

Future Meetings

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 listen to your views on policing issues, let you know what has been happening in your area, determine policing priorities and your suggestions for improvement.

All Eastern Area meetings will be held at 7.00pm on:-

- **Thursday 3 September 2009** Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe
- **Monday 14 September 2009** Town Hall, High Street, Congleton
- **Monday 11 January 2010** Methodist Church Hall, off King Edward St, Macclesfield
- **Thursday 21 January 2010** Civic Hall, Nantwich



Monthly Crime Data

As part of our commitment to the Policing Pledge to provide you with crime information in your area, visit www.cheshire.police.uk, enter your postcode and use the interactive maps.

How to get in touch

YOUR local Neighbourhood Policing Team is available to solve problems in your community. Officers can be contacted on the following numbers or by email to the addresses provided below:-

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Knutsford
knutsford.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Knutsford, Mobberley, Mere, Ashley, Plumley. | 0845 458 6380 |
| Macclesfield
macclesfield.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Macclesfield, Poynton, Prestbury, Bollington, Disley. | 0845 458 6371 |
| Wilmslow
wilmslow.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Wilmslow, Handforth, Alderley Edge, Styal. | 0845 458 6374 |
| Congleton
congleton.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Congleton, Middlewich, Holmes Chapel, Sandbach and Alsager. | 0845 458 6382 |
| Crewe
crewe.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Crewe, Haslington, Coppenthal, Leighton, Sydney, Wistaston, Shavington. | 0845 458 6382 |
| Nantwich
nantwich.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Nantwich, Willaston, Stapeley, Audlem and Bunbury. | 0845 458 6378 |

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 feel safer

Aims

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



How to contact Cheshire Police...

- 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 CRIME STOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crimes

E-mail: publiccontact@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Website: www.cheshire.police.uk

Eastern Area

May 2009



Terry Savage
'Have Your Say'
Chairman

THIS newsletter outlines the discussions on 12 and 18 May 2009 in Sandbach and Wilmslow which were attended by 65 members of the public and local community representatives.

The Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, Deputy Chief Constable, Graeme Gerrard and Chief Superintendent Paul McHugh were present to answer questions. Local Inspectors were also in attendance.

Chairman's Introduction

THE Government's Policing Pledge requires local officers to arrange public meetings, and tonight's meeting supports that Pledge. The 'Have Your Say' meetings, organised by the Police Authority, enable the public to raise issues and provide information on improvements in and changes to, policing. It is important that the public are satisfied with the policing service they receive.

It was announced that Margaret Ollerenshaw had been appointed as the new Chairman of the Authority and was keen to improve public confidence in the police.

Local crime information

How the public can access local crime information via the website - cheshire.crimemapper.co.uk was announced. The web site contains

information on the number of crimes and anti-social behaviour incidents for local neighbourhoods and gives contact information for local policing teams, details of local meetings and events, and volunteer opportunities. The web site also shows the local priorities for a particular area and how these are being tackled by the police and the results of policing operations.

Maps show the level of crime in your area and lets you search for more information by using your postcode.



Improvements made following the introduction of the Police Service Desks were outlined. The Desks provided a better service to the public reporting crimes and

incidents, and supported victims of crime and witnesses. The Desks ensure that victims and witnesses are kept updated on investigations and issues relating to their case, such as - whether there is a suspect, what charges are being brought, what will happen about the recovery of stolen property, what will happen in court and whether the victim is required to attend.

The Chairman advised that whilst the internet enabled the Authority and Constabulary to disseminate large volumes of information to the public, many other forms of communication were also undertaken.

HQ Crime and Operations Departments

The meetings were given a presentation on the work of the HQ Crime and Operations Departments in supporting neighbourhood policing and tackling serious and organised crime.

Those in attendance received a detailed briefing on several major investigations targeting money laundering and drugs which resulted in a several arrests; the recovery of £10million worth of drugs;

assets seized; and a large quantity of firearms and related weapons seized. The role of the Force Major Investigation Team (FMIT) who investigated serious and major crimes, such as murder, without the need to call upon local police officers from their normal duties, was explained. The Team had a 100% success rate in detecting murders. Also outlined were the roles of the other units which provided unseen resources to support



neighbourhood policing - including the Air Support Unit for surveillance and search of large geographical areas; the use of police dogs and the Search Unit to assist in locating people reported missing, the firearms, explosives and drugs units; the North West motorway policing unit; police launch and the underwater search

unit. Other units included the Intelligence Unit which evaluated and acted upon information received from the local community; the economic crime unit which investigates serious fraud and targeted criminal financial assets; the surveillance Unit; and Forensics Unit which used the latest techniques in forensic examination to assist in the detection of crimes.



● Policing in Eastern Area



Chief Superintendent **Paul McHugh**, *Eastern Area Commander*

CHIEF Superintendent McHugh commented that success in detecting and preventing crime was due to a large extent of the intelligence being received from the public. He reported on the work which led to seven arrests for a series of thefts of agricultural vehicles and the on-going partnership work with Cheshire East Council and the development of Local Area Partnerships.

● Policing in Congleton



Inspector **Mark Gammage**, *Congleton NPU*

Inspector Gammage discussed the work undertaken locally including the expansion of the 'Streetsafe' initiative, which enabled local issues and concerns to be identified and addressed within a specific area, to the five towns in the area; the success of Operation Block in Sandbach town centre which involved a large high-visibility policing presence; the development of police surgeries; and the work undertaken by local PCSOs.

● Question Time

Q. Do you support 'Homewatch'?

A. Inspector Gammage advised that due to changes in personnel, Homewatch support had reduced, however, efforts were now being focused on providing greater access to information and improving the level of support given to Homewatch Co-ordinators.

Q. What future use was planned for Sandbach Police Station?

A. The Inspector reported that it was not an efficient or effective use of resources to open and staff the Station 24 hours a day. The Inspector announced that Surgeries were held and were advertised on the website and in the local media.

Q. Concern was expressed about the loss of vital CCTV evidence of damage to shop windows in Sandbach town centre as a result of the delay in police officers attendance.

A. Chief Superintendent McHugh explained that the Area had adopted a new way of tasking out investigations which allowed for speedier retrieval of CCTV evidence. The questioner referred to a specific incident and Inspector Gammage explained that two windows were damaged on the night in question, a female was arrested and she fully admitted one of the incidents. A male was subsequently arrested on suspicion of damaging the questioner's window, but this offence was not proved. Unfortunately CCTV did not cover this particular window.

Q. The perceived lack of a police presence in the town centre and surrounding residential areas after 10.00pm and the lack of police attendance to an incident of verbal abuse by 4 youths.

A. Inspector Gammage advised that Sandbach was policed 24 hours a day with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams working until midnight in the week and 3am on Friday and Saturday nights. The questioner was asked to speak with the Inspector after the meeting about the incidents.

Q. Concern was expressed about the traffic chaos, the issuing of parking tickets and the closure of a number of public houses during a recent funeral of a member of the Traveller community.

A. Superintendent McHugh reported that much liaison had been undertaken with the family about policing the funeral. The Inspector added that over 1000 mourners attended the funeral and agreed to speak to the questioner after the meeting.

Q. Had the benefits of a fixed wing aircraft changed to result in the purchase of a helicopter?

A. Chief Superintendent Wiggitt advised that a helicopter had a number of advantages over a fixed wing aircraft which required an airport runway; could not be used at night; had limited hours of operation due to flying hours; and high maintenance costs. The Home Office were providing a significant grant for the purchase of the helicopter.

Q. Why had the Authority increased council tax by 3.6% when the former Chairman said it was 'capped' at 3%?

A. The Chief Executive explained the background and agreed to provide a statement on the matter.

Statement from Treasurer: In November 2008, the Government set a maximum budget for the Authority of £172.9m in 2009/10, which the Authority could not exceed without being capped. The Government's limit was therefore on the total budget, not the council tax element. In November, the Government projected that council tax would be around 3% to achieve the maximum budget which was based on assumptions that the taxbase of Band D households would increase and there would be a surplus on council tax collection funds. However, when setting the budget the Authority's actual increase in the taxbase was less than the earlier assumptions and there was a deficit on collection funds, not a surplus. This meant that council tax had to be increased by 3.65% rather than 3% to generate the same tax yield to balance the budget and achieve the maximum level set by Government.

Q. Did the Police Museum still exist?

A. The Deputy Chief Constable advised that the Museum had been relocated to the former cell block at Warrington police station and would soon be open to the public.

Those present thanked the officers for the informative presentations.

● Performance

Details were circulated of recent operations, arrests and convictions and other local incidents of note. Performance data for the Eastern Area showed recorded crime, domestic burglary, violent crime, vehicle crime and criminal damage had reduced by 5%, 8%, 5%, 18% and 10% respectively compared with the previous year.



● Policing in Wilmslow



Inspector **Luke McDonnell**, *Wilmslow NPU*

Inspector McDonnell discussed on the work of the Wilmslow Neighbourhood Policing Unit and gave examples of some successful initiatives including reducing anti-social behaviour in Carrs Park; the execution of 17 warrants on the Colshaw Farm estate resulting in the recovery of ammunition, drugs and several arrests. These successes were due to intelligence about issues from the public and had had a positive impact in the community. Officers were working with the Local Area Partnership to identify long term solutions to reduce crime and improve community safety.

● Question Time

Q. Were 14 firearms incidents considered a high number?

A. Chief Superintendent Wiggitt reassured the questioner that the figure of 14 was the total number of incidents across Cheshire in one year and that this type of crime was rare. With Cheshire being located between two large cities, the police had the capability to deal with firearms incidents.

Q. Had the changes in the licensing laws and the introduction of alcohol free zones, impacted on policing?

A. The Inspector advised that the changes had been challenging with adjustments being made to create longer and later shift patterns. The police actively worked with all parties involved in the night time economy including licensees, door staff and taxi operators in order to reduce anti-social behaviour incidents. Working with the licensing trade had resulted in 20 individuals receiving bans from all licensed premises in Wilmslow.

Q. Whilst being impressed by police action, the public perception was not as good, and greater use of the media to promote good news stories was suggested.

A. The Chairman advised that the new Chairman of the Authority had indicated that targets raising public confidence in the Police was a priority for her. Inspector McDonnell advised of a number of opportunities for the public to speak to the Police which included via the telephone, internet, local meetings and through the media.

Q. Has there been an increase in the number of burglaries of dwellings and retail premises in Wilmslow and Alderley Edge?

A. Chief Superintendent McHugh reported there had been a slight increase, which was partly attributable to the release from prison of several Persistent and Prolific Offenders (PPOs) – individuals who undertake multiple crimes. These incidents were being investigated and police officers and other agencies worked with offenders to deter them from re-offending.

Q. Concern about the increase in re-offending and the need for changes to the Criminal Justice System.

A. The Chief Superintendent advised that he had confidence in the system and that the Persistent Offender scheme operating in East Cheshire had received national recognition. The Police with other agencies including the Probation Service, worked together to tackle this issue and re-habilitate offenders.

Appreciation was expressed to the Police for the prompt response in resolving an incident of the anti-social use of motorcycles being ridden on fields.

