

Waverley Crime Summit: Q&A

18 January 2016

Speakers:

Kevin Hurley (KH), Police and Crime Commissioner
Jeff Harris (JH), Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Inspector Mark Bridge (MB), Surrey Police
Kevin Deanus (KD), Waverley Borough Council
Superintendent Duncan Greenhalgh (DG), Surrey Police

Q: What are you doing about dog fouling?

KH: It's the owners! Try to identify the culprits and shame them.

MB: Police deal with dog bites. Fouling should be dealt with by dog wardens. I am pushing for dog wardens in Waverley.

KH: I was a recent victim of dog fouling. We introduced JET to deal with this kind of low level ASB. Its motto is: "Educate" (about anti-social crime) "Engineer" (it out of practise, bins etc.) and if all else fails "Enforce".

Q: How easy is it to change by-laws relating to dogs?

KH: Not an easy thing to do.

JH: There are dog control orders. Royal Surrey Hospital deals with 200 dog bites per year.

Q: In 2012 KH promised to set up local policing boards, where are they? Also recently said he'd found £5.3 million "we didn't know we had". How come?

A:

Boards were set up and are called Police and Crime Panels. The £5.3 million is money we expected to have cut from our budget by the Chancellor, who did a U turn and decided not to cut it.

Our apparent budget grew also because we were tasked by the Government with distributing the Community Safety Fund to protect local communities and prevent crime. This was an additional sum we were given and have been giving out to the community.

The PCC and his office costs considerably less to run than the Police Authority did.

KH explained the roles of each member of OPCC staff.

KH explained that the OPCC also has to contribute to the cost of the HMIC and the IPCC

KH explained costs relating to Neighbourhood Watch – we pay for a meeting room on odd occasions in Waverley.

Q: Recent spate of nasty gang burglaries in his area, targeting houses with alarms. Appreciates that Police are hard pressed but what should residents do to protect themselves.? CCTV? Data protection?

KH: Burglary is down. NW useful but not well enough supported by Surrey Police. CCTV very good idea if not with faces then with numberplate recognition – Community Safety Fund can sometimes help with this and other measures.

JH: Waverley lacks Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

KD: Applauds their initiative, wonders if this is an occasion for greater collaboration between Council and Police.

DG: Familiar with this series of cases. This area targeted by gangs of London organised criminals.

Burglary down from 3 per week to 3 per month.

DG leaves a big dog bowl outside his front door as a warning ! (has no dog)

Q: Lingfield resident very annoyed about drivers using mobile phones. Friend killed by driver on phone.

A: MB replied that this was important and dealt with by roads police.

KD said councils have no powers in this respect.

KH said he would like to designate additional powers to JET and give community speedwatch the power to issue a ticket. He would urge people to take pictures of drivers on phones and also their number plates. He would like the “Safe Drive Stay alive” video shown much more widely. Very effective deterrent.

Q: Aware that Community Speedwatch has been told not to note down mobile phone drivers.

KH: I will change rules so that CS can raise tickets.

Q: We have superb local policing but it is not 24/7. Response times are slow. Why don't new officers use blues and twos?

KH: PIYN designated Waverley group in 5 shifts under Mark Bridge. Officers need specific training to drive with blues and twos.

DG: Policing numbers doubling in Waverley under PIYN- before W officers got drawn to incidents in Guildford. Now W officers stay in W.

Q: Spate of burglaries all with “lock snapping” a feature. Complained that police were not communicating this to Neighbourhood Watch. No feedback or advice on which new locks to buy.

A: Mark Bridge said he would take this away and try to improve communications. There have been problems with Active Citizens' database, needs renovating. Will be sharing new system with Sussex Police.

Q: Despite PIYN, officers are still going from Waverley to Guildford for briefings and often have to be there at the end of the day. Waste of time and money.

KH: As PIYN pans out and new technology is issued, officers will be briefed using their hand held computers. This means, however, that they may be on their own.

DG sadly briefing in Guildford was due to selling off police stations in Waverley.

KH negotiations to share facilities with Fire will hopefully mean neighbourhood officers will be briefed in local fire stations.

Q: How do we stop criminals coming from London to target Surrey? Relationships with the Met Police are not good.

A: DG The Met is huge and it's likely that communications with the organisation are worse than those between individuals.

Realistically the thing to do is make Surrey less attractive to burglars than, say Kent. Gangs have been developing drug markets here so we devised Operation Leak to catch large numbers of drug dealers so making it unprofitable for the gang leaders back in London. We are always looking for and preparing for the next threat.

KH talked about burglars who put stolen jewellery into pre addressed envelopes and post it back home so they are never caught with proceeds of crime.

Q: Is KH standing for re-election in May?

KH: Yes.

Q: How is Chief Constable appointed? Home Office?

Choice is made by the PCC and his/her advisors. Their decision must be endorsed or vetoed by the Police and Crime Panel. This follows a process of application. Surrey currently has a temporary CC who is Nick Ephgrave. Selection of new CC postponed till after the May PCC election in order to leave the choice to the incumbent at that time. No input from Home Office.

Q: How do we stop training Chief Constables only to have them leave to other forces?

KH. CCs pay is based on size of force. Not been re evaluated since Surrey took on big areas of London (formerly Met). KH has written to the Policing Minister to complain of this unfair situation.

Q: EU referendum - how does this affect PCCs?

KH: Doesn't really. Current government wants us to stay. We are likely to get additional powers anyway.