Neighbourhood Watch

Insp. Craig Knight – told attendees to contact their local neighbourhood for advice about SelectaDNA kits

Q3. What is meant by zero tolerance? How would you deal with tackling cycling on the pavement?

A3: PCC – Zero tolerance means not ignoring things/it is the intention to change mind set. Enforcement changes behaviours.

Q4. Is the £126k in forfeitures cost effective? Why can't more hours be dedicated to vehicle checks?

A: PCC – not sure how many officers were involved in the forfeitures but supportive of more seizures – people need to know that crime doesn't pay and criminals won't get away with it.

Insp. Knight – there may be another vehicle check operation before Christmas

Q5. According to Police.uk crime statistics do not seem to be improving, month by month they are on the rise especially in relation to anti-social behaviour. The local officers can't support the night time economy in the borough. Officers do a good job but with bad resources – we need more boots on the ground. There needs to be more correlation between police/local authority – enforcement/planning and environmental health. The local police panels need to be 'beefed up' – would like to see more police resource there and possibly the PCC at one of them.

A5: Supt. Matt Goodridge said that he could explain more about the statistics on police.uk outside the meeting. Chief Executive Frances Rutter explained that she was going to go out on attachment with Insp. Knight on a Friday evening in the future to get a personal perspective of Epsom town centre's night time economy

Q6: Licensed premises don't need to be open so late!

Q7: Local Neighbourhood Watch are very effective and use a good communication system of keeping people informed of local incidents via the Active Citizen Database. PCSOs are actively

recruiting new members for Neighbourhood Watch and it would be great to get a coordinator on each street especially in the North of the borough. There is tremendous scope to do more.

Q8. A number of local people don't know who their local NSO/PCSOs are. A number of elderly people don't have access to a computer so it would be good to get this information in another format e.g. a regular newsletter posted through each house.

A8: Chief Executive Rutter suggested that this information could be included in the borough newsletter which is distributed regularly to each household.

Deputies PCC – the local Neighbourhood Watch also produce a newsletter

Q9. Surrey works well with a 'softly softly' approach, why zero tolerance?

A9: PCC – Softly softly clearly doesn't work and we have heard many examples this afternoon of why not. Enforcement changes behaviours. A new enforcement pilot is being rolled out in Reigate and Banstead and Spelthorne which should change the way some matters are dealt with in the future

Q10. There are not enough people to carry out enforcement – how are you going to do it?

A10: PCC – we will not give up. We will break down silos of work and work collectively. Long terms plans are to be released in the coming months.

Q11. A lot of people don't complain, e.g. about noisy neighbours/anti-social behaviour as it gets recorded and then if and when you come to sell your house you can't. This is a big issue for residents.

Q12. A recent news story has been released about an influx of migrants into our country in the coming months – are there any plans on how the Force will deal with the issues that this could bring?

A12: PCC – we regularly review the landscape in this area and some migrants add value to the local area. I have recently engaged the Home Office, Minister for Justice to get access to fingerprint databases in Europe. Both Surrey and Sussex are working jointly to get involved in this matter

