

Tandridge Crime Summit – 3 November 2015

Public Questions

Q: Not lost any officers yet, but set to lose 500 over coming years. Will these come from back office functions? What will the impact be on the Force?

A: Could be 500. At moment the Chief Constable and her team are revamping local policing: the PIYN project. Fact is we're facing a £15-20m budget gap over coming years. £1m equates to 23 officers. So far we have managed the cuts by reducing back office functions, developing the roles of Neighbourhood officers, and collaborating services with other Forces. Currently we are looking to expand this with other emergency services, around contact centres, for instance.

Q: Last year we were given a "yes/no" form regarding paying an extra £1 a week for our police service. What happened to this?

A: Wanted to have an honest conversation with the public about the budget gap. We asked if people would be prepared to pay £1 a week extra to protect and maybe even enhance the police service. At Crime Summits and through our website most people, about 2/3rds, said yes. However, when we did wider consultation, through YouGov, most people said no. Therefore, was not prepared to risk £1m of public money on the referendum, so we did the minimum 1.99% increase instead, which meant each household paid about £2 a year more. Incidentally, once we'd made this increase the Government then capped our funding, effectively taking that £2 and an extra 30p from every tax payer!

Q: We hear a lot about collaboration with Sussex, why don't you collaborate with Kent and the MET? Also we've heard that the council are going to close tipping sites, increasing the risk of fly-tipping to farmers.

A: There are strong links with all forces in the region, it may not be as formal as collaboration, but information is shared. Regarding fly-tipping, the County Council is doing a consultation which the District Council has submitted a robust response to. Additionally, we are trying to develop a county-wide partnership to deal with fly-tipping.

Q: Can Community Support Officers be given powers to enforce obstructive parking?

A: The decision to delegate powers to PCSOs is the Chief Constables. She is reviewing this and there is a team in place. With regard to parking and tickets, this is a Council function that the police can't do. However, have raised the matter with John Furey, Cabinet lead, and looking at ways this can be re-designated back to officers and PCSOs.

Q: The amount of paperwork done by PCs. What is being done to tackle that?

A: Through Tablets, hand held devices and MDTs. Surrey is the leading Force on this at the moment. Our officers have devices that enable them to do everything, as well as giving them access to things like legislation, Bonds, ANPR, Skype, driving checks. Early indications are these devices are already saving officers 20% of their time. Additionally officers are looking to use body worn cameras, which link to control rooms, which enables single crewed officers to be better protected and supported.

Q: Don't hear much about rural crime. Is CountryWatch still in use?

A: CountryWatch goes out as a bi-weekly newsletter, so it alternates with NeighbourhoodWatch letters. There were problems with the Active Citizens system recently. With regard to rural crime, there is a lot of proactive activities planned to happen around this in the coming weeks, but can't divulge the details! However, it does include a lot of work with Kent and Sussex police.

Q: When dialling 101, feels like the call-handlers try to “fob off” the caller by saying it’s a civil matter, even in assault or fraud cases. Would like assurance that these calls will be dealt with.

A: Over the last year the Force has really scrutinised the way it records crime and that it is reacting to it accordingly. This is being led by the Deputy Chief Constable. Key to this is ensuring the Contact Centre staff are properly trained in capturing the right information and as part of the PIYN project there will be 20 more officers and sergeants in the Contact Centre to ensure the correct judgements are made.

Q: Noisy exhausts on bikes and cars. Is there a decibel limit? Can it be enforced?

It is difficult to enforce as there isn't a decibel limit other than the MOT test. However, these drivers often have no insurance or tax, so it is policeable through other methods. It is essential that the public report it so that the Force can build it in to its policing plan.

Q: Report untaxed vehicles to DVLA but nothing happens. It’s anti-social.

This is something the Force can action. Talk to the NI afterwards (Inspector Andy Nicholls is leading this forcewide).

Q: Was victim of a break-in. Police were fantastic, but confused as it wasn't classed as a burglary?

It was classed as a non-dwelling burglary for Home Office figures.

Q: If we share services across the region, does this means it'll take the police longer to respond?

We won't use neighbouring forces for response and things like that. It'll be for specialist services and back office functions. Functions like dogs, firearms, helicopters are already merged. It has its advantages, for events/incidents like Runnymede, Armed Forces Day, winter floods, we are able to call on our neighbours for support.

*** Meeting Ends***

Comments on Noticeboard

- More information on traveller movements
- We need a visible police presence
- Crime figures are down, but is this because the police aren't recording them properly
- Stop pandering to travellers and threat them like us
- What do you see Neighbourhood Watch contributing and how will the relationship with the police and PCC work?