

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.

Programme of Western Area meetings 2009/10 all commence at 7.00pm

- **5 May 2009**
Town Hall, Neston
- **19 May 2009**
St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Hill, off Castle Street, Chester
- **1 September 2009**
Lifestyle Centre, The Drummer, Winsford
- **22 September 2009**
Civic Hall, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port
- **19 January 2010**
Memorial Hall, Northwich
- **26 January 2010**
St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Hill, off Castle Street, Chester.

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 others 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 promote 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

January 2009



Have Your Say Chairman:
Police Authority Member
Michael Darby

THIS newsletter outlines the discussions at the meeting on 26 January 2009 at the Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port attended by 37 members of the public and local community representatives.

The Authority's Chairman, Peter Nurse, Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood and Area Commander Chief Superintendent Tim Jackson and Chief Inspector Steve Gould were present to answer questions. Inspectors Simon Roberts and Richard Reeves were also in attendance.

New Chief Constable



MR Darby advised that David Whatton started as Cheshire's new Chief Constable on 1 December 2008.

Mr Whatton, who had a wealth of experience and was the former Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, had been tasked by the Police Authority to deliver further improvements in performance.

The meeting was also advised that the Authority's 'Your Policing' newspaper was to be distributed to householders throughout Cheshire in January/February.

Policing Priorities

THE Police Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood announced the results of the recent public survey about the priorities for policing in 2009/10. There had been presentations at 'Have Your Say' meetings, a survey on the Authority's website; a conference for young people, and questionnaires to partners, community groups and the Citizens' Panel; with touch screen surveys in 19 Post Offices throughout Cheshire.

The top priorities for policing, identified by the 2500 respondents to the survey, included responding to emergency calls; targeting organised crime and terrorism; targeting drug dealers; tackling domestic and child abuse; detecting crime and arresting offenders; and protecting witnesses. The survey also revealed that 67% of people felt that Cheshire Constabulary do an excellent or good job.

The Authority would now use the results to set the policing objectives for the new Chief Constable.



Police Budget

PETER Nurse, the Police Authority Chairman, discussed the Authority's proposed budget for 2009/10 and outlined the extensive consultation with the public undertaken last year. Mr Nurse commented on the significant investment that had been made in frontline services to protect the people of Cheshire, to tackle serious and organised crime, the recruitment of additional sex offender liaison officers; increased roads policing, and improved witness protection and care. The investment had been possible due to the public support for an increase of 38p per week in council tax for a Band D property last year.

It was reported that for 2009/10, the Government had increased the grant for policing by 2.5% and limited the Authority's budget which meant a council tax increase of around 3% - about an extra 8p per week on a Band D household. Mr Nurse discussed the pressures that faced the Authority's finances, the limited grant, inflationary issues; the credit crunch; and the significant reduction in interest rates.

Almost £2m of savings had been identified and the Authority would be working with the Chief Constable to identify where further savings could be made whilst protecting frontline services, continuing to improve neighbourhood policing and tackling serious and organised crime.

The Policing Pledge

THE Chief Executive announced that Cheshire Constabulary and Police Authority had adopted the Policing Pledge as set out by the Home Secretary. The Pledge set the standards of service the public can expect from the police and included response times, feedback to victims and witnesses of crime, and contact details for local police officers.

A copy of the Policing Pledge can be viewed on the Authority's website – www.cheshirepa.police.uk



Those in attendance discussed a number of issues including the lack of support by some Ellesmere Port councillors to last years increase; the costs associated with operating the call centre with police officers and the lack of knowledge held by operators. The Chairman advised that last year 87% of respondents to an independent MORI survey supported the increase. He added that call management centre was staffed by over 260 civilians who received advice and support from 30 police officers

Policing in Ellesmere Port & Neston

CHIEF Superintendent Jackson advised the officers present and Liz Biddle the Homewatch Manager for the Western Area. Details were also circulated of recent operations and local incidents of note.



Inspector Richard Rees, Ellesmere Port & Neston NPU

Inspector Rees reported that recorded crime, domestic burglary, violent crime and vehicle crime had increased by 4%, 13%, 6% and 5% respectively compared with the previous year. Criminal damage had reduced by 12% over the same period. The meeting was advised that the increases in some categories of

recorded crime may be linked to the current economic climate with the rises in the price of petrol and metal and a small number of young people and prolific and persistent offenders committing a large amount of criminal damage, burglary and vehicle crime. Officers were targeting these offences - reported crimes were being tasked far more speedily to officers reducing the average investigation period from 30 to 7 days and enabling offenders to be brought to justice/court quicker.

Policing in Ellesmere Port & Neston (continued)

Four interim ASBOs had been secured on a group of 14-16 year olds for a series of offences. 'Operation Asp' which ran over nine weeks and involved extra police resources involved the execution of 122 warrants for a variety of offences and resulted in a number of successful outcomes with the recovery of a number of stolen vehicles and £45,000 of stolen property, £100,000 worth of drugs and 26 arrests.

A successful operation resulted in the closure of a cannabis factory and the recovery of plants with a yield in excess of £1m. The focus over Christmas and New Year had been to target individuals for incidents of criminal behaviour and involved officers visiting licensed premises with police dogs. The local PCSO led initiative was aimed at raising awareness about crime with young people, build relationships and instill respect.

Question Time

Q. An enquiry into why the Authority placed information on the website when it was claimed that 37½% of the population did not have access to the internet.

A. The Chief Executive advised that the Authority used many forms of communication which included distributions to every household in the county, the media and surveys. The website was an effective means of communication and access was available in many libraries and other venues.

Q. An enquiry into the criteria used by the Constabulary to record violent crimes following the recent press coverage about inaccurate recording in other police areas.

A. The Area Commander outlined the current crime recording procedures. 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. Concern was expressed that no arrests had been made for the cannabis factory and whether it would have been more productive of the police to observe the premises before acting.

A. Inspector Rees advised that the investigation was still ongoing and that a decision was made to enter the premises and obtain the DNA evidence at the scene rather than undertake a lengthy and intensive surveillance operation. The equipment used in

cannabis cultivation enabled the plants to be self-sufficient for some time and as it was unknown when those involved would return. Also there was a potential threat to others as the electricity supply had been crudely by-passed.

Q. Would the review of local government impact on policing?

A. The Area Commander said that the new Cheshire West & Chester Council had the same boundaries and consultation was being undertaken with the shadow authority as to how best to work in partnership to improve community safety.

Q. Appreciation to the PCSOs for the work they perform and an enquiry into why they did not attend these meetings?

A. Chief Superintendent Jackson advised that PCSOs had attended in the past and did regularly attend the Community Action Meetings.

Q. Why did the Police not donate seized/confiscated alcohol to local charities, as opposed to be disposed of it down the drain.

A. The Chief Superintendent advised that confiscated unopened alcohol was sometimes donated to good causes.

Q. Why did the police use lights and sirens when responding to an anti-social behaviour incident at Whitby Park which enabled the youths to disperse before the police arrived.

A. The Chief Superintendent advised

that whilst sometimes it was counter productive, under health and safety guidelines, officers had to use the emergency warning equipment when responding to an incident to warn pedestrians and other road users that the vehicle was travelling at speed.

Q. Reports of vehicles being used in an anti-social manner in Whitby.

A. Inspector Rees agreed to speak to the questioner after the meeting to gain further information.

Q. Was it an offence to sound a car horn when a vehicle was stationary or at night?

A. The Chief Superintendent reported that it was not an offence if stationary, but was an offence if sounded at night, however, the police required evidence to prosecute or issue a fixed penalty notice.

Appreciation was expressed for the police participation in the Borough Council's junior citizen's project over the last eight years.

Q. An individual from Frodsham commented on a number of complaints he had made against the police which had been investigated by the Constabulary's Professional Standards Department which had been locally resolved and asked to discuss the matter with Chief Superintendent Jackson.

A. The Chief Superintendent agreed to speak to the person after the meeting.