

POLICE Question Time

with  Cheshire
Police Authority

WIDNES, 14 JULY 2010

THE PANEL

- *Moira Chapman, Member of the Police Authority*
- *Graeme Gerrard, Deputy Chief Constable*
- *Chief Superintendent Richard Strachan, Area Commander for Northern Area*
- *David Parr, Chief Executive, Halton Borough Council*
- *Kim Thornden, Assistant Chief Executive, Cheshire Probation*

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Q What actually is "anti-social behaviour", and are noisy neighbours, loud music etc. classed as anti-social?

A Mr Parr advised that the Home Office definition was 'any aggressive destruction behaviour that disrupts other quality of life'. Whilst there was a wide range of offences that were considered as anti-social, it was the Council's aim to apply the correct measured response to enable the issue to be addressed and stopped in the first instance. If the problems is not resolved, further action such as the confiscation of equipment eg TV/Stereo, etc can be undertaken or as a last resort the issuing of a Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) or Anti-Social behaviour Contract (ABC) which can restrict an individuals movements/behaviour. Partner agencies can work together to resolve a problem and would require evidence.

The Deputy Chief Constable added that the local authorities Environmental Health Department can issue a noise abatement notice to offenders.

Q Concern was expressed about the anti-social behaviour of a neighbour and what action could be taken.

A The Chief Superintendent asked the questioner to speak to the local officer after the meeting.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Q Cllr Diane Inch has asked "Why are the Community Action Meetings (CAMs) not on the Halton Borough Council website?"

A Ch Supt Strachan advised that CAMs were public meetings which provided an opportunity for the community to raise local issues of concern with officers. The issues identified would be prioritised and the highest would be addressed and hopefully resolved by the time of the next meeting. It was confirmed that the dates of meeting were now available on the Borough Council's website.

Kim Thornden from the Probation Service reported on the Community Payback Scheme which entailed offenders who had been sentenced by the Court to undertake unpaid work for the benefit of the community, such as litter picking, painting a

community building, etc. Over 31,000 hours of unpaid work had been undertaken in Halton in 2009/10.

ROADS POLICING

Q A local resident had seen a significant increase in the last 6 months of drivers using mobile 'phones whilst driving and asked what measures the police are taking to reduce this and how effective have they been

A Chief Superintendent Strachan reported that if a police officer saw a motorist using their mobile 'phone whilst driving they would take the appropriate action. Driver education was promoted as an alternative to a fixed penalty ticket being issued. In Cheshire, 4809 motorists in the last twelve months had been prosecuted for such offences. School Liaison Officers raise road safety awareness with schoolchildren.

Q What can be done about drivers using Langdale Road & Victoria Road to avoid queues on and off the Jubilee Bridge?

A The Chief Superintendent advised unfortunately no action could be taken as there were no restrictions or problems with collision on either of the roads.

Q How will the cuts in police funding impact on frontline staff?

A The Deputy Chief Constable advised that the Authority and Constabulary were awaiting the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn, however in the meantime had been working to identify where savings can be made and review non-frontline posts and specialist posts. There were also opportunities for collocation with local authority buildings.

Mrs Chapman advised that the Authority was responsible for ensuring an effective and efficient police service and were committed to protect frontline policing. The Authority was aware of the cuts in funding prior to the Coalition Government's announcement and were working with the Chief Constable to find the savings.

Mr Parr added that the £2m Community Safety grant was to cease next year and that the Partnership would have to consider prioritising the functions/services it provides and where cuts were to be made.

Q Concern was raised about the positioning of a road sign directing traffic for Liverpool via a residential road.

A Mr Parr agreed to inform the appropriate Council department to investigate.