

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 MEETINGS 2008/09

Future meetings will be held at 7.00pm on the following Tuesdays at the Gateway Centre, Sankey Street, Warrington:-

- 21 October 2008
- 6 January 2009

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:-

Warrington Central 0845 458 6379

warrington.central.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Town Centre, Bewsey, Fairfield, Howley and Whitecross.

Warrington East 0845 458 6390

warrington.east.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Culcheth, Glazebury, Croft, Birchwood, Poulton North/South, Rixton and Woolston.

Warrington South 0845 458 6372

warrington.south.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Appleton, Grappenhall, Hatton, Latchford, Lymm, Stretton, Stockton Heath, Thelwall, Walton and Westy.

Warrington West 0845 458 6385

warrington.west.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Burtonwood and Winwick, Westbrook, Whittle Hall, Great Sankey North, Great Sankey South, Penketh.

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 scrutiny, 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

Warrington

July 2008



Brian Maher chairing the 'Have Your Say' meeting

This newsletter outlines the discussion at the meeting on 22 July 2008 in the Gateway Centre, Warrington attended by 18 members of the public, local community representatives and press.

The Police Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, along with Chief Superintendent Gary Finchett and Chief Inspector Jon Ward were present to answer questions. Local officers and PCSOs from the four Neighbourhood Policing Units were also in attendance.



Mr Maher gave an update on the Authority's budget for 2008/09 and announced that the Government had decided not to limit the budget this year which was welcome news.

The latest edition of 'Your Policing' newspaper was being distributed to all households in the area.

The Chairman requested feedback via the questionnaires on the pre-meeting surgery which had provided an opportunity for the public to raise issues in private with their local NPU officers.

⦿ Serious and organised crime

Detective Chief Inspector Simon Price of the Force Major Investigation Team, discussed the work undertaken by the Constabulary's Crime Operations Department to tackle serious and organised crime in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington.

Crime Operations was based in Constabulary Headquarters and had 520 staff working in specialist roles such as intelligence, forensic investigations, major crime and special branch. The specialist units within the Crime Operations Department provided support to local policing and enabled Area Commanders to focus their resources in neighbourhoods. With public support, the Authority had made a significant investment in the Department to ensure the Constabulary could better respond to the threat of terrorism and tackle serious and organised crime.

The Detective Chief Inspector explained the role of the Force Major Investigation Team in an operation which targeted an individual from Widnes involved in money laundering. The operation ended with the offender receiving a four year prison sentence and arrangements were being implemented to seize his personal assets which included houses, cars and money.



⦿ Policing in Warrington



Chief Superintendent **Gary Finchett**, Area Commander

CHIEF Superintendent Finchett discussed Warrington's performance which had seen reductions of 10.6%, 14.7% and 6.4% in all crime, violent crime and vehicle crime categories, respectively compared with the same period last year. Whilst domestic burglary had increased, there were now only three domestic burglaries per day in Warrington and the focus was to continue to target this. The

Chief Superintendent outlined recent activity which included, £1.2m had been confiscated under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Between April and June local officers had also been involved in targeting six prolific and persistent offenders; visiting schoolchildren to raise awareness about knife crime; working with the licensing trade and door staff to increase safety and reduce violent crime incidents in the town centre; and planning for the forthcoming 'Creamfields' music event.

⦿ Question Time

- Q.** What crime prevention advice is given?
- A.** Chief Superintendent Finchett reported that Crime Reduction Advisors gave crime prevention and home security information to the public who asked for it and who the police had identified as being vulnerable. Basic checks such as locking ground floor windows, not leaving keys under mats were discussed. The benefits of 'Homewatch' were also highlighted which enabled those in the scheme to be notified of crimes in their area. The meeting was also notified that some charities can visit the elderly and vulnerable to install locks.
- Q.** Concern about the level of crime in Warrington compared with other areas in Cheshire.
- A.** The Chief Superintendent advised that the Northern Area performed well against most police areas outside Cheshire who had similar population, deprivation factors, demographics, etc. and that direct comparisons to other police Areas in Cheshire were not appropriate.
- Q.** Concern was expressed about mini-motorbikes on Radley Common and motorcyclists giving rides to children without crash helmets.
- A.** The Chief Superintendent invited the questioner to speak to him after the meeting and added that over 100 mini-motorbikes in the area had been seized and crushed. Officers now had off-road motorcycles which gave them greater access to areas and the ability to pursue other cyclists more easily.
- Q.** Why were the police not more involved in targeting truancy?
- A.** Chief Superintendent Finchett reported that local officers worked with education welfare officers and had been involved in operations targeting truancy in support of the education service, but he questioned who the public wanted to be responsible – the Police or the Education Service/schools.

Comments were made about an incident of domestic violence and the alleged inaccurate recording of data by the police, which had been the subject of a complaint to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). The Chief Superintendent was unable to comment on the issue until he had reviewed the details, however, he would speak to the person after the meeting. *[Post meeting note: The Chief Superintendent did speak to the individual and confirmed the incident had been investigated and finalised by IPCC.]*

Comments were made about the need for the community to build positive relationships with young people in their area.