

Have **your** say

CHESHIRE Police Authority listens to what people want from their police service. One of the ways that we do this is at meetings which we hold in your area.

Please feel free to attend any meeting in your area so that we can consult you on important policing issues, determine policing priorities and listen to your views and suggestions for improvement.

Future Meeting

The next meeting will be held on:-

- **Monday 26 January 2009 at 7pm**
Vauxhall Suite, Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port

How to get in touch Community Action Team

YOUR local Community Action Team (CAT) is available to solve problems in your neighbourhood. Leave a message on one of the following numbers and they will return your call within two days or email them at the address provided below:-

Ellesmere Port & Neston 0845 458 6373

ellesmere.port.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

neston.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Ellesmere Port, Neston, Stanlow, Ince, Parkgate and Willaston.

Cheshire Police Authority
www.cheshirepa.police.uk

Mission
To work in partnership with Cheshire Constabulary and officers to create safer communities, and increase confidence and satisfaction in policing.

Vision
To ensure an efficient and effective police service, that is built on neighbourhood policing and tackles all levels of criminality, and makes the citizens of Cheshire safe and well served.

Aims

- To assist in achieving a consistently high performing force.
- To ensure improvements in performance and service, underpinned by robust governance structures and appropriate Member support.
- To provide better and more effective engagement with stakeholders.
- To increase partnership working (both with the Constabulary and externally).
- To be a community leader in policing and community safety.

Cheshire Police Authority
www.cheshirepa.police.uk

Non-emergency calls 0845 458 0000

Only use 999 if...

- There is danger to life
- Violence is used or threatened
- A serious crime is in progress or likely to occur
- A suspect is nearby
- There is a Road Traffic Collision involving personal injury or danger to others
- A vulnerable person needs urgent assistance

Cheshire CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111



Cheshire Police Authority

Have **your** say

Ellesmere Port & Neston

October 2008



Have Your Say Chairman:
Police Authority Member
Michael Darby

THIS newsletter outlines the discussions at the meeting on 27 October 2008 at Neston Town Hall attended by 28 members of the public and local community representatives.

The Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, Acting Deputy Chief Constable, David Baines and Superintendents Jon Betts and Sarah Boycott were present to answer questions. Inspectors Simon Roberts and Richard Reeves were also in attendance.

Chairman's Introduction

MOIRA Chapman, the Authority's lead member for engagement gave a presentation on the process for setting the Constabulary's objectives for 2009/10 and explained that one of the key roles of the Police Authority was to consult widely with the public on their priorities for policing. The Authority would then balance what the public told us with the targets set by the Government and our own policing intelligence to set the objectives for the Chief Constable.

Priorities for Policing

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Last year, the Authority had consulted with more than 3,000 people on policing priorities, who had identified that their key concerns for policing were:- responding to emergency calls; detecting crime and arresting offenders; tackling domestic abuse and child abuse; tackling organised crime and terrorism; and targeting drug dealers.

Outlining the Constabulary's current performance, Mrs Chapman explained that of the 3,000 emergency calls per week, 93% were answered within 10 seconds. In addition, the force handled 8,000 non-emergency calls a week, and over the last year had made 27,906 arrests, 5,000 more than the previous year. All this had been achieved against a backdrop of a 10% reduction in crime, a 14% fall in criminal damage and an increase in the satisfaction level in policing to 83%.

Mrs Chapman explained that following extensive consultation last year, the Authority, with support from the public, raised the policing element of the council tax precept by 17%, which had enabled the Authority to make significant investments in tackling high tech crime; the monitoring of sex offenders; the introduction of customer service desks which were helping keep the public updated on progress with the incidents reported by them; and in serious and organised crime. The Government has now told the Authority, however, that for the next two years it will only be able to raise the precept by 3% (just under 8p per week) and therefore finances in the coming year will be difficult.

Those in attendance were urged to complete a questionnaire on policing priorities. Questionnaires had been posted to those people on the mailing list for 'Have Your Say' meetings, and further copies were available at the meeting. Touch screen surveys were also available at a number of post offices and the questionnaires could be completed on the Authority's website:- www.cheshirepa.police.uk. The closing date for receipt of the questionnaires was 14 November and the outcome of the process would be reported to the next meeting.

A number of issues were raised including why the crime trends were increasing and the poor sanction detection rate. Superintendent Betts advised that the increase was attributable to the current economic climate with some crimes such as theft of and from property, drive offs from petrol stations, etc significantly increasing and also a small number of prolific and persistent offenders in Ellesmere Port commit a large number of crimes which impact and distort the crime figures. The sanction detection rate was currently just over 26% which meant 1.4 crimes were being detected (offender cautioned or put before the court) and it was hoped that this would increase to nearer the 30% target.

The Acting Deputy Chief Constable added that of the 27,000 arrests made last year, two out of three offenders were charged on their first appearance at court.

Volunteering opportunities with the police

SPECIAL Sergeant Stuart Wood spoke about his role and responsibilities as being one of the 300 Special Constabulary officers in Cheshire.

He advised that following a structured 18 month training course, special constables had the same power as regular officers, and were an integral part of neighbourhood policing, providing a valuable resource in policing major events without the need for regular officers to be abstracted from their usual duties.

The Special Sergeant emphasised that community volunteering was not limited to the special constabulary but included roles such as providing administrative and IT support, and participating in the 'Community Speedwatch' initiative.



Anyone interested in volunteering in the police services should contact **Tina Shelton, Volunteers Manager** on 01244 614026.

Policing in Ellesmere Port & Neston

SUPERINTENDENT Boycott reported on the performance data for Ellesmere Port & Neston for recorded crime, domestic burglary, violent crime and criminal damage which had reduced by 2%, 4%, 3% and 14% respectively compared with the previous year. Vehicle crime had increased by 5% over the same period. The meeting was advised crime was being targeted locally including the execution of 48 warrants in 27 days for a variety of offences which had resulted in a number of successful outcomes.



Inspector **Simon Roberts**,
Ellesmere Port & Neston NPU

Inspector Roberts gave an overview of recent activity which included initiatives to specifically target youth nuisance in Neston over the summer holidays, which involved officers issuing a 'ban' of up to 48 hours on an individual which was a means of moving people out of the town centre who may be causing a nuisance, before their behaviour deteriorated. This had led to a reduction in the

number of calls about anti-social behaviour. Officers had been working with the local authority to install a barrier at the 'Tank field' in Neston to prevent the anti-social use of motorcycles in the area. As a result of the current economic climate, officers had seen an increase in low level crime – burglaries, theft of metal, shoplifting and 'drive offs' from petrol stations. Operations involving a number of plain clothed officers, targeting motorcycles and mini-motos had resulted in more than 10 being crushed for a variety of offences.

Question Time

- Q. A request for a breakdown of the crime figures and performance data solely for Neston.
- A. Inspector Rees agreed to supply the information at future meetings.
- Q. What was the impact in Cheshire on the reclassification of violent crime?
- A. The Acting Deputy Chief Constable advised it had not impacted on Cheshire. The Constabulary had fully adopted the National Crime Recording Standard a number of years ago and therefore the current issues in some forces in the UK were not affecting Cheshire.
- Q. Why were seized vehicles particularly motorbikes, crushed instead of being repaired and sold?
- A. Superintendent Betts advised that although the Constabulary did auction some seized goods such as cycles, the majority of the motorised vehicles which were crushed were not appropriate for re-sale.
- Q. A request from a 'Community Speedwatch' representative for the 40mph speed limit road marking on Liverpool Road, Neston to be amended to 30mph.
- A. Inspector Rees agreed to pass the request to the local Highways Authority.
- Q. Did the Police have any control over the number of road signs on the highway?
- A. Superintendent Betts advised that whilst the police were consulted, this was a matter for Cheshire County Council as the Highways Authority.
- Q. Was the rumour true that a brothel in the area had been closed down?
- A. Inspector Roberts confirmed that calls about a number of people visiting a property in Willaston had been investigated and confirmed the premises were not being used at brothel.
- Q. Concern was expressed about the potential danger to children and other road users caused by school buses travelling on Drake Road.
- A. Inspector Rees agreed to ask local officers to monitor the issue.